



Communities and Equalities Scrutiny Committee

Date: Tuesday, 7 February 2023

Time: 10.00 am

Venue: Council Antechamber, Level 2, Town Hall Extension

Everyone is welcome to attend this committee meeting.

There will be a private meeting for Committee Members only at 09.20 am in the Council Antechamber, Town Hall Extension

Access to the Council 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.

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Membership of the Communities and Equalities Scrutiny Committee

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

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

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

Pages
5 - 12

5. [10.05 - 10.35] Culture Annual Report

Report of Strategic Director (Neighbourhoods)

13 - 116

This report is the annual update report on culture in the city.

6. [10.35 - 11.10] Libraries, Sport and Leisure

6a. Manchester Libraries Strategy Update

Report of Strategic Director (Neighbourhoods)

117 - 176

The purpose of the report is to provide the Committee with an update on the library strategy and to present a draft vision for libraries.

6b. Manchester Sport and Physical Activity Strategy 2022 Annual Update

Report of Strategic Director (Neighbourhoods)

177 - 212

This report highlights the annual (January to December 2022) progress that has been made in the development and achievement of the Manchester Sport and Physical Activity Strategy (MSPAS) which includes an update on the strengthened governance arrangements of MCRactive and identified areas of focus for 2023. An update has been provided against the refreshed strategic themes of the strategy

(Appendix 1) that were endorsed by Executive in September 2022; the amends were made to respond to the cost-of-living crisis and climate emergency and to ensure that the city builds back fairer from the impacts of the global pandemic and remain on target to deliver a sustained increase in participation levels.

7. **[11.10 - 11.50] 2023/24 Budget Report - to follow**

8. **[11.50 - 12.00] Overview Report**

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Report of the Governance and Scrutiny Support Unit

The monthly report includes the recommendations monitor, relevant key decisions, the Committee's work programme and any items for information.

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 Our Manchester Strategy, an agreed vision for a better Manchester that is shared by public agencies across the city.

The Communities and Equalities Scrutiny Committee examines the work of the Council and its partners relating to reducing levels of crime, community cohesion, older people and equality and inclusion.

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.

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Further Information

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

Communities and Equalities Scrutiny Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on 10 January 2023

Present:

Councillor Hitchen - In the Chair
Councillors Benham, Chambers, Connolly, Evans, Hilal, Hussain, Johnson, Ogunbambo, H Priest, Rawson, Sheikh, Whiston, Wills and Wilson

Also present:

Councillor Midgley, Deputy Leader
Councillor Igbon, Executive Member for Vibrant Neighbourhoods
Councillor Reid, Chair of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee
Paula Lyons, Greater Manchester Fire & Rescue Service (GMFRS)
Superintendent Paul Walker, Greater Manchester Police (GMP)

Apologies:

Councillors Azra Ali and M Dar

CESC/23/01 Minutes

Decision

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

CESC/23/02 An update report on the Homelessness Service

The Committee considered the report of the Director of Housing Operations which provided an update on the Homelessness Service and the improvement and transformation that was happening across the service in an increasingly challenging social and economic context.

Key points and themes in the report included:

- Preventing homelessness;
- Work to end rough sleeping;
- Work to considerably reduce the use of temporary accommodation; and
- Delivering better outcomes and better lives for people and families at risk or who were homeless.

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

- Recognising the challenges that the city was facing and thanking officers for the work that was taking place to make improvements, including welcoming the focus on preventing homelessness;
- Noting that additional officers had been assigned to answer calls to the Housing Solutions Service, was it possible to increase this further, given that the target for the service was to be answering 85% of calls by the end of March 2023;

- What did Manchester need from the national government to address the homelessness problem;
- Emergency accommodation for rough sleepers with dogs;
- To request a further update report early in the next municipal year, including data on the use of temporary accommodation and its geographical spread, noting the benefits of people being able to remain near their community networks;
- Would the 200 units of self-contained dispersed accommodation be located within Manchester and noting that these were for families, not single homeless people;
- Did the Council have any property which it could convert into temporary accommodation; and
- The impact on children of living in temporary accommodation away from their community support network.

The Chair of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee questioned whether the rent amounts in appendix 3 reflected the current situation as, she advised, landlords were increasing rents after evicting tenants. She stated that the time taken to move new tenants into social rented housing after the previous tenants had left was too long. She expressed concern at the costs of bed-and-breakfast accommodation and stated that cheaper alternatives should be considered. She questioned why Camden's figures for households in temporary accommodation were so much lower than Manchester's. She questioned whether community connection could be taken into account when allocating social housing and whether more could be done to incentivise families to allow their adult children to live with them.

In response to a Member's question, the Assistant Director of Homelessness reported that the count of rough sleepers was city-wide and included the airport. He agreed with a Member's comment that answering 85% of calls was still not good enough but advised that improvements were being made incrementally, that significant progress had already been made in the number of calls being answered and that the service would continue to work to improve this further.

The Strategic Lead for Homelessness invited Members to contact her if they wanted to join one of the counts of rough sleepers. She reported that work was taking place to encourage people to access the Housing Solutions Service digitally to increase capacity and make the service more easily accessible, while recognising that many people preferred to contact the service by telephone. She reported that her service worked with the Dogs Trust and that there were hostels in the city which were very dog-friendly and others which would consider accepting pets on a case-by-case basis. In response to a question about right-sizing, she advised that her service could assist people who were in properties which were too large for them to find a suitable-sized property and provide other incentives, such as helping an older person with packing and moving or carpeting or decorating the new property.

In response to a question about case checks, the Assistant Director of Homelessness outlined how, over a ten-week period, service managers would come to have a firm understanding of all live homeless application cases.

In response to a Member's question, the Strategic Lead (Housing) provided an overview of the work to build more affordable homes in the city.

The Deputy Leader reported that more investment was needed from national government to build affordable housing, including social rented housing, at the scale that was needed, although the Council was working hard with its partners to maximise what could be delivered. She advised that the case needed to be made to the next national government about what big cities needed from them to address the housing crisis, and in the meantime, Members should continue to lobby on Section 21 evictions and the Local Housing Allowance.

In response to a Member's question, the Assistant Director of Homelessness advised that the future plans for the 'A Bed Every Night' (ABEN) scheme and the Etrop Service were still being discussed. He advised that the focus on families in relation to the 200 units was due to the legal position that bed-and-breakfast accommodation was never suitable for a family and could only be used in exceptional circumstances and then for no longer than six weeks, and also the negative impact that being in bed-and-breakfast accommodation had on children; however, he highlighted other work focused on single people which was detailed in the report. He advised that the 200 units would be almost exclusively within Manchester although consideration could be given to locations on the borders of the city. He advised that placing families in these 200 units would save the Council £7 million per year and provide them with decent accommodation. He explained how Camden's allocations policy encouraged people to contact the Council earlier which gave more time to find a solution for their housing issue and that this had informed the proposal for Manchester to change its allocations policy. In response to a Member's question, he advised that there was no timeframe for how long someone could be placed in temporary accommodation and that it was usually until a longer term accommodation offer could be found, which could be a number of years. In response to a question about people who could not provide a guarantor, which was requested by some private landlords, he advised that the service considered each case on an individual basis and would negotiate with landlords to reach an equitable solution.

The Director of Housing Operations informed the Committee that his service was looking at 44 Council assets which could be considered for re-purposing as accommodation. He outlined how homelessness prevention work would help keep people in their own communities with their support networks. He advised that the number of void social rented properties had significantly reduced and was now less than 1.5% of housing stock.

The Chair asked whether the Committee had received a response to the letter sent to Michael Gove in November 2022 and, as they had not, requested that a further letter be sent, inviting him to Manchester to see the impact of the government's policies in the city and to see the strengths of the people of Manchester and the great work that Council officers were doing. She also thanked officers for their work.

Decisions

1. To write to Michael Gove to invite him to visit Manchester.

2. To receive a further report early in the next municipal year.

CESC/23/03 Bonfire Night Events

The Committee considered the report of the Strategic Director (Neighbourhoods) which provided an overview of the approach to planning and delivery of a safe Bonfire/fireworks season. The report included details of anti-social behaviour during this period and an assessment of the impact of the Council's decision not to reinstate Bonfire Night events during 2022.

Key points and themes in the report included:

- Background information;
- The Greater Manchester Bonfire Campaign 2022;
- Bonfire and fireworks incidents; and
- The future of Bonfire Night events.

Paula Lyons from GMFRS informed the Committee that her service's official report would not be available until early February but that it would be shared with partners when it was available. She reported that the service's data showed that there had been a slight increase in bonfire and firework-related incidents in 2022 but fewer attacks on firefighters, with two incidents involving the throwing of fireworks at firefighters and fire engines.

Superintendent Paul Walker from GMP reported that it was expected that there would be a level of anti-social behaviour up to and including Bonfire Night and that the levels in 2022 were as expected in a typical year.

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

- That official Bonfire Night displays held in Wythenshawe Park in previous years had created problems for local people, for example in relation to parking, and that, as a local Ward Councillor, a Member had received positive comments from residents about not having this issue around Bonfire Night 2022, rather than people complaining that an official event was not held;
- The environmental impact of Bonfire Night events, including people travelling to an official display;
- The community events and activities to replace Bonfire Night displays and whether these were held in or attracted people from the wards highlighted in the report as the worst affected by fireworks incidents; and
- Identifying shops which were selling fireworks to children.

The Head of Parks outlined the reasons for not reinstating the Bonfire Night displays in 2022, including the funding gap which would have required diverting funds from other areas, the environmental impact of the events and that, with the cost-of-living rise, many people were less able to afford to spend money on the income-generating elements of the events, such as food and drink stalls and funfairs. She informed Members about alternative events which were being provided throughout the winter period, which had included the provision of free or low-cost food. She reported that she could provide details of the events broken down by localities. She advised that

not having to plan and prepare for the Bonfire Night events had enabled Parks staff to focus on engaging with local residents and raising quality standards but that the decision would be reviewed for 2023. In response to a Member's question, she confirmed that the Council had previously applied for and received a grant of £10,000 from GMFRS towards safely putting on Bonfire Night events but that, if the Council had applied for the grant for 2022, they would only have been able to bid for £5,000.

In response to a Member's question, the Head of Compliance, Enforcement, and Community Safety reported that it was difficult to establish whether there was a causal link between anti-social behaviour and official Bonfire Night displays being held but that, when the full figures for 2022 were available, officers would be able to undertake a more detailed analysis. She reported that her service had undertaken visits to fireworks retailers but had received no complaints this year of under-age sales. She advised that test purchases would be undertaken at any retailers for which they received complaints about under-age sales. She reported that her service would use the analysis of the data from 2022 to identify areas where there were higher levels of firework incidents and look at fireworks retailers in those areas.

Paula Lyons reported that a range of factors, such as the weather, impacted on the level of incidents around Bonfire Night and that GMFRS had increased its community intervention with schools in the build-up to Bonfire Night 2022 which could have impacted on the number of incidents.

The Chair reported that residents in her ward had been disappointed not to have a Bonfire Night display in their local park but that, instead, a well-attended and well-received event had taken place in the run-up to Christmas. She thanked officers for putting on that event and requested that a similar event take place in 2023.

The Executive Member for Vibrant Neighbourhoods reported that it had been a difficult decision not to go ahead with the official Bonfire Night displays in 2022 but that it had been the right decision, based on the information so far, although they were still waiting for all the data to be available to make a full evaluation. She outlined the considerable amount of work over months involving different Council services and partners to put on safe, funded Bonfire Night events. She informed Members that work was taking place to ensure that there were other activities in parks and ensure that parks were used all year round. She advised that young people did not always feel safe on Bonfire Night and that the Council was looking to put alternative events in place and she encouraged Members to contact her with any suggestions they had. She offered to provide a further update at an appropriate time.

The Chair recognised the hard work of officers and thanked GMP and GMFRS for all their work to keep Manchester residents safe.

Decision

To note the report.

CESC/23/04 Advice Services Update

The Committee considered the report of the Director of Housing Operations which provided an overview of the advice services within the city. It detailed the range of provision across the city and outlined the outcomes achieved through the advice contracts that the Council commissioned. It articulated the pressures that were increasing for all advice providers in serving Manchester's population and explained the offer that other advice providers gave, including the Council's retained advice service and Registered Providers provision.

Key points and themes in the report included:

- An overview of the advice services in Manchester;
- Advice demand, trends, and pressures, including the impact of cost-of-living rises;
- The impact of the City Wide Advice Service contract, including social value and tackling inequalities;
- Manchester Advice Forum;
- The response to COVID-19; and
- Future demand and delivery.

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

- To praise the work of advice workers and their tenacity in contacting companies to seek a resolution;
- That the problems residents were contacting Ward Councillors about were increasingly complex and it would be helpful for Members to be provided with some guidance or training on where best to signpost residents depending on the situations they needed advice on;
- Access to advice services for people who were working during the day;
- To note that trade unions provided advice on employment issues to their members and to encourage workers to join a trade union; and
- How the locations for the Mobile Advice Van were communicated.

The Strategic Lead for Homelessness agreed to work with advice organisations to arrange training for Members. She reported that work had taken place to improve digital access to advice outside of office hours, including a digital chatbox. She advised that over the next year the Council would be reviewing what was needed in terms of advice services, in preparation for putting in place a new contract from 2024, and that this would include consideration about what was needed in terms of advice access on evenings and weekends.

In response to the Member's question about the Mobile Advice Van, the Service Manager (Homelessness) reported that Citizens Advice had targeted publicity in the areas where the Advice Van was visiting and that she would speak to Citizens Advice and the Council's Communications Team about improving communication in regards to this, if Members were not seeing this information. The Member stated that the Advice Van might not currently be visiting her ward but that it would be useful if it did. The Deputy Leader advised that Members could suggest to Citizens Advice any

locations that they felt that the Advice Van should visit via their website, or through her or the Service Manager.

In response to a question from the Chair, the Strategic Lead for Homelessness advised that retained advice services were within the Adult Social Care Directorate. She informed the Committee that representatives from a core group of services were meeting to look at how best to serve the demands arising from the cost-of-living crisis. The Deputy Leader reported that an additional £200,000 would be spent in 2023/24 to give additional capacity to advice services in response to the cost-of-living crisis.

The Chair welcomed the work taking place and asked that the Committee's thanks be passed on to all those providing advice services across the city.

Decisions

1. To receive an update at an appropriate time.
2. To request that Ward Councillors be provided with training on signposting residents to advice services.

[Councillor Wilson declared a disclosable pecuniary interest as an employee of the Trussell Trust and left the room for this item.]

CESC/23/05 Overview Report

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

The Chair proposed that the Committee receive the update report on Homelessness in either May or June 2023 and requested that Committee Members be provided with a briefing note on the analysis of the information on Bonfire Night 2022, when this was available.

Decision

To note the report and agree the work programme, subject to the above comments.

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Manchester City Council Report for Information

Report to: Communities and Equalities Scrutiny Committee – 7 February 2023

Subject: Culture Annual Report

Report of: Strategic Director (Neighbourhoods)

Summary

Arts and culture are an intrinsic part of life in Manchester. The city is home to world-class cultural organisations and presents an enviable programme of live music, festivals and events throughout the year. Many of the city's cultural organisations also work in impactful ways with resident groups, children and vulnerable people in our communities. The council has been leading the Loads to Do communications channel, promoting access to arts and cultural activities in neighbourhoods and across the city.

Manchester's cultural organisations provide important opportunities for residents in employment, training, learning and volunteering; they support mental and physical health and wellbeing; they attract people to visit, invest, live, and study in the city; and above all they enable people to come together to enjoy great art and experience joy. The sector's vision, creativity and impact are celebrated annually at the Manchester Culture Awards.

Manchester is the only UK city to feature in Lonely Planet's Best in Travel 2023 list of top 30 global cities. Manchester's dynamic arts scene is highlighted, and the city is described as a place that has "grown in both size and renown in recent years, metamorphosing into a brilliantly creative, proudly musical and gastronomically diverse hub."

The cultural sector was badly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and thanks to the efforts of sector leaders, cultural organisations and with the support they have received from the Arts Council England, UK government and the Council, we see some positive signs towards recovery. The results of the 2021/22 Cultural Impact Survey contained within this report illustrate some of the lasting impacts of the crisis over a period when some restrictions were still in place.

The council provides funding support to a group of cultural partners within a Strategic Investments portfolio and to a wider number of organisations through a competitive Cultural Partnership Grant scheme. Applications for the Cultural Partnership Grant scheme 2023-26 opened in 2022 with organisations recently receiving notification of their awards and a final decision pending completion of the due diligence process.

Cultural organisations supported by the city are required to report on their work and the impact they are having and this year we have introduced zero carbon guidance for funded organisations along with a Zero Carbon Culture Guide. Organisations that

receive core funding from the Council are now required to prepare and submit Carbon Reduction Action Plans to the council for review and monitoring.

Recommendations

The Committee is invited to consider and comment on the information in 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

Cultural organisations in Manchester are leading the way in their response to the climate crisis. Individual carbon reduction strategies aim to reduce emissions as well as engaging audiences on climate issues. Since 2011 the Greater Manchester Arts Sustainability Team (GMAST) has been operating as a collaborative group within the cultural sector, working to demonstrate climate change leadership and to develop and share resources such as bespoke carbon literacy training. The Council's Zero Carbon Culture Guide provides further support and guidance to the sector in taking forward their plans and officers have implemented formal requirements for council-funded organisations to prepare Carbon Reduction Plans to reduce their carbon emissions as part of funding agreements.

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

Supporting cultural activities and a cultural sector that benefits all the city's residents is key to the council's Culture Team service plan, with a stated priority to "Widen participation and access to culture for all Manchester residents with focus on people and places with greatest need."

The Council works with cultural partners to understand the challenges and create better equity of opportunity with individuals and groups to increase access to culture and creativity. This includes informing and engaging partners in the city's strategy development, sharing data and consultation to encourage evidence-based approaches and facilitating connections with partners from other sectors to support delivery and impact, as well as opportunities to share good practice within the sector. Cultural impact data prepared for this report evidences the need for an ongoing focus and priorities to address inequalities in access to culture to residents across the city and the importance to maintain focus on inclusive practices within the leadership and management of cultural organisations. It remains vital that the Council encourages partners to create talent pathways for artists and employees from diverse backgrounds and the promotion of activities and events which connect with Manchester's dynamic and diverse population.

Manchester Strategy outcomes	Summary of how this report aligns to the OMS/Contribution to the Strategy
A thriving and sustainable city: supporting a diverse and distinctive economy that creates jobs and opportunities	The city's cultural offer is an intrinsic part of the economic and social life of Manchester and is interconnected with the hospitality sector, night-time and visitor economies. Manchester is the only UK City to feature in Lonely Planet's Best in Travel 2023 list of top 30 global cities and in which Manchester's dynamic arts scene is highlighted. The cultural sector was under significant pressure with COVID-19 restrictions and a Manchester Culture Recovery Plan alongside numerous sector-led projects have contributed to the city's recovery and return to a vibrant and diverse cultural offer.
A highly skilled city: world class and home-grown talent sustaining the city's economic success	The cultural and creative industries sector employs a wide variety of staff, freelancers, and creative practitioners. The strength of Manchester's highly skilled talent pool is a key feature in the city's attractiveness for inward investors. The sector generates a wide range of projects and programmes that nurture the talent and skills of the city's residents, provide pathways into the sector and support access to employment.
A progressive and equitable city: making a positive contribution by unlocking the potential of our communities	The cultural sector delivers entry-level jobs and levels up educational achievement for residents. It also provides a range of targeted opportunities for training, volunteering and learning to support inclusive growth. The cultural sector also delivers bespoke and targeted programmes for the benefit of some of the city's vulnerable residents, using the power of arts, culture and heritage to connect, engage and support health, wellbeing and life chances.
A liveable and low carbon city: a destination of choice to live, visit, work	Manchester has a world-leading cultural offer for residents and visitors to access. It adds to the vibrancy of the city centre, providing key visitor attractions which engage local people and connect to the city's schools and education offer. It brings neighbourhoods together in mutual understanding and proudly showcases the diversity in our communities. Cultural organisations have showed individual and collective leadership in response to the climate crisis.

A connected city: world class infrastructure and connectivity to drive growth	Culture plays a vital role in making Manchester a city with an international profile, supporting our visitor economy. In response to the pandemic, the cultural sector has moved significant elements of delivery to a digital format, increasing opportunities for people both within and outside Manchester to engage in creative content and activities.
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Full details are in the body of the report, along with any implications for:

- Equal Opportunities Policy
- Risk Management
- Legal Considerations

Financial Consequences – Revenue

None

Financial Consequences – Capital

None

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Background documents (available for public inspection):

None

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Arts and culture play a vital role in the life of the city; contributing to our vibrant city centre and night-time economy; supporting the health, happiness and wellbeing of our residents; attracting visitors; creating jobs; and promoting the city's positive, inclusive and creative reputation.

1.2 The city's cultural offer has a distinct character and the wealth and breath of organisations in Manchester expresses the creative and enterprising culture of our residents, collaborative and inclusive values of our sector partners and the adventurous spirit of our audiences.

1.3 The Council with our cultural partners has been on a journey, framed by the Cultural Ambition strategy 2016-26 which set out the following shared objectives:

- Manchester will be known for distinctive work that could only have been made in this place.
- Manchester will be the UK's most culturally democratic city, engaging with a much greater number and diversity of people across Greater Manchester.
- Greater Manchester will be regarded as the city-region which values and nurtures creative talent, skills, diversity, and expression more inclusively and successively than any other.

1.4 The Council's annual Cultural Impact Survey is a unique local authority led research tool, enabling the Council with its partners to review strategic progress towards Manchester's cultural ambitions. It enables the sector to articulate its impact and helps to focus where more progress is needed. This report provides the latest findings of the Cultural Impact Survey 2021-22.

1.5 The Council's culture officers work closely with the organisations the council funds and supports, developing grant and funding agreements, supporting council decisions and leading strategic collaborative initiatives with partners, often with external fundraising. The report outlines:

- the cultural partners that the Council funds within a portfolio of Strategic Investments and Cultural Partnership Grant recipients;
- progress this year to select those to benefit from the Council's Cultural Partnership Grant scheme through an open application process;
- the cultural sector's contribution to the city's Zero Carbon 2038 ambition;
- case studies and key strategic projects including the Loads to Do website and communications campaign, the annual Manchester Culture Awards, MADE cultural education partnership, MyHub music education hub, work to promote Zero Carbon Culture and key international collaborations.
- progress by the sector towards creating a new Cultural Consortium to replace the existing Cultural Leaders Group.

2.0 COVID recovery and impact of the cost-of-living crisis

2.1 The impacts of the COVID pandemic continue to have a lasting effect on cultural organisations, freelancers and the cultural offer in the city. During the period of the Cultural Impact Survey in this report - from April 2021 to March 2022:

- There had been enhanced restrictions over the preceding Christmas period and England's third national lockdown started in January 2021. That month, vulnerable adults had just started to receive their first vaccine and on the 8th March 2021, school children returned to school.
- In April 2021 pubs and restaurants were allowed to reopen requiring everybody to sign in, while limiting visits to the bar to one person from each group. 'Red-list' countries saw significant travel restrictions and the FA Cup semi-final was held at London's Wembley Stadium as a pilot event with just 4,000 spectators. Mask wearing and social distancing was in place and in Manchester outdoor hospitality launches included Escape to Freight Island. Libraries reopened across the city, but most indoor venues were not yet allowed to reopen.
- In May 2021 in England, people were urged to, "exercise caution and common sense" with more indoor hospitality reopening and people able to hug again. Progress of the government's Roadmap meant that cultural venues could start to reopen from 17 May. Cultural partners in the city worked hard to improve ventilation and manage social distancing, working with audiences and visitors to build their confidence to return to venues and events. HOME worked with the Council's Events team and cultural partners to launch a popular outdoor event space Homeground at First Street which featured 2 stages.
- In June 2021 Manchester International Festival took place across the city with carefully managed social distancing and mask-wearing and The Hallé played its first two concerts with live audiences since the pandemic with a sold-out but significantly reduced, socially distanced audience of 600 instead of the Bridgewater Hall's usual 2,300 capacity. Also in June, all adults were able to receive a COVID vaccine but with venues not being able to open up events to larger audiences, restrictions continued to have a damaging impact on earned income levels and the viability of events. Venues were still maintaining guests in household or support bubble groups and audience confidence remained fragile. With Greater Manchester's status as a COVID-19 Enhanced Response Area, companies also found some customers wishing to cancel tickets.
- Stage 4 of the government Roadmap saw restrictions further lifted in July and cultural partners gradually opened their venues though the summer and into autumn, with some also starting to hold participatory activities in-person such as Z-arts. Museums and galleries ran advance ticket bookings to manage visitors safely. Manchester Art Gallery staged a partial reopening on 20th August and HOME, the People's History Museum, The Whitworth, Manchester Museum and Castlefield Gallery all opened in September.
- By November 2021 however, the Omicron variant surge impacted on public confidence and by December, the mask wearing mandate was extended to cinemas, theatres and indoor venues, attendees of nightclubs and large events required produce an NHS COVID Pass to enter showing

their vaccine status and employees were being advised by the government to work from home if possible. The surge of Omicron had a substantial impact on public confidence in the run up to Christmas, and audience caution coupled with high levels of sickness among staff at cultural venues had an adverse impact on audience attendance and earned income during what is usually the busiest month of the year for the cultural sector.

- Close to the end of the period covered by the Cultural Impact Data in this report, on 24 February 2022, all domestic legal COVID restrictions were officially lifted in England.

2.2 The government's COVID Cultural Recovery Fund had a huge impact on the stability of the sector, ensuring organisations in Manchester could continue and re-open as restrictions eased. Targeted initiatives delivered by the Council via business rates and the Additional Restrictions Grants were very beneficial and a Freelancer fund for people in Manchester working in the cultural and creative sector was very well received.

2.3 Whilst legal restrictions came to an end in February 2022, some of the lasting impact of the pandemic continued into the next financial year, with audience confidence impacted and notably, recruitment difficulties and staff shortages linked to wage inflation all affecting the activities of the sector and companies financially.

2.4 As with all sectors, the energy and cost of living crisis is further impacting cultural organisations in the city. An energy survey undertaken by the Council of our funded organisations in December 2022 found that:

- The range of price increases seen for electricity was particularly wide with lowest increase for electricity reported (between 2019/20 and 2022/23) was at 150% and the highest was 1000% increase, with most companies reporting a 200-400% increase.
- Out of the companies that could provide comparable costs, the lowest increase for gas reported was a 130% increase when compared to 2019-20, with most companies reporting increase of between 300 and 400%.

2.5 Companies are looking at ways to mitigate the impact of the costs across their operations, from changes to operating hours, cutting back on their activities, rescheduling activities into the summer months and fundraising to cover increased costs. Energy saving measures include more detailed audits to reduce unnecessary energy use and investing in LED lighting.

2.6 Of the 13 companies that took part in the MCC energy survey, 8 reported that they would be using their reserves to pay for this year's rising energy costs, and a further 3 companies said they also may need to do so.

2.7 Despite the continuing challenging circumstances, the sector remains positive and is working hard and collaboratively to continue to serve the city and its residents.

3.0 Cultural Impact Survey

- 3.1 The Cultural Impact Survey is an annual survey of the economic and social impact of Manchester's cultural organisations. It is open to all cultural partners which are either based in Manchester or deliver most of their work in the city. The survey is compulsory for all Council-funded culture organisations. The data generated creates a resource and an advocacy tool for the Council and the cultural sector, and this year's findings built on last year's results in continuing to illustrate the sector's COVID-19 pandemic recovery.
- 3.2 A total of 43 organisations completed the survey for 2021/22, providing a robust set of data to demonstrate the sector's recovery from COVID-19 restrictions. 32 of these organisations had also responded in 2019/20 and 2020/21, and this repeat cohort has been used to illustrate any patterns and changes in this year's data when compared with pre-pandemic. During the survey period many restrictions remained in place, as outlined in Section 2 of this report.
- 3.3 It is important to note that whilst the cost-of-living crisis and energy price increases mentioned in the previous section are having a substantial impact on the sector at the current time, these will not be evident within cultural impact data until the results of the 2022/23 survey are collected and analysed.

Funding and Income

- 3.4 The total combined income of the 43 organisations that completed the 2020/21 survey was £102.9 million. Among the repeat cohort of organisations, income levels returned almost to pre-pandemic levels, with 2020/21 income at just 7% below the 2019/20 figure. However, this was largely made possible through the provision of publicly funded COVID recovery support to sustain organisations whilst they had to close their doors and reduce operations. Earned income had dropped by 54% and private sector donations, trusts and foundations was 18% lower than in 2019/20.
- 3.5 Public sector funding (including the Council's investments) continues to remain above pre-pandemic levels largely because of the COVID19 support measures for the sector. The flexible way companies were able to use the Culture Recovery Fund up meant in most cases they were able to retain staff, deliver free and online culture programmes, and for some, to also shore-up their reserves, putting them in a position to successfully emerge from the crisis.

Reach

- 3.6 Overall footfall to cultural venues in 2021/22 was 3.6m - this represents all visitors to cultural venues, from free and ticketed audiences to educational visits and corporate hire. Amongst the organisations completing the survey for the last three years, this remains 56% lower than 2019/20 levels, but it has recovered six-fold since 2020/21. There were 8,865 productions and commissions in Manchester during the year – this figure was very similar to pre-pandemic levels of activity. Audiences, however, remained around 50%

lower than pre-pandemic – reflecting the gradual lifting of restrictions over this period, changes to audience behaviours in returning to live events, and the fact that social distancing continued during part of the year. This seems particularly pertinent for some venue-based organisations, many of which had a similar number of productions and commissions but with audience numbers much lower than prior to the pandemic. Of these productions and commissions 193 were also available to view live online, reaching online audiences of 851,828.

- 3.7 In addition to this in-person offer, there were 1,160 web-based activities available this year (this is defined as creative content produced to be consumed online) with audiences of 2.2m. The number of broadcasts available in 2021/22 was 1,387, with audiences of 4.3m. Due to a change in the way the questions were asked within the survey around digital products and broadcasts this year, we are unable to provide a pre-pandemic comparison.

Engagement and Participation

- 3.8 The total number of participants in engagement and education activities in 2021/22 was 229,268. This is 58% lower than pre-pandemic levels among the repeat cohort of organisations. These participants engaged in a total of just under 15,000 activity sessions, which is a reduction of 66% on pre-pandemic activity and had recovered very little in the intervening year.

Volunteers

- 3.9 In 2021/22 there were a total of 2,442 active volunteers, with a total of 99,805 volunteer hours contributed (10,014 of which were board member volunteer hours). The survey data demonstrates the recovery of volunteering, with the number of volunteers this year only 22% lower than pre-pandemic. Whilst volunteer hours are still recovering, they have increased by 164% in the last 12 months. The level of board volunteer hours remained high during this period, demonstrating the ongoing contribution and support which boards have provided to their organisations during the pandemic and recovery.

Zero Carbon

- 3.10 A total of 427 employees across 28 organisations have received training in Carbon Literacy from an accredited trainer. This represents a 35% increase in the number of organisations with trained employees compared to 2019/20. 30% of the organisations that completed the 2021/22 survey have a carbon reduction plan in place, and 58% have a plan in progress or under review. The Cultural Impact Survey does not currently collect data on the carbon footprint of each organisation – however the Culture Team will explore how best to collect and report on this data going forward, learning from the approach of the Council's Events Team.

Health and Wellbeing

- 3.11 70% of the organisations completing the survey said that they delivered activities with a health and wellbeing focus during 2021/22. Of these organisations, 100% reported that this was delivered through engagement and participation sessions, 53% in productions and commissions, and 57% through therapeutic activities. A total of £1.97million was secured by the organisations to deliver health and wellbeing related projects, which is a 26% increase compared to 2020/21.

Employment and Skills

- 3.12 Respondents to this year's survey reported 2,049 individual employees in 2021/22, which is a similar level to both 2019/20 and 2020/21. Whilst it might have been expected that this figure would have reduced due to the end of the Government's Employment Retention Scheme, those organisations with a reduced workforce have been balanced out by those with growing staff numbers.
- 3.13 In 2021/22 there were 2,233 individual freelancers - a 28% decrease compared to 2019/20, but an increase of 15% on last year, illustrating that the cultural and creative freelancers are slowly starting to benefit from the recovery of the sector and the increase in opportunities available. Training and development opportunities such as apprenticeships, internships and work experience placements continued to remain at much lower levels this year.
- 3.14 Of those responding to the survey, 84% of cultural organisations pay staff the Real Living Wage or higher, and 26% of the organisations are accredited Real Living Wage employers.

Demographics data

- 3.15 **Age.** Audiences are fairly evenly split across the different age groups – however when comparing the audience data to Census figures for Manchester it appears that in this year's responses, the over-50s have proportionately higher representation by cultural organisations than the under-35's. It is important to note that the survey has gathered very little data on under 19s as in many cases younger people are not the lead ticket purchaser. In terms of participation, over 80% of participants were aged 0-19 – very similar to the pre-pandemic figure in 2019/20 - with 20% aged over 20. Volunteering data shows high levels of engagement among young people, with 39% aged 20-34. There has been a growth in the number and percentage of younger board members, with 14% now aged 20-34 and 34% aged 35-49.
- 3.16 **Gender.** As in previous surveys there was a strong female bias across audiences (66%), volunteers (66%), and employees (59%), whereas board members were more evenly split between male and female and more closely aligned with Census data.
- 3.17 **Ethnicity.** In the data collected this year, there are some shifts in data on ethnic diversity. Groups other than White accounted for 8% of audiences indicating less diversity than pre-pandemic (albeit generally the sample size

was considerably lower than in 2019/20). 13% of employees were from groups other than White, which remained broadly in line with 2019-20. However, ethnic diversity has increased across volunteers (24% groups other than White) and board members (26% other than White). It is important to note that the 2021 Census data showed that 43% of Manchester's population are groups other than White, meaning that cultural organisations have further work to do to ensure that they are collectively reaching all of the city's communities.

- 3.18 **Disability.** The number of individuals identifying as having a disability was similar across audiences (15%) and volunteers (18%), board members were slightly lower at 11%, and employees at 8%. No resident population data is available against which to benchmark this data.
- 3.19 **Place of residence.** Survey data showed that 24% of audiences were from Manchester, 33% from Greater Manchester, 18% North West, 24% national, and 1% international. Understandably the number of international visitors and audiences was lower due to the pandemic travel restrictions. The high number of Greater Manchester attendees may be linked to the fact that it was a Manchester International Festival year. Participants were predominantly from Manchester (46%) and Greater Manchester (45%), as were volunteers and employees. The highest engaged wards in 2021/22 were Hulme, Whalley Range, Ancoats and Beswick, Moss Side and Chorlton. Hulme, Whalley Range, and Chorlton were also the highest engaged wards in 2019/20. The lowest engaged wards in 2021/22 were Sharston, Brooklands, Baguley, Charlestown, and Piccadilly. All the lowest engaged wards, with the exception of Piccadilly, were also in the lowest engaged cohort in 2019/20.

Economic impact and social value

- 3.20 Through Manchester's cultural organisations' important role as employers, purchasers of goods and services and visitor attractions, they have collectively supported 3,500 full-time equivalent jobs in the local economy generating Gross Value Added (GVA) of £213.2 million in 2021/22. This is based on data from the organisations that completed the survey in 2021/22, and is made up of 1,415 FTE jobs, 1,669 FTEs from supply chain spend (indirect) and spend by employees (induced) impacts, and £70m net annual visitor spend in the local economy. It is not possible to make a direct comparison between this year's figure and previous calculations due to the variation in organisations responding to the survey and the significantly lower audience and visitor figures during the time period, which play an important role in the methodology. However, it is possible to interpret the figure as being impacted by COVID-19 but showing recovery.
- 3.21 The total social value of the organisations responding this year is £4.4m. This is calculated using methodology that combines the monetised social benefits generated through the 11 apprenticeships supported, 2,814 volunteers, 3m visitors to physical productions and commissions and health and wellbeing NHS cost savings. As above, the reduced visitor numbers will have impacted on this figure.

4.0 Core funding for culture

4.1 The Council has a longstanding commitment to investing in arts and culture, with the annual Cultural Impact Survey evidencing the substantial return on investment that this brings. The city's cultural offer is an intrinsic part of the life of the city, attracting visitors, business and investment and creating employment and training opportunities for Manchester residents; cultural organisations create engagement, participation and educational activities for Manchester residents, supporting many of the city's more vulnerable groups and contributing to health and wellbeing; and cultural venues and activities contribute to regeneration and place-shaping, bringing vibrancy and identity to the city centre and the city's neighbourhoods.

4.2 The Council's investment in culture also enables the cultural sector to leverage substantial levels of investment from wider public and private funders. Arts Council England for example recently confirmed that its core funding programme, the National Portfolio, will invest £24.6million per annum in Manchester in the 2023-26 funding round.

4.3 The Council's Culture Team manages a number of Strategic Investments as well as the Cultural Partnership Grants programme. Strategic Investments are long-term commitments by the Council to support significant cultural assets in the city. In each case the Council initiated the project, in many cases as part of a wider strategic approach to development, economic growth, social impact or place-making. These investments support the delivery of the Our Manchester Strategy and help to position Manchester's world-class cultural offer. In the long-term core funding supports these investments to remain sustainable and to continue to deliver for Manchester residents. The Strategic Investments include:

4.4 Manchester International Festival / Factory International

The Council initiated Manchester International Festival following the Commonwealth Games as a festival of new work, as part of positioning the city on an international stage. The 2021 Festival – despite the COVID-19 pandemic and related restrictions – had an estimated economic impact of £19.5million, and reached record in-person audiences of 1.46million through a large number of free and outdoor events and installations.

From 2023 this investment will shift focus to provide core funding to Factory International, which will be operated by Manchester International Festival and will be a global destination for arts, music and culture with a ground-breaking programme and a bespoke approach to skills and training through Factory Academy. Factory International will be at the heart of the development in the St John's Quarter. This is an investment of £1.5million per annum.

4.5 HOME

The Council built HOME as a new venue bringing together Cornerhouse and the Council's former Library Theatre in 2015, as both buildings were

increasingly poorly suited to delivering their work. The move of Library Theatre supported the wider transformation of Central Library and HOME was part of the transformation of First Street. The Council's operational budget for the Library Theatre was transferred to HOME where it contributes to the operation of two theatre spaces and a gallery, that sit alongside five cinema screens. This is an investment of £1.27million per annum.

In 2019/20 Ekosgen estimated the economic impact of HOME as £24.9million, with a social value of around £1.1million and a total audience of 343,000.

In 2021 the Council successfully secured Levelling Up Funding from the government to convert three railway arches adjacent to HOME into spaces for cultural engagement and participation activities, to be operated by HOME.

4.6 National Football Museum

The Council invested in bringing the National Football Museum to Manchester from Preston and in capital works to adapt the city's iconic Urbis building as its home in 2012. The Football Museum is a national cultural institution and supports Manchester's position as a global city of football, attracting significant numbers of local, national and international visitors. This is currently an investment of £1.4million per annum.

Before the pandemic, visitor numbers at the museum had reached 161,441 with a wider footfall within the building of 191,442. A quarter of all visitors were international, with a further quarter visiting from the UK outside the North West, illustrating the museum's role in positioning Manchester as a cultural and sporting visitor destination.

4.7 The Hallé Orchestra at Bridgewater Hall

The Hallé has been the city's international symphony orchestra since 1858, originally based at the Free Trade Hall. The orchestra performs over 120 concerts annually and its education programme reaches over 70,000 children, young and older people.

The Bridgewater Hall opened in 1996 as the city's new international concert venue for symphonic music and the new home for the Hallé Orchestra, replacing the Free Trade Hall. The venue was part of the development of the area surrounding Manchester Central and the building sits on 280 sets of spring that isolate the auditorium from noise and vibrations from the surrounding roads and Metrolink line, meaning that its acoustics are world-class. Whilst the Council does not contribute revenue funding to the operation of the Hall, the Culture Budget supports the Hallé with its costs as resident orchestra, contributing to hire costs for concerts and rehearsals. This is an investment of £337,000 per annum.

4.8 Z-arts

The Zion Arts Centre in Hulme was historically a Council-run centre for Children and Families, but in the late 1980's management of the building was transferred whilst maintaining a community and children and young people's focus. Z-arts is now the city's lead cultural organisation in the city for children and families. In addition to running the Z-arts venue in Hulme, the organisation is the lead partner for MADE, Manchester's Cultural Education Partnership which works to create meaningful cultural learning experiences for children and young people in collaboration with arts, education and youth organisations across the city. This is an investment of £184,000 per annum.

During 2021/22 Z-arts received 42,824 visitors (95,264 in 19/20), 27,186 from Manchester and reached 17,684 participants, approximately 13,000 residents from Manchester wards. In October 2022 Z-arts also opened a new children's library in partnership with Manchester Library Service, in its first quarter 104 members have joined and over 400 loans have been issued.

4.9 Manchester City of Literature

Manchester City of Literature will join the portfolio of Strategic Investments from April 2023, having received annual core funding support from other budgets for the last few years. Manchester City of Literature is an independent charity which was established by the Council, the University of Manchester and Manchester Metropolitan University to administer Manchester's 2017 designation as a UNESCO Creative City of Literature. Manchester City of Literature supports the development of the city's literature sector and delivers a programme of related events and activities. This is an investment of £50,000 per annum. (For further information, please see the section on international collaborations 8.7 below and the Libraries report for a full progress update).

4.10 Cultural Partnership Grants

The Cultural Partnership Grants programme was established in 2011 and provides an open, competitive process for cultural organisations (usually small to medium) to seek core funding from the Council. The aim of the programme is "to fund and support cultural organisations that contribute to making Manchester a thriving, equitable, vibrant and liveable city with high-quality cultural and creative experiences that all Manchester people can benefit from". It has run three funding rounds and currently supports 15 organisations with grants between £10,000 to £40,000.

- 4.11 The next Cultural Partnership Grant programme will run from 2023-26, mirroring the funding period for the Arts Council's National Portfolio investments, with a budget of £313,000 per annum. The priorities for the 2023-26 programme were co-designed with cultural partners in Spring 2022 and are:

1. High quality

We create brave, bold, and aspirational culture with life-enhancing impacts. Quality is defined by the people we work with. It is measured by the impact we have and the progress we make.

2. Inclusion and equity

We recognise the systemic inequities that impact on Manchester residents' health, wellbeing, and quality of life. We are committed to widening access, participation and progression in culture and creativity.

3. Representation

We are on a well-planned journey to becoming representative of the diversity of the city of Manchester. We can demonstrate how this is reflected in decision-making and leadership roles in our organisation.

4. Zero-carbon

We will progress towards becoming zero-carbon by 2038 or earlier and develop climate change action plans in line with this.

- 4.12 The fund launched for applications in September 2022, and a total of 57 applications were received, of which 49 were eligible for assessment. The process was highly competitive, with a total funding ask of £1.6m (five times the available budget) and a large number of high scoring applications. Decisions on the new portfolio were made in December and the due diligence process is currently underway. The new portfolio will be announced in February/March 2023.

5.0 Zero Carbon

- 5.1 The Council is currently well on track to achieve its target to reduce the Council's own CO₂ emissions by 50% by 2025, as part of the city's journey to zero carbon by 2038. However, as a whole, the wider city is not on track to achieve our targets making the Council's role to support and influence the city's residents and organisations more important than ever. The cultural sector has been recognised as holding some unique levers to engage residents and partner organisations on climate action in the city.
- 5.2 The Council's Culture Team and cultural partners have worked with Julie's Bicycle, who are leading climate change advisors to the culture sector, to develop recommendations on how to incorporate zero-carbon requirements into funding arrangements. A zero carbon framework was rolled out in 2022 to all of the cultural organisations in receipt of core funding. Both smaller grant recipients and the larger strategic investments that are funded by the Council are now expected to develop and implement a zero carbon plan that will be monitored and reported on. Julie's Bicycle held training workshops with the Council's Culture Team in 2022 to provide the team with the tools to be able to assess and monitor carbon reduction plans.
- 5.3 In 2022 the Culture Team also launched the 2023-26 Cultural Partnership Grant programme. As a first step in the process a series of co-design workshops were held to develop the aim, priorities and principles of the new fund. Zero carbon emerged as one of the four priorities in co-design, and as such all cultural organisations applying for this core funding had to demonstrate their plans to progress towards becoming zero carbon by 2038 or

earlier, developing climate change action plans in line with this target. Cultural organisations that applied to the fund were encouraged to read the Zero Carbon Culture guide and to adopt a Carbon Reduction Plan aligned with the with the Julie's Bicycle guidance – responsive to Manchester's targets and to be reported on over the grant programme. Organisations scored highly on Zero Carbon if they could demonstrate an understanding of the organisation's climate impact and wider influencing role; a commitment to addressing climate change at leadership and decision-making levels in line with Manchester targets; and had made progress on either developing or implementing an action plan. Many of the organisations started 2022 at different stages of their Zero Carbon journey so it was important for the team to be able to score flexibly and consider both actions and an organisation's ambition. The Culture Team will provide further support to the new portfolio of organisations on zero carbon once the new programme begins in April.

- 5.4 The Manchester Culture Awards were awarded at the prestigious 2022 ceremony at the end of the year. As outlined below, this an occasion to mark the City's best cultural contributions over the past year across 12 different categories, with one of those specifically on the 'Promotion of Environmental Sustainability'. It was a strong category, won by Roots and Branches which helps museums to play a role in addressing the climate crisis and social inequality. Organisers of the awards also looked to improve the sustainability standards of the event this year. It was a conscious decision to have a digital-only programme rather than a printed programme for each guest. Travel data has also been gathered which will be utilised for future events to influence decisions on event location and to understand whether shuttle buses for guests would be viable to limit single car use.
- 5.5 The Culture Team continues to collaborate with the cultural sector more widely on zero carbon. In January 2023 this included being part of the Cultural Leaders Climate Summit and continuing to work with GMAST (Greater Manchester Arts Sustainability Team). GMAST is a member of the Manchester Climate Change Partnership and provides a collaborative space for arts, cultural and creative organisations to demonstrate climate change leadership and share resources. This year GMAST has undertaken a strategic review and is now moving ahead as a city-region wide network focusing on climate and ecological action by establishing itself as a co-operative. GMAST is developing new resources for the sector, including accredited carbon literacy training.
- 5.6 This year the Council's Culture Team also began to take the learning from Julie's Bicycle, by developing their own Zero Carbon action plan. The focus of this was to find areas that the team could better influence across the sector and with other teams in the Council as well as improve their own team behaviours. Key actions that the team will be looking to implement in 2023 will be to improve collaboration - especially with the Council's Events team and GMAST – and to develop further support for funded organisations to meet their zero carbon ambitions.

6.0 Loads to Do

- 6.1 The website www.loadstodo.co.uk is a Council led initiative, promoting access to arts, cultural and leisure time activities the across the city. In its first year of proper operation since the lifting of COVID restrictions on venues and events, the website is populated by an increasing diversity of organisations, with information about what's available in the city centre, as well as in neighbourhoods. The purpose of the website is to widen access and participation by residents in cultural, creative and wider leisure opportunities, building on successful campaigns such as the use of Loads to Do as a central part of the school holiday activity campaigns.
- 6.2 Loads to Do is still in its early days and there is more work to do to activate its potential. Currently a review of its first year of operation is underway including planned consultation with partners and costumer user groups to identify improvements for useability, accessibility and engagement. The Culture Team is working with colleagues across libraries, parks, youth and the neighbourhood teams, as well as the cultural and creative sector as part of the review.

7.0 Manchester Culture Awards 2022

- 7.1 The Manchester Culture Awards were introduced in 2018 to celebrate and profile arts and cultural activity in Manchester. The initiative highlights the artistic achievements and inter/national reputation of arts and culture in the city, as well as the sector's positive contributions across the city's agendas; economic, social, education, health and wellbeing and environmental sustainability.
- 7.2 The fourth Culture Awards took place in November 2022. The Awards recognised that Manchester designated 2022 as 'Our Year', an initiative to focus the collective resources of the city to help children and young people to regain their futures following the impacts of COVID. For the first time this a young judge joined the Culture Awards panel - Princess Arinola Adegbite (the winner Young Creative of the Year in 2021) and 3 young people at the start of their careers joined BBC's Northwest Tonight presenter, Nazia Mogra, in hosting the awards evening. All of them did an excellent job, with Nazia commenting how much she enjoyed working with them.
- 7.3 466 nominations were received – the highest number to date and over 150 more than the previous year. The awards celebrated 66 finalists from across a range of artforms and heritage and from small, medium and large organisations - as well as individuals. This reflects Manchester's distinctive, dynamic creative scene and vibrant history of cultural innovation and collaboration, with major cultural institutions sitting alongside a rich mix of smaller organisations. The 2022 awards invited nominations for work across 2019/2020 and 2020/2021) as the initiative did not take place in 2020.
- 7.4 Two new categories were introduced for 2022 – Independent Creative of the Year and the Made in Manchester Award. These awards were about recognising the major contribution that creative individuals and freelancers

make towards the production and delivery to creativity and arts and engagement in the city, as well as encouraging nominations from a wider range of artforms. The Manchester People's Award recognises work that shows dedication and contributes to culture and creativity in Manchester. It is unique in that the winner is chosen by a public vote in association with the Manchester Evening News. There were also three special recognition awards, to individuals who have made a significant impact on culture in Manchester over a number of years. These were awarded to Kate Day, the late Director of Manchester Craft and Design Centre, Dave Moutrey OBE, long-time member of Manchester's Cultural Sector, Chief Executive of HOME and the City Council's Director of Culture, and Mancunian poet, campaigner and a former Chancellor of the University of Manchester, Lemn Sissay.

- 7.5 As already mentioned in this report, the 2022 Manchester Culture Awards Programme was only produced in a digital format, accessible to the audience via a QR code, to improve the sustainability of the event. The programme and the Manchester Evening News feature following have been circulated as an Appendix to this report and demonstrates the excellence and diversity of activity and partners that support culture and creativity in Manchester.

8.0 Collaborations and International Partnerships

8.1 International collaborations

In the last twelve months, international-cultural activity has continued to develop, despite international travel still being subject to Covid restrictions.

8.2 Danish Cities collaboration

The Director of Culture with partners from Aalborg and Aarhus municipalities, Arts Council England, the Danish Embassy in London and the Danish Agency for Culture and Palaces continue to support cross-border projects covering art forms including literature, music, visual arts, and young people's theatre. At the same time, conversations are taking place between partners to select strategic priorities to put together a new portfolio of projects. In early conversations, partners have agreed to explore carbon reduction and environmental sustainability, young people and mental health, contemporary dance, and music as priority areas going forward.

8.3 Manchester Network for Cultural Collaboration with China (MANCCC)

Work continues under the leadership of the Director of Culture with the British Council, the MANCCC steering group, and the former Centre for Chinese Contemporary Art, which has reopened and relaunched earlier this year as 'esea contemporary' on a scheme to connect cultural and creative practitioners from China to cultural organisation and leaders in Manchester and enable them to experience Manchester's cultural offerings. The programme will culminate in a two-day event of public engagement at esea contemporary in June 2023 to which the public will be invited to participate in a

series of discussions, showcases, workshops, screenings, and presentations of the artists' work and practice.

8.4 International Society for the Performing Arts (ISPA)

Manchester will host ISPA's mid-year congress from 27 to 30 June 2023, welcoming up to 500 performing art managers, promoters and policy makers from across the world to the city to exchange and develop ideas, strengthen and nurture relationships, and commission and present new work. The congress will be held across several venues in the city, including The Factory and the Bridgewater Hall and is a unique opportunity to highlight the performing arts sector in Manchester, with the end of the congress coinciding with the start of Manchester International Festival.

8.5 Music Cities Network

Manchester is a member of the international Music Cities Network. There are 10 member cities which are committed to working in cooperation, sharing research and policy expertise with city leaders and all other music city stakeholders around the world. Manchester's participation in the Music Cities Network enables musicians and producers from the city to take part in the various talent development, showcase, mentoring and collaborative opportunities available. In the last year these have included 'Music Moves Europe' project which sees the creation of a taskforce of emerging music practitioners and an Urban Music Residency project - Link Up Euro Connection.

8.6 Manchester Music City & WOMEX

Aligned to our membership of the Music Cities Network, the Council with partners including music charity Brighter Sound; the British Council; Youth Music and the PRS Foundation, have set up the Manchester Music City initiative to support the economic development of the city's music sector, enhancing international relationships and sustaining an inclusive grass roots music ecology. The projects to date have included research work to inform industry strategies; support for an industry led zine 'Seen'; collaborations with international partners through the Music Cities Network; and a bid to host major music industry event WOMEX in 2024 backed by Arts Council England. In 2021 and 2022 artists from Manchester were also able to join the Manchester delegation to WOMEX with the support of the British Council.

8.7 UNESCO City of Literature

The Council continues to support Manchester City of Literature, the charity responsible for the city's designation as UNESCO Creative City of Literature, along with its partners at Manchester Metropolitan University and the University of Manchester. Manchester has held the designation since 2017 and its first mandatory activity report to UNESCO in 2022 has received excellent feedback. (Please see Libraries report for a full progress update.)

9.0 MADE – Manchester’s Cultural Education Partnership

- 9.1 MADE is Manchester’s Cultural Education Partnership which was launched in February 2020. MADE brings together partners from across culture, formal and informal education, training and employment with the aim is to provide high quality, meaningful multi-disciplinary cross-curricular creative learning experiences, connecting children and young people from all backgrounds with arts and culture in Manchester.
- 9.2 In its first two years, MADE has worked with 12,000 children and young people taking part in 28 creative partnership projects between 27 schools and 28 cultural organisations, engaging 79 teachers and creating 36 Manchester-specific teaching resources. The teaching resources and information about Manchester-based creative facilitators are available on the MADE website (www.mademcr.org).
- 9.3 Following feedback from consultation with teachers, MADE introduced #joiningthedots for Careers Week 2022 – creating resources that provide insight into the range of jobs available within cultural organisations. To date both Manchester Museum and HOME have produced content featuring job roles from Creative Producers and Curators to Retail Manager and Visitor Experience team member. These resources sit alongside MADE’s *Chattin’* series of films of interviews with a diverse range of people working in culture and creativity.
- 9.4 MADE was active in supporting Manchester’s Our Year initiative through partnering or leading several exciting, large-scale projects:
- Art Assembly was a one-day festival of art, fun and creativity across the city centre in June 2022. Supported by Art Fund and some of Manchester’s leading arts organisations, the festival explored the theme of ‘City as Art School’ and featured new work by Greater Manchester artists, as well as projects between artists and children and young people. MADE worked with 12 schools and 9 cultural organisations to create testimonies by Manchester young people about why creativity was important to them and the value of arts subjects on the school curriculum.
 - MADE supported ‘Happy, Safe, and Free’, a year-long art project which got over 10,000 school students to make artworks expressing what makes them ‘happy’, ‘safe’ and ‘free’ in a project exploring empathy and understanding for refugees through creativity. The project was designed and coordinated by artist Emma Martin and assisted by Judy Donnelly, with support from Stanley Grove Primary Academy, Bright Futures Educational Trust and MADE.
 - MADE’s Creative Influencers — young people aged 10–14, and 15–21 — channelled their conversations on what’s important to them coming out of the pandemic to make banners that they carried in the Manchester Day parade, which returned to the city in June 2022.
- 9.5 Currently MADE is facilitated by Z-arts and supported with funding from Manchester City Council and contributions from member organisations.

However, the partnership is now assessing options to become an independent organisation to build on the strong foundations of the last two years and to expand the funding opportunities available to the partnership.

10.0 Music Education - My Hub

- 10.1 MyHub is Manchester's Music Education Hub. Music Education Hubs are partnerships between local authorities, schools, music organisations, and community and voluntary organisations, working together to create joined-up music education provision, respond to local need and fulfil the objectives of the Hub as set out in the national plan for music education.
- 10.2 Since inception in 2012, Manchester City Council has been the lead administrative and financial body for MyHub, while all decisions on policy and funding are delegated to the MyHub Strategic Board, which meets quarterly. The Board comprises of representatives from Manchester City Council (Education and Culture), Royal Northern College of Music, Brighter Sound, Contact, primary and secondary schools, a young musician/music facilitator and a parent representative. An individual with experience from a career as a senior leader within the national and international arts sector is the independent Chair of MyHub.
- 10.3 One Education Music is commissioned by MyHub to lead on the engagement, data collection and music education planning with schools. The focus for One Education Music is on providing weekly high quality music making opportunities in schools and music centres, complimented with continuous professional development for teachers and partner engagement.
- 10.4 For children in formal education, there is the offer of a free year of music tuition, with the added opportunity to continue in subsequent years. In 2021/22 OEM was providing 181 hours of Whole Class Ensemble Teaching (WCET) per week and 12,458 pupils participated in large group tuition (including WCET), with 5,443 participating in individual singing/instrumental lessons.
- 10.5 One Education Music also manage three large music centres and five smaller centres across the city where young people aged 3-18 can learn instruments and play in a wide range of ensembles at different levels, as well as take up individual and small group tuition. One Education Music is noted for the diversity of music it delivers from traditional classical to jazz, big band, steel pans, Irish, Russian, guitar, cello and music technology as well as the innovation it brings to delivering its music services. In 2022, MyHub opened a new centre in East Manchester, an area that was previously underserved.
- 10.6 Before the pandemic over 650 pupils from diverse backgrounds attended music centres, this reduced to 293 whilst provision was on-line, however the figure in December 2022 had significantly increased again to 542. Following the pandemic, the MyHub Board took the decision to make music centre's free to attend.

- 10.7 98% of schools in the city engage with MyHub provision, unlike other Hub's in the country, MyHub devolve funding directly to schools, based on number of pupils, so that schools can commission music provision that is most appropriate for their pupils and school setting. One Education provide strategic support to develop music plans with schools and funding is monitored through Service Level Agreements. The City Council currently manage the grants to schools and investment through MyHub generates additional expenditure by schools of around £1.5 million on music.
- 10.8 MyHub concentrates delivery on the city of Manchester as the size, diversity and need in Manchester demanded a localised geographic focus to achieve positive impact. There is a separate Music Education Hub covering the other 9 Greater Manchester authorities.
- 10.9 Manchester is a creative, ambitious and diverse city, with an international reputation in music and has the greatest number of musicians and musical groups and institutions in than other regional cities in the UK. MyHub sees this density of practice and diversity of offer as contributing to an overriding rationale for a Music Hub dedicated to the city of Manchester. The many opportunities available to the 83,300 young people in education in 185 schools and settings; 8 music centres and through the broad range of cultural institutions, means that the sector can offer a coherent, progressive pathway for young people in all genres and tastes in music.
- 10.10 MyHub is an active member of the Manchester Music Cities Network and the Classical Music Collaboration described at point 11 in this report. In particular MyHub is supporting a piece of work exploring how the partners in the collaboration can better combine their collective efforts to provide a more joined-up and accessible music education offer across the city.
- 10.11 Government released a revised National Plan of Music Education in June 2022, and this will come into effect from September this year. The new plan includes the intention to launch a new competitive process towards investing in fewer Hub Lead Organisations, which will administer music education delivery covering larger, multiple local authority areas from September 2024. Arts Council England has indicated that the geographies for these larger administrative hubs are likely to be prescribed, although the detail has not yet been decided.
- 10.12 MyHub are now appraising possible options for the future delivery of music education in Manchester ahead of the release of the application guidance and submission date expected in the Spring and Summer respectively. Whilst the administrative geographic area might grow, the MyHub Strategic Board are concerned that any future hub arrangements continue to strengthen and maximise opportunities for children and young people in Manchester.

11.0 Classical Music collaboration

- 11.1 In 2019, the Council's culture team commissioned research into the diversity of orchestral music audiences, and in 2020, a group of industry leaders

representing orchestras and ensembles, venues and music education convened with support from the Council to review and implement the recommendations of the research report.

- 11.2 This collaboration has led to plans for a classical music "weekender" festival in June 2023, centred on the Bridgewater Hall, Manchester's main venue for orchestral music, with many of the cities' orchestras and ensembles being involved in showcasing activities. The emphasis of the festival is on engaging new Manchester audiences, through interesting programming and formats, and ease of access. If successful, it is hoped that future iterations of the event will follow and involve even more stakeholders to engage ever broader audiences.
- 11.3 The group also works on a collaborative approach to improve how the sector engages young people and families more generally and how it can maximise the impressive ecology of ensembles, venues and music education in Manchester to better promote its offer and find a more prominent place in the overall narrative of Manchester's music scene, from which classical and orchestral music is often missing.

12.0 Cultural Consortium

- 12.1 Presently the Cultural Leaders Group is the primary, sector-led collaborative network in Manchester. It meets monthly, providing a forum for a regular conversation between the leaders of over 30 Greater Manchester based arts organisations. It is chaired by the Director of Culture for Manchester City Council and is attended regularly by Arts Council England and provides an effective communication channel on matters of policy and strategy. It is also represented at the Our Manchester Forum which brings together 40 senior leaders from across the city's public, private, community and academic sectors.
- 12.2 The Cultural Leaders Group led on the development of the 'Manchester Cultural Ambition - 2016-2026', which set out three shared priorities to guide and inform the work of the individual organisations with a view to creating a common sense of direction and which was adopted as the city's cultural strategy.
- 12.3 The pandemic created a new urgency for Cultural Leaders Group to meet more regularly as a support and information network with a focus on surviving and recovering from the impact of Covid-19. And following the killing of George Floyd in the USA and resulting resurgence of the Black Lives Matter movement in 2020, it became clear to the Cultural Leaders Group that action was needed to change the leadership of cultural organisations in Manchester to better reflect our communities.
- 12.4 It was felt that the membership of the Cultural Leaders Group, which is run as a 'by invitation' model, needed to change and there is strong and urgent desire to improve representation to ensure the group is reflective of our exciting and diverse city. Members concluded that a new, more democratic and

representative entity should be co-designed and established with the wider cultural sector.

- 12.5 On behalf of the Cultural Leaders group, The City Council commissioned a study to undertake a review of how cultural partners can come together through a more inclusive body and approach, to support cultural strategies and collaboration in Manchester whilst connecting to the range cultural networks leading joint programmes such as GMAST - Greater Manchester Arts Sustainability Team, MADE - the Manchester Cultural Education Partnership or Manchester Music City.
- 12.6 Consultants undertook consultation through stakeholder interviews, using a 'snowball' survey to map the sector - (250 survey responses) and a World Café online discussion event (2 sessions x 16 attendees) and reviewed different operational and governance models. The resulting report concluded that a new consortium should be developed in a format inspired by the Age Friendly Manchester model, with an elected board and a wider stakeholder strategy group, recommending that a new Cultural Consortium should include:
- a) A Steering Group with 12 elected representatives from all parts of the sector whilst being inclusive, diverse, represent organisations of a variety of scale, artforms and local neighborhoods. And recommending that;
 - It should be strategic, not operational, not Council owned or controlled and amongst its activities, provide a mechanism for discovery, development, diversification and growth of a new generation of leaders.
 - It should streamline, coordinate and increase the effectiveness of relationships across culture, heritage, VCSE sectors and communities
 - And provide a clear collective purpose and strategy, setting its own agenda acting initially as an un-constituted body.
 - b) A wider Cultural Forum to connect with the wider sector on a regular basis to help to focus the strategic priorities and monitor progress.
- 12.7 Over the last 6 months a task-and-finish group of cultural partners and freelancers has been preparing for the launch of the new Cultural Consortium planned with an event in Central Library 6 March 2023.

13.0 Recommendations

- 13.1 The Committee is invited to consider and comment on the information contained in this report.

14.0 Appendices

Appendix 1 - Cultural Impact Survey 2021-22 Presentation
 Appendix 2 - Manchester Culture Awards 2022 - Programme

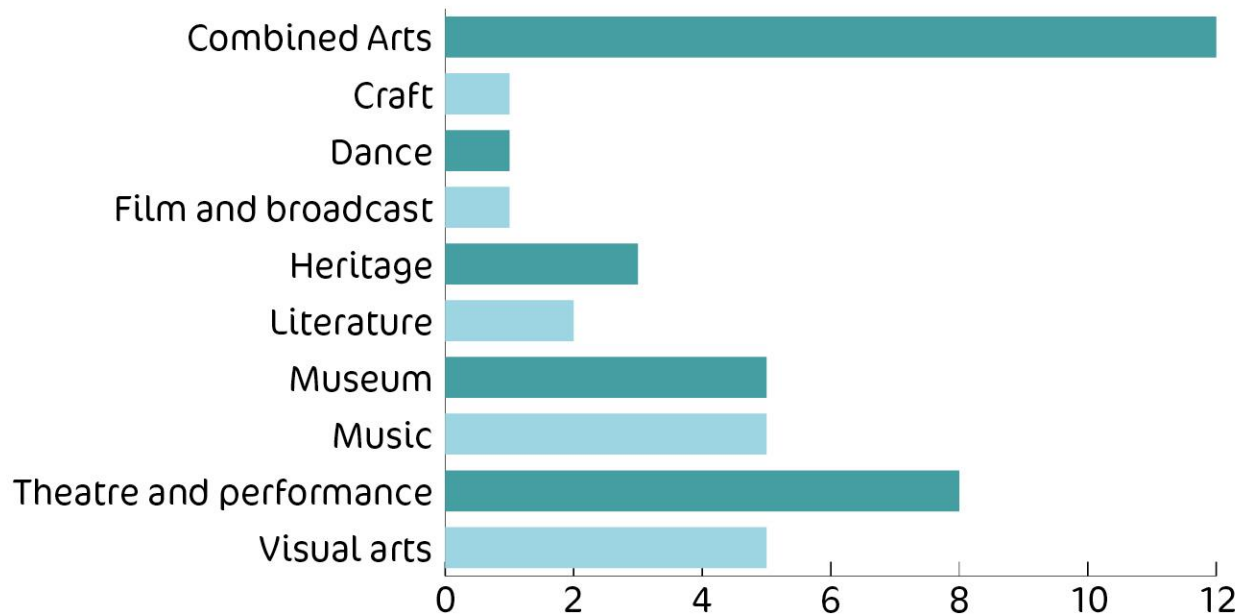
Manchester's Cultural Impact Survey 2021/22

Overview

- An annual survey on the economic and social impact of Manchester's cultural organisations
- Open to all cultural partners based in Manchester or delivering most of their work in the city – compulsory for Council-funded organisations
- Cultural Impact data creates a resource and an advocacy tool for the Council and the cultural sector
- This year's survey illustrates how far the city's cultural sector has recovered from the pandemic. Where upward or downward trends are identified these relate to the 32 organisations that completed the survey in each of the last three years - 2019/20, 2020/21 and 2021/22 and how they have performed in 2021/22 compared to 2019/20
- Data within the survey is impacted by COVID-19 restrictions still in place for part of the reporting period, including the closure of venues and social distancing.

Organisations

Total number of organisations responding...



43

Funding and income

Funds raised (by sector)...

Page 40



Appendix 1, Item 5

Reach

Overall footfall at cultural venues was just over

3.6 million ↓ 56%

The highest proportion of footfall was for
Manchester Libraries at

1.3 million

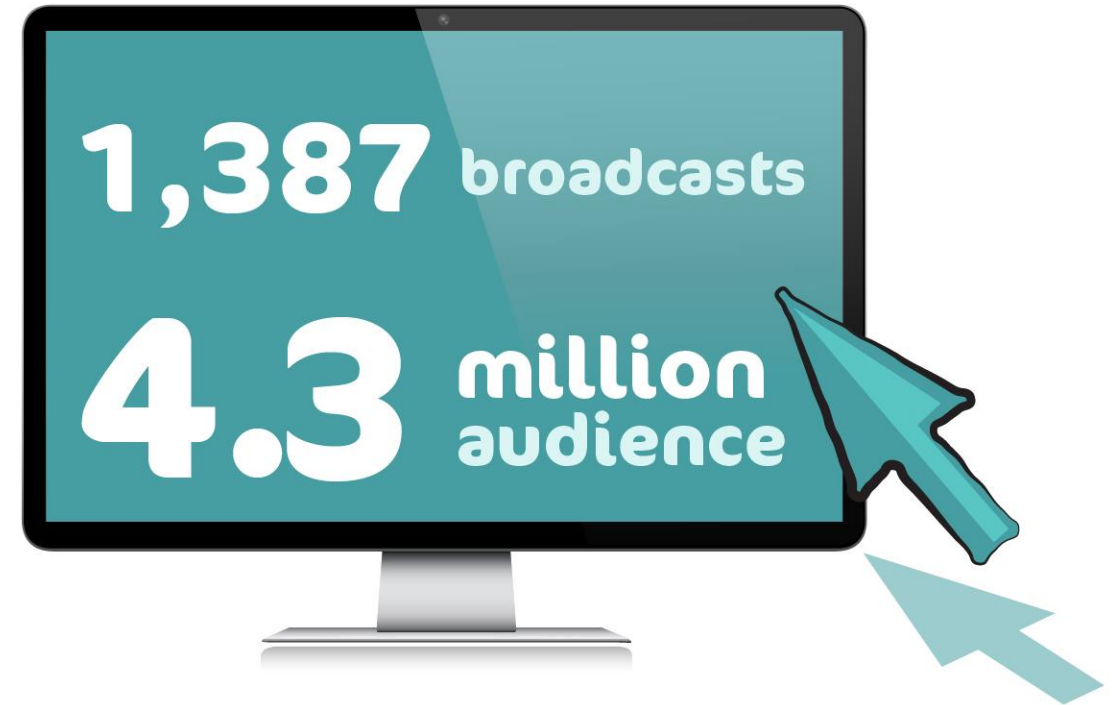
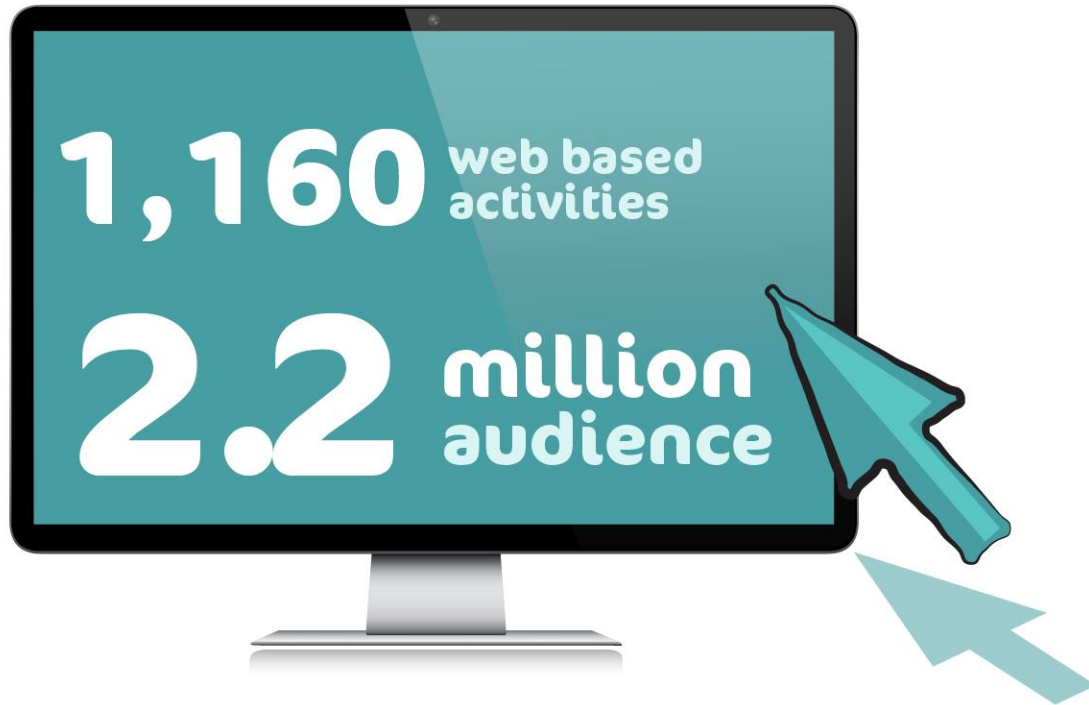


Reach



Digital Reach

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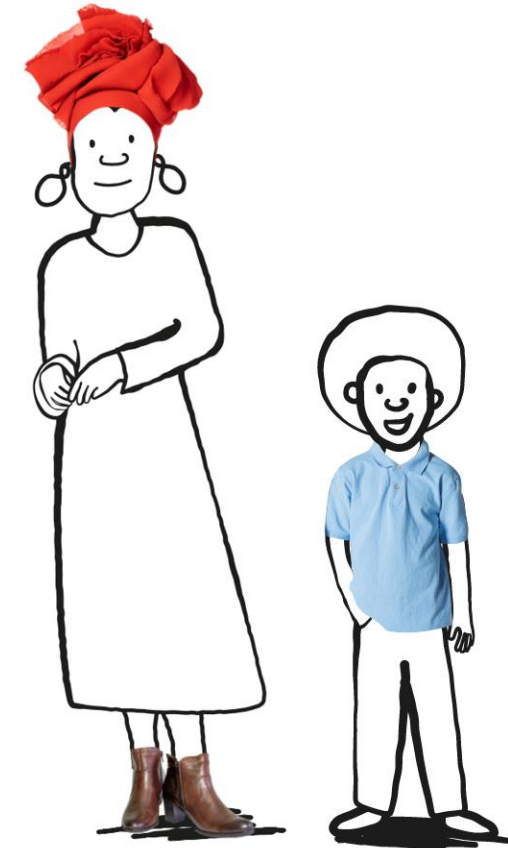
Appendix 1, Item 5

Engagement and participation

(including schools)

229,268 participants ↓ 58%
14,985 sessions ↓ 66%
603,410 engagements ↓ 53%

Page 44



Volunteering

2,442 volunteers ↓ 22%
99,805 volunteer hours ↓ 37%
of which **10,014 hours were volunteered**
by board members



Carbon Literacy

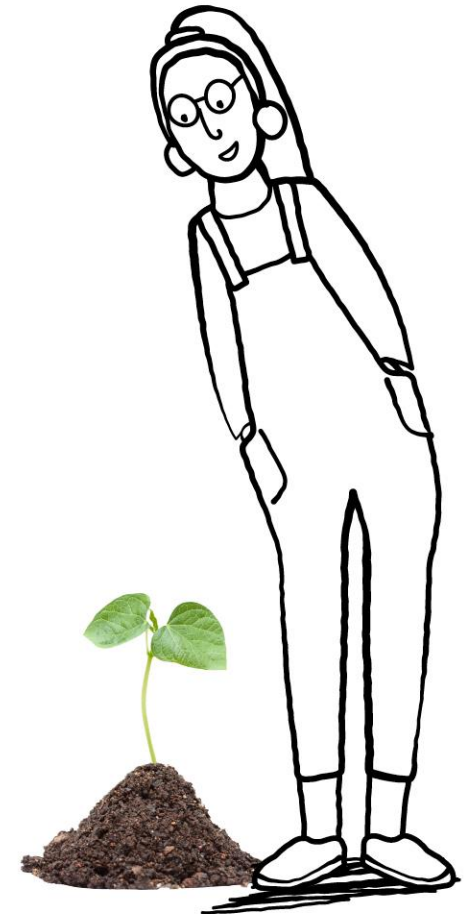
**427 employees
across 28 organisations
have received training in carbon literacy
from an accredited trainer**

Page 46

24%
decrease
in trained
employees



35%
increase
in organisations with
trained employees



Zero Carbon

13 organisations (30%) have a Carbon Reduction Plan in place
25 organisations (58%) have a plan in progress or in revision

Page 47

Made our new café plant based and use only locally sourced and ethical

Programmed all UK artists at our 2021 festival to minimise carbon footprint from flights

Encourage audience to travel by more sustainable means to the festival where possible

Applied to get Beryle bike station outside our venue

Have increased the amount of reused materials within exhibition builds



Appendix 1, Item 5

Health and wellbeing

70% of organisations
delivered activities with a health and wellbeing focus

£1.97m was secured for health and wellbeing activities

Percentage of organisations delivering each type of activity with a health and wellbeing focus:

100% engagement and participation sessions

53% productions and commissions

57% therapeutic activity



Employment and skills

- 2,049 individual employees ↓ 3%
- 2,233 individual freelancers ↓ 28%
- 18 paid interns ↓ 40%
- 11 apprentices ↓ 25%
- 164 work experience participants ↓ 80%



Employment and skills

84%

of the organisations pay staff
the Real Living Wage or higher

26%

of the organisations are accredited
Real Living Wage employers



Feedback

Page 51

Thank you for making this accessible. Most activities for children cost the earth and if you have more than one child it can be quite challenging to expose your children to different opportunities.'

It was genuinely a life changing experience. I feel so much more confident, motivated and sure of who I am as a person.

The show made me feel like I was worth something. I loved people's reactions. The laughing and the clapping - it was my highlight.

little moments of family miracles.

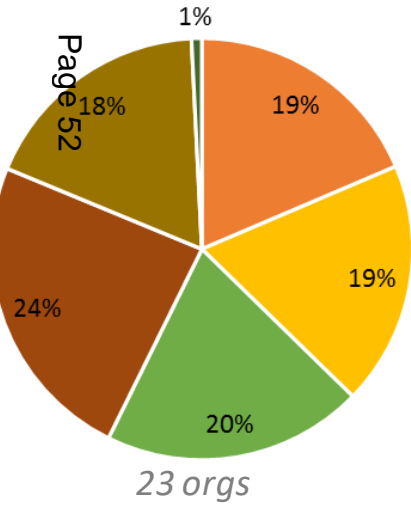
It has boosted confidence in my musical self and self in general. I feel connected to more musicians local to Manchester and more connected to a possible path I could take in my future music.

Appendix 1, Item 5

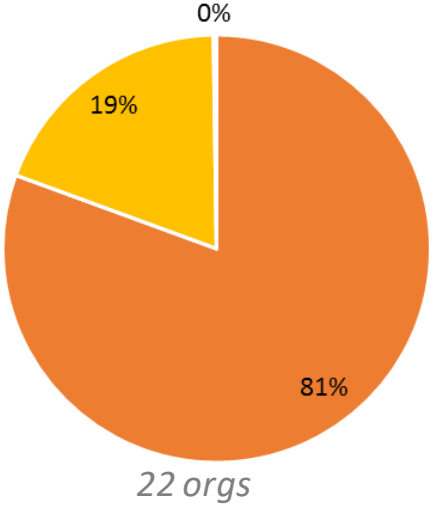
People Data

Age

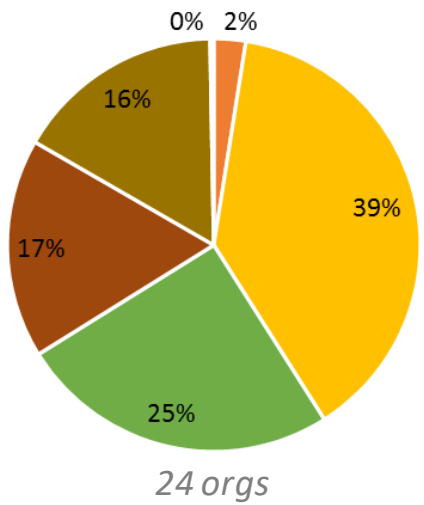
Audience



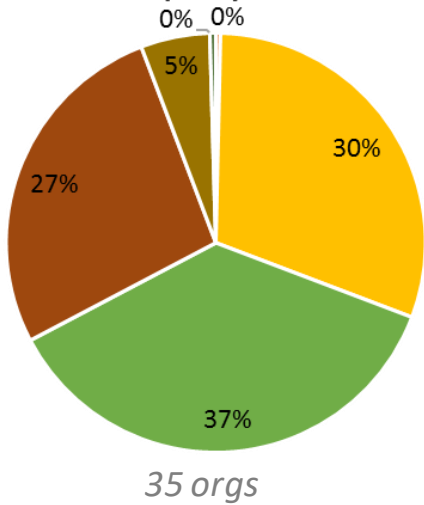
Participants



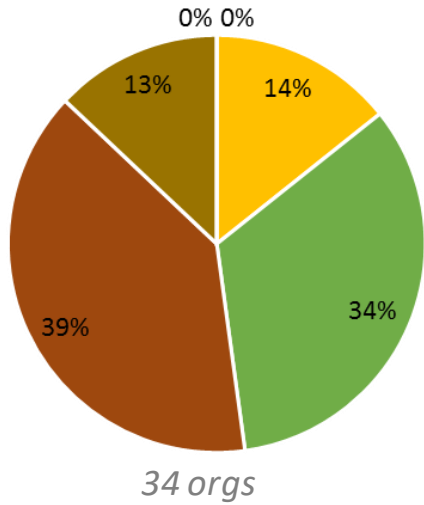
Volunteers



Employees



Board Members



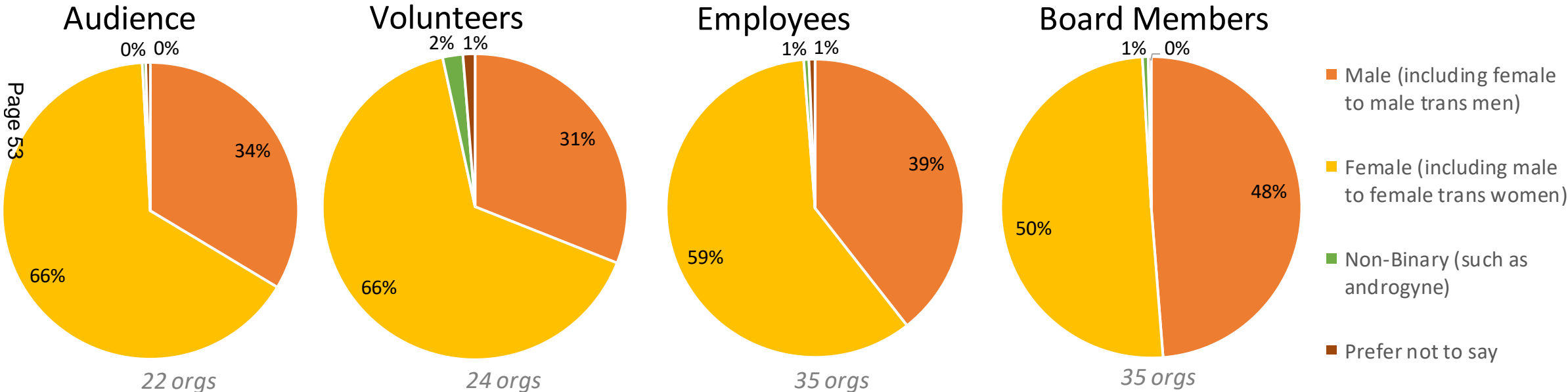
- 0-19
- 20-34
- 35-49
- 50-64
- 65+
- Prefer not to say

Manchester Resident Population (Census, 2021)

0-19	20-34	35-49	50-64	65+
27%	29%	20%	14%	9%

People Data

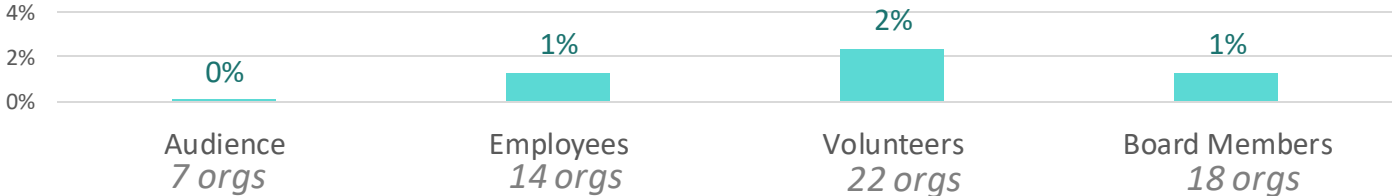
Gender



Manchester Resident Population (Census, 2021)

Male	Female
49.7%	50.3%

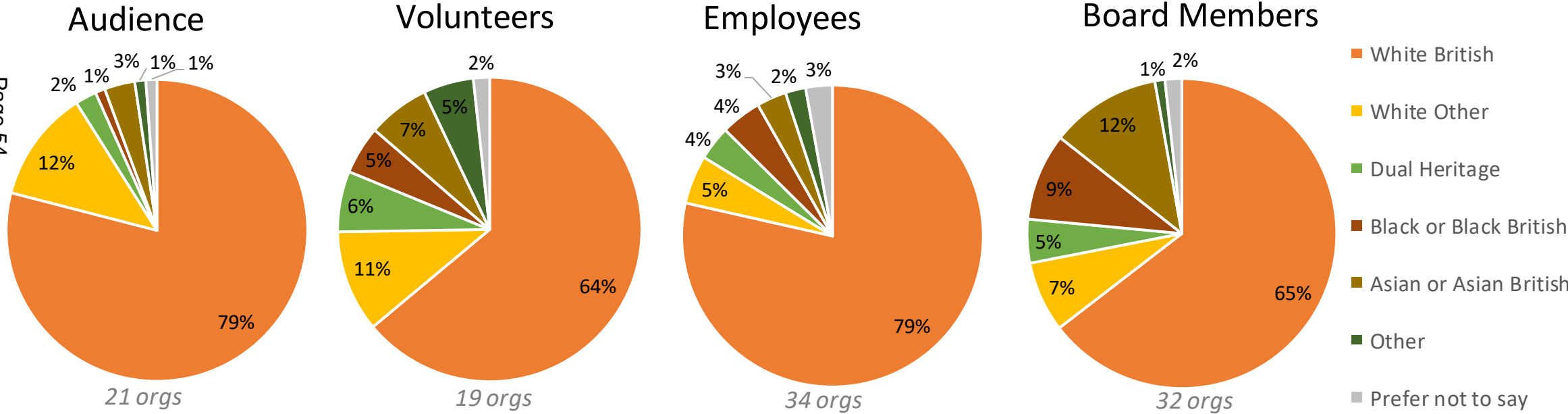
Percentage of people not identifying with the gender assigned at birth



People Data

Ethnicity

Page 54



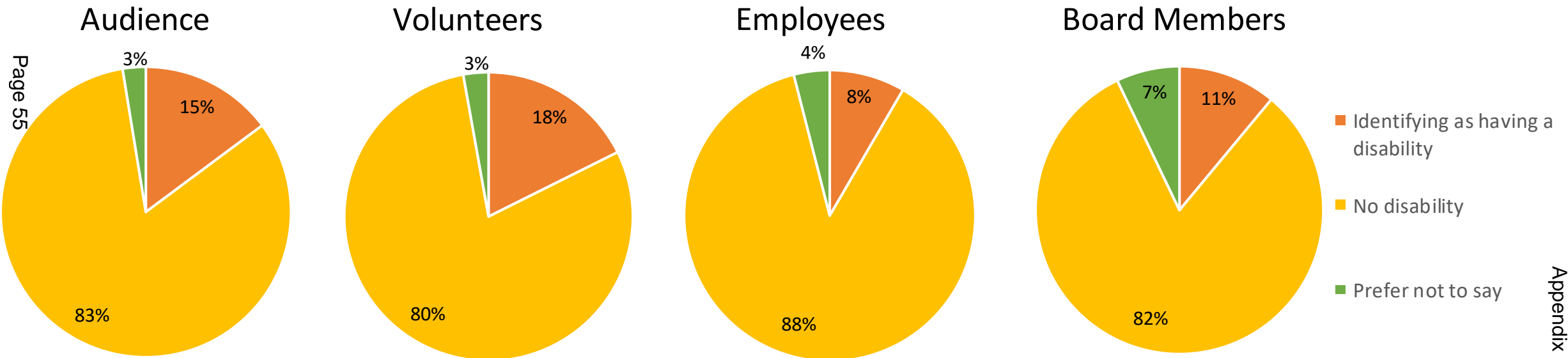
Manchester Resident Population (2021 Census)

White British	White other	Dual Heritage	Black or Black British	Asian or Asian British	Other
49%	8%	5%	12%	21%	5%

Appendix 1, Item 5

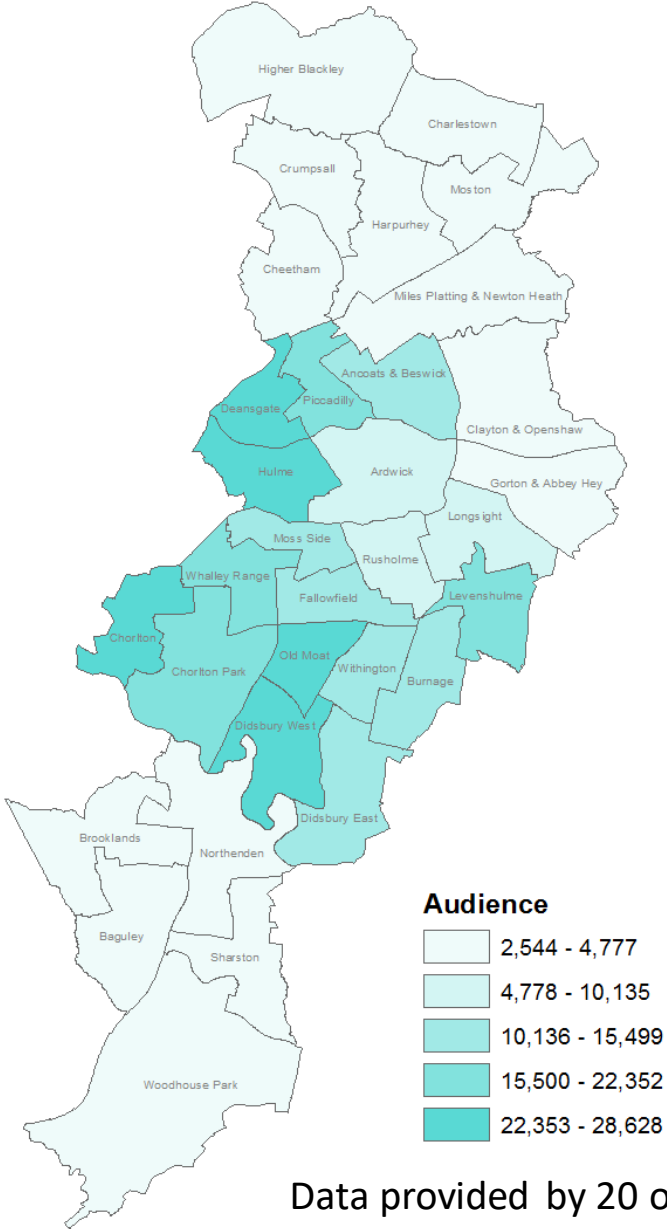
People Data

Disability

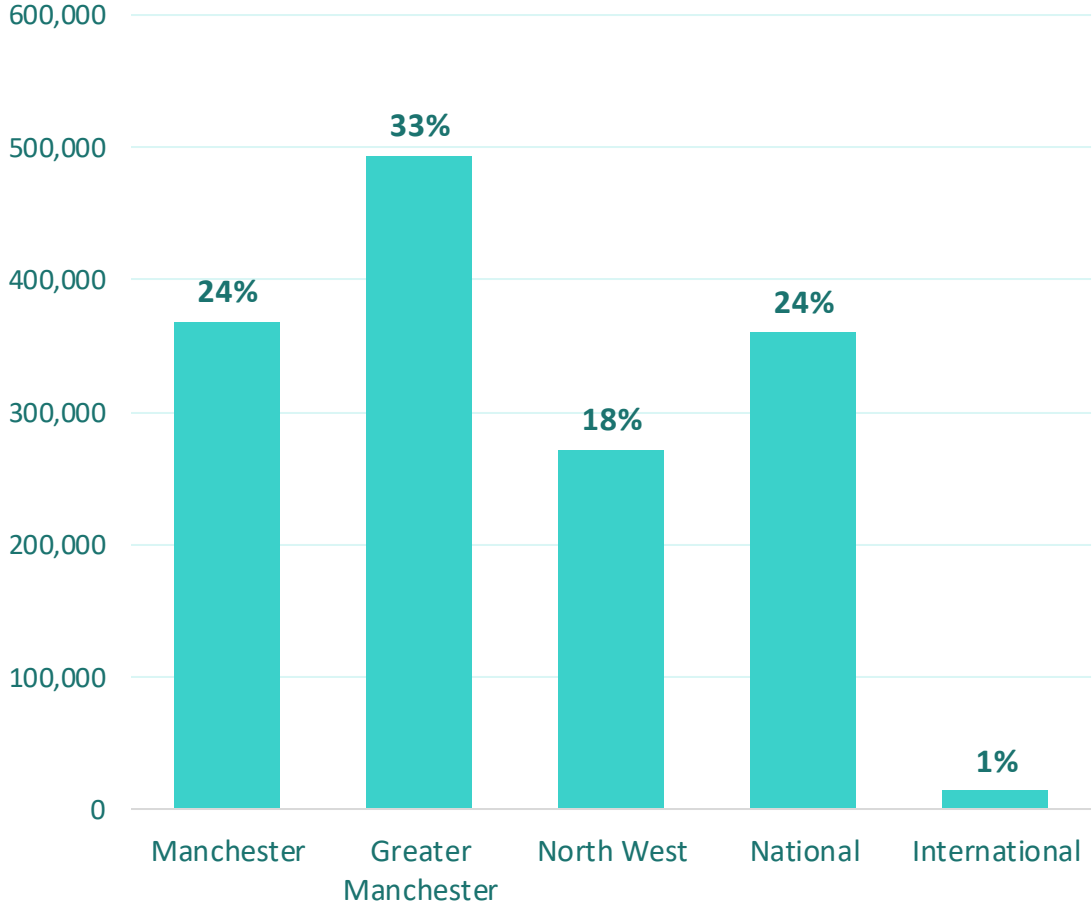


No resident population data available

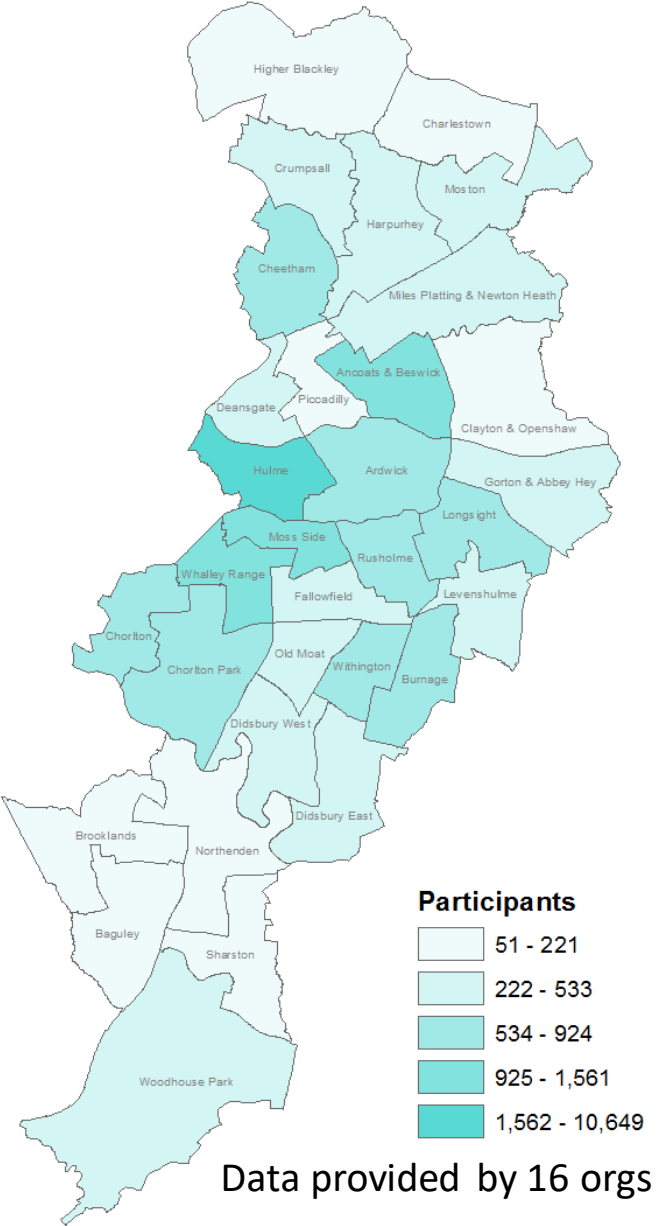
Place Audiences



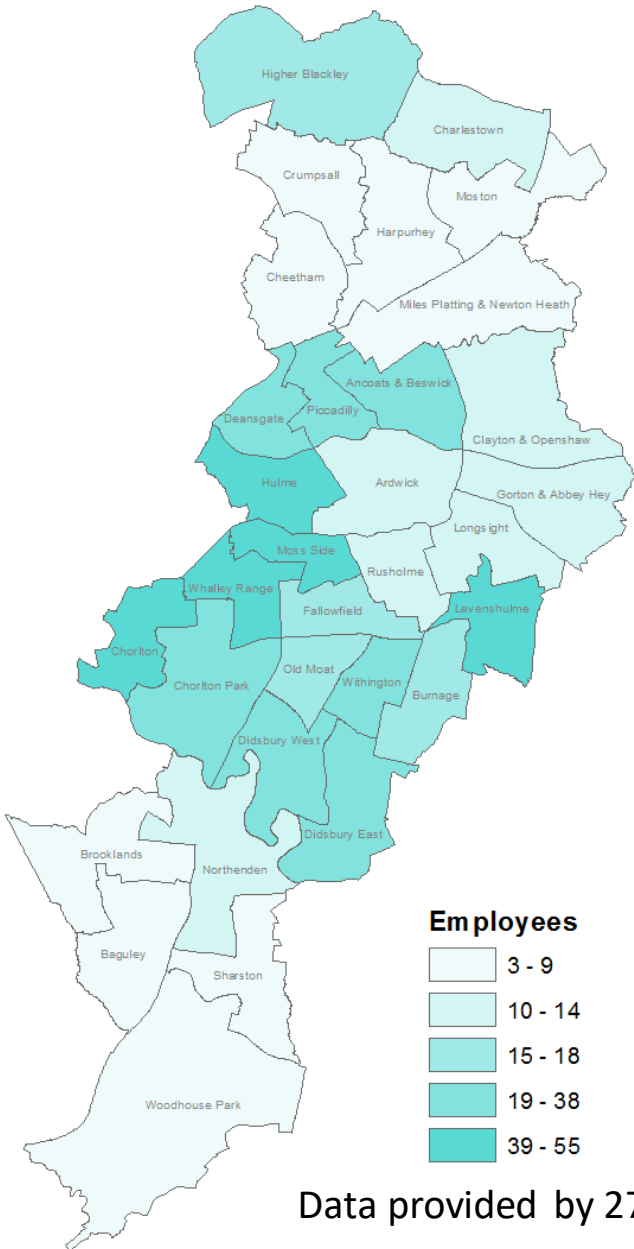
Data provided by 20 orgs



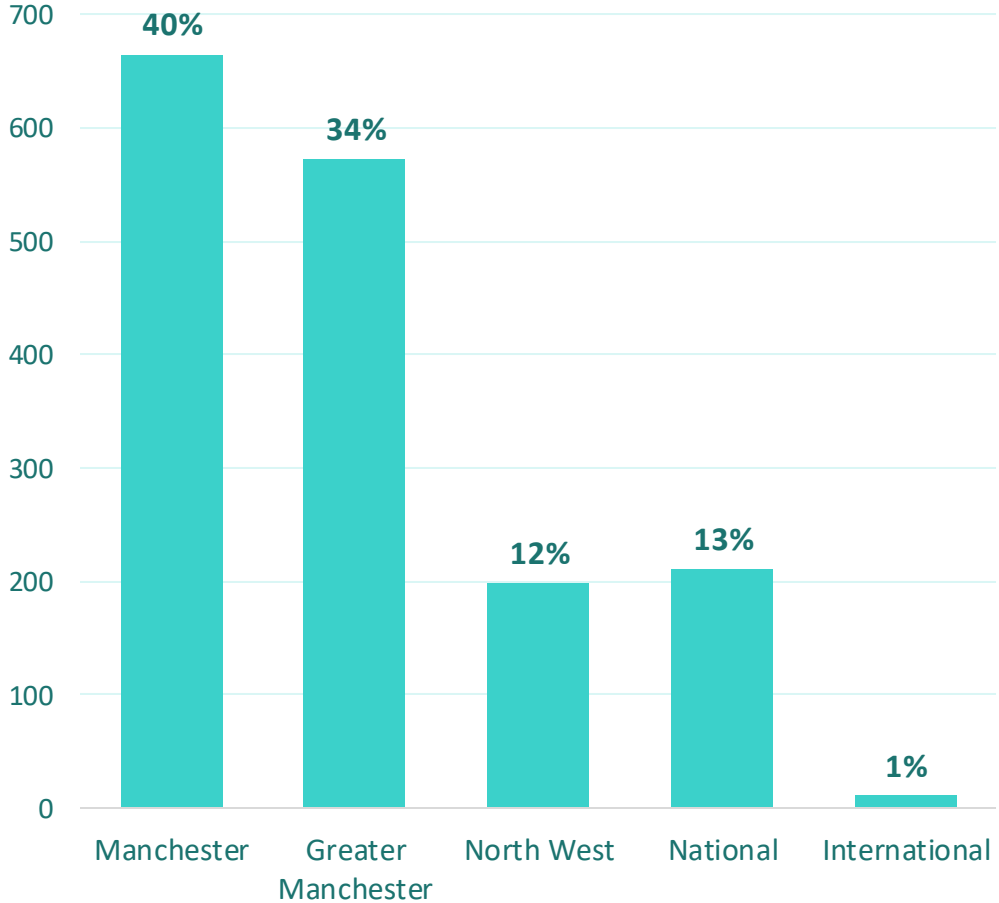
Place Participants



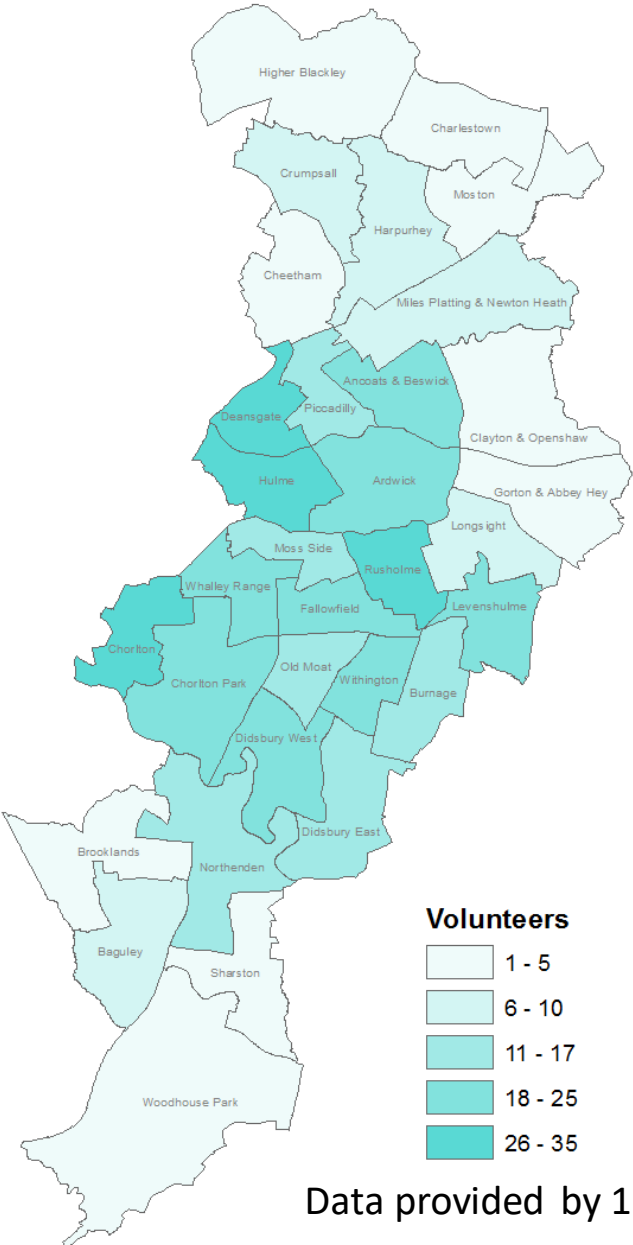
Place Employees



Data provided by 27 orgs



Place Volunteers



Data provided by 15 orgs



Appendix 1, Item 5

Place

Board Members



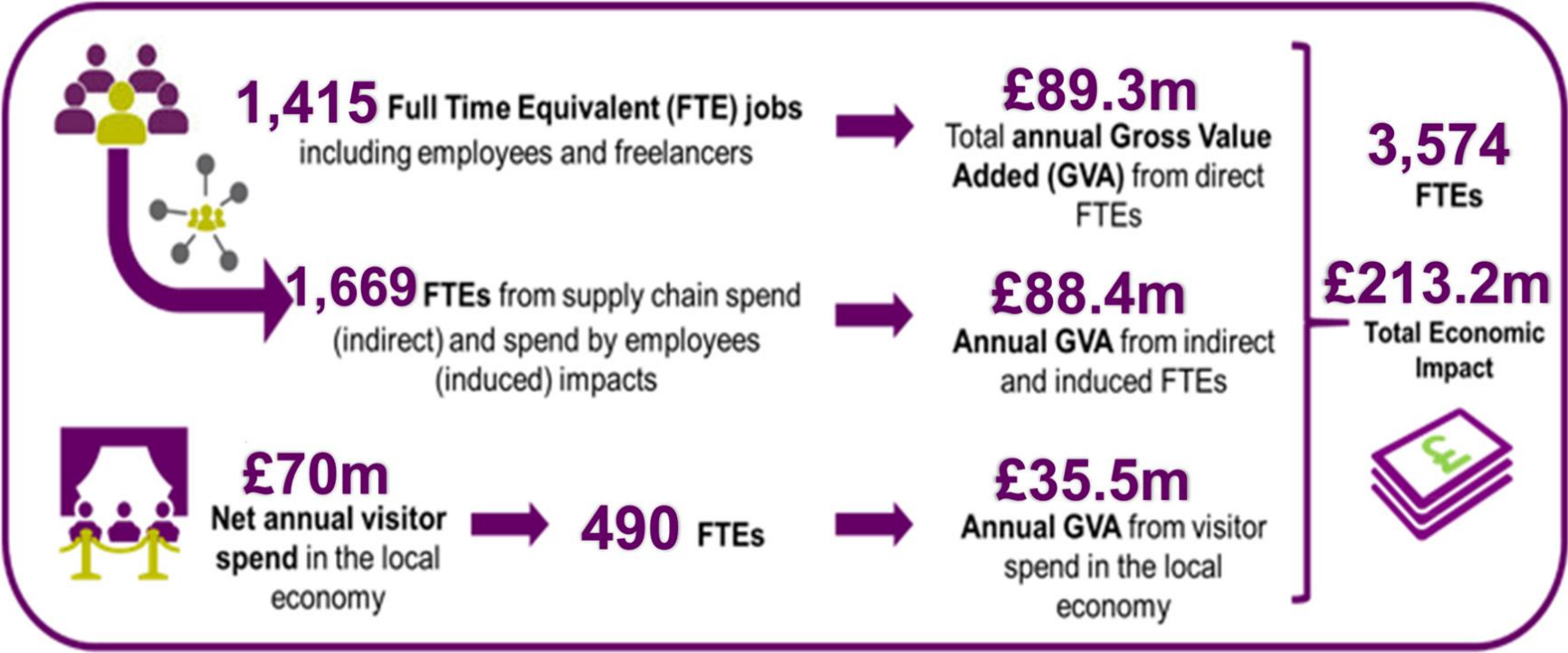
Data provided by 27 orgs

Overall cultural engagement by ward

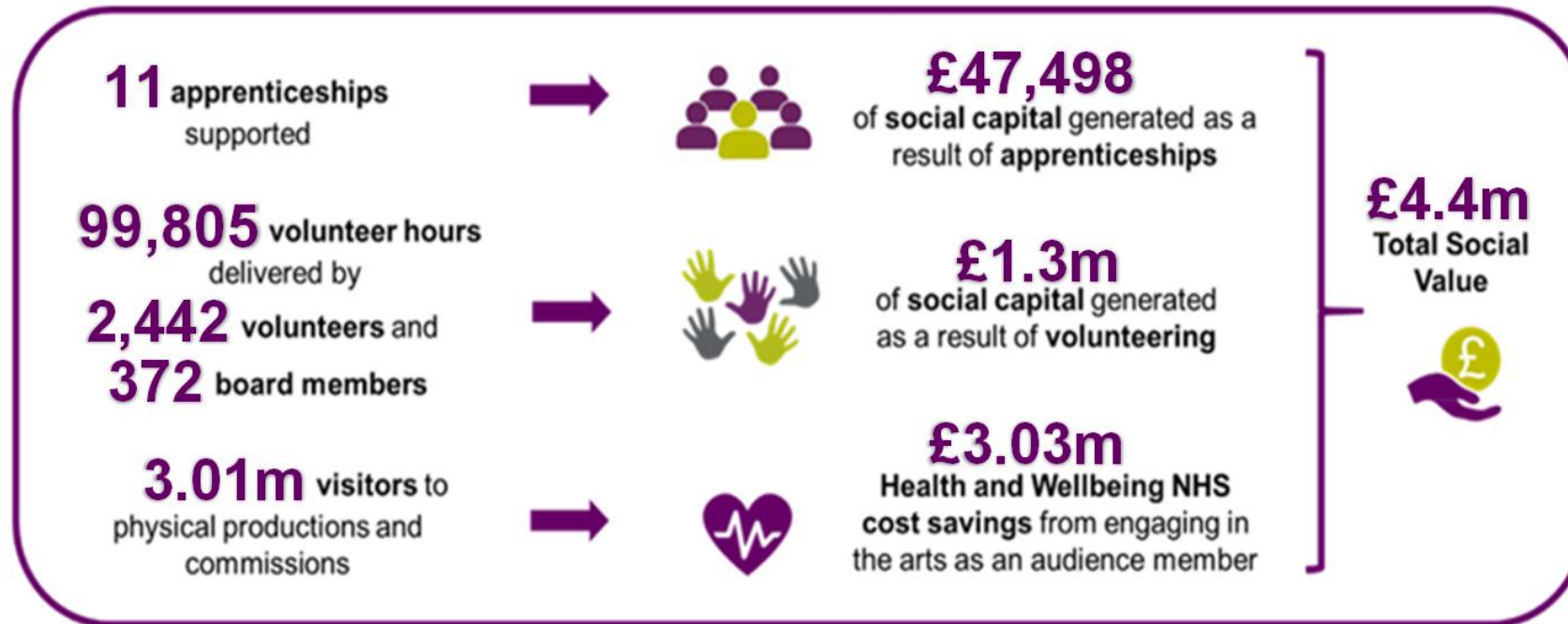
Highly engaged wards (based on wards with the highest number of participants)	
Hulme	10,649
Whalley Range	1,561
Ancoats & Beswick	1,307
Moss Side	1,259
Chorlton	924

Wards with low engagement (based on wards with the lowest number of participants)	
Sharston	51
Brooklands	51
Baguley	114
Charlestown	150
Piccadilly	157

Economic impact



Social value



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MANCHESTER CULTURE AWARDS 2022



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COUNCILLOR LUTHFUR RAHMAN OBE
STATUTORY DEPUTY LEADER,
MANCHESTER CITY COUNCIL



FOREWORD

Welcome to the 2022 Manchester Culture Awards. For the first time we have received over 400 nominations, which is fantastic. Congratulations to all the finalists here tonight, and my thanks to our supporters and sponsors. This is our fourth awards event and, as ever, it is a joy to bring together such a diverse range of organisations and people from across the city – all delivering valuable work to enable culture and creativity to entertain and surprise.

These are certainly challenging times for cultural organisations and groups, your staff, artists, volunteers, audiences and our communities. It is through much dedication and diligence from yourselves and our partners that we are once again able to celebrate the city's enormous wealth and breadth of arts and culture. This connects with every ward in the city and in lots of different and positive ways, through artistic excellence, improving health and wellbeing, attracting tourism and investment, creating jobs, and opportunities to learn new skills.



Increasing inclusion, partnership and co-production even further in the future will be essential to remain relevant, resilient and distinctly Mancunian. Working with our library network, community venues and events, as well as securing opportunities for new investment, it is important that the cultural infrastructure extends even further into our neighbourhoods. This will increase opportunities closer to where people live, while building stronger links and pathways to the fantastic offer in the city centre.

Thank you to everyone for the contribution you make to arts, culture and heritage in the many forms and ways it takes place in Manchester. I hope you all have a great night.

Don't forget to shout about all the achievements we'll hear about tonight.

#McrCultureAwards



NAZIA MOGRA
BBC TV PRESENTER AND PRODUCER



YOUR HOST

Nazia Mogra is a BBC TV presenter and producer. She currently works for the award-winning regional television news programme BBC North West Tonight. She's also worked for BBC Sport, local and national radio, and more recently as a presenter of the children's TV show Newsround. Nazia is a BAFTA-nominated presenter with a passion for stories from diverse communities. In her 16 years at the BBC she has given a voice to them, as well as deprived communities and women. Nazia tries her best every day to help them express themselves through her work.

Recently, she has been appointed as a Senior Leadership Adviser for the BBC, working closely with its board of directors.



YOUR CO-HOSTS

Our Year 2022 celebrates Manchester's children and young people to help them shape a future that's safe, happy, healthy and successful. Therefore, we are really pleased to welcome three talented young presenters to co-host this year's Culture Awards event.

#2022OurYear

AHTASHAM AKHTAR

Having completed A Levels in Biology, Chemistry and Maths, Ahtasham is taking a gap year to develop as a young creative and to work further on his project, Dawn To The Light, with friends Aaliyah and Demerecce. The role of producer has allowed him to develop skills in all categories and created opportunities such as the role of co-host at this evening's event. His future plans include going to university to study Accounting and Finance, and to develop his video game.

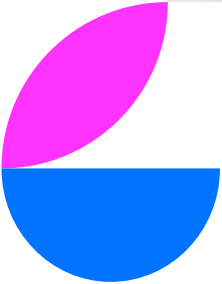




HANS WEINER

Hans is a punk poet and facilitator from Manchester, currently studying BA Honours in Applied Theatre and Community Drama at the Liverpool Institute of Performing Arts. Their work involves bringing together storytelling and conversations on modern class and sustainable education into pupil referral units and youth groups as an outlet for social change. They also create and perform their own poetry in a variety of locations, such as One Mic Stand and Arts Club Liverpool. They have been a participant at Contact for nearly four years, being involved in Contact Young Company and Future Fires 2020; they have also self-published the book 'In Waves'.





KAO HOVE

Kao is a multidisciplinary artist and director/facilitator who has trained and worked throughout Manchester. Their work includes poetry with Young Identity, music with Reform Radio's HERchester, learning and directing through the Royal Exchange's Young Company, and premièring a scratch one-person theatre show at HOME. Their most frequent connection is with Contact Theatre, working on projects from Contact Young Company, Future Fires, directing Creative Protagonists, and movement direction on The House is on Fire. They regularly host poetry and music night, Drop the Mic, and will soon be hosting Fight For Manchester's Trans Rights fundraiser gig. They like creativity to impact social change, particularly improving mental health, accessibility, and queer human rights. Their ambition is to continue building a creative career, while making projects that benefit these groups.



NEIL FAIRLAMB

Neil is Strategic Director (Neighbourhoods) at Manchester City Council. He is responsible for the planning and delivery of local and citywide Neighbourhood Services, including the city's libraries, parks and leisure services, as well as the Cultural Strategy. Neil's other priorities include improving highways, tackling homelessness, improving the Council's social housing stock, and ensuring that neighbourhoods are vibrant and clean. He also leads the Crime and Disorder Strategy, which aims to reduce crime and antisocial behaviour. Neil sits on the board of the National Football Museum, is chair of Manchester Active, and leads on bringing a range of services together with partners in Manchester's neighbourhoods.

JUDGES

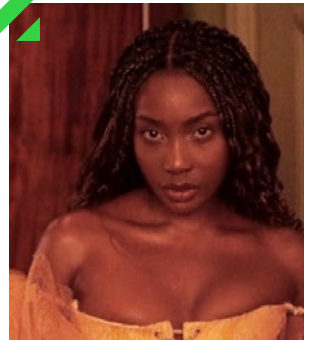


COUNCILLOR LUTHFUR RAHMAN OBE

Councillor Luthfur Rahman OBE, Deputy Leader of Manchester City Council, is a strong advocate for the role of culture in the development of the city and believes that all members of the community should be able to participate in the broadest range of cultural activities.

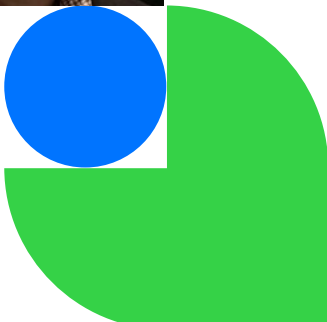
PETE COURTIE

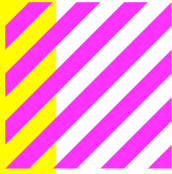
Pete joined Arts Council England in March 2019. In his role as Senior Relationship Manager, he co-ordinates the organisation's relationships with local authorities across Greater Manchester and is the lead SRM for Theatre across the North. Before joining ACE, he worked in senior leadership roles in a number of local authorities and cultural organisations, including Islington Council, where he was Head of Partnerships, Place & Culture, as well as Insomniac Productions, and Bernie Grant Arts Centre in Tottenham, North London.



PRINCESS ARINOLA ADEGBITE

Princess Arinola Adegbite is a multi-award-winning poet, Youth Music-funded musician, actress, author, filmmaker, and BBC Words First artist. She is an MIF artist and active member of Young Identity. In 2021 she won Young Creative of the Year at the Manchester Culture Awards. She's also been commissioned by Selfridges, the University of Cambridge and the BBC.

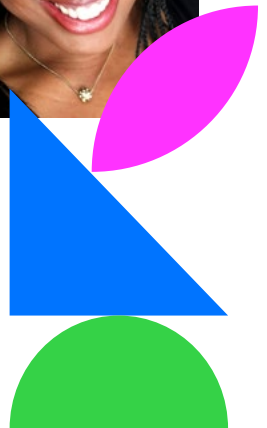




VENESSA SCOTT

Venessa Scott, known as Vee, is a prolific public artist from the North of England. Recognised widely for her contribution to the arts and cultural sector in the North, her vibrant and joyful pattern-based murals can be seen on walls, buildings and floors across the UK.

Venessa also designed and painted one of the UK's tallest murals. She is an ambassador of The Pankhurst Centre and has been recognised as a 'Great Mancunian; a person who has had a significant cultural and creative impact on the City of Manchester and its surrounding areas'. When she is not adding colour to the walls and windows of cities, Venessa presents art content for children on CBeebies and runs the custodial education organisation SevenThreeOne, which she founded with her sister in 2015.



BEST BUSINESS PARTNERSHIP

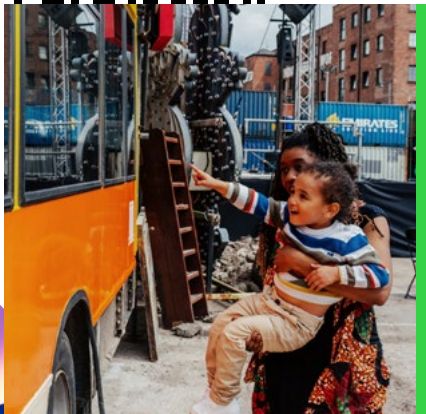
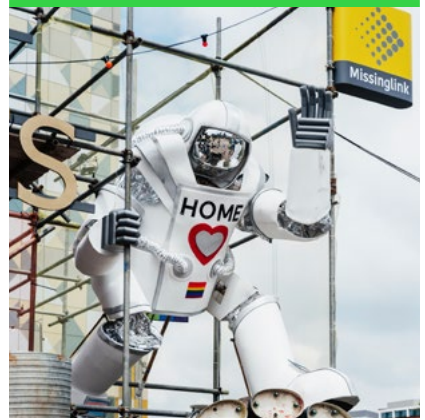
BARRY BENNETT LTD AND VENTURE ARTS

The long-standing partnership between Barry Bennett Ltd and Venture Arts has included donations of nearly £10,000 to support artist commissions, technical support for participants, and sponsorship of Venture Arts' major 2021 exhibition, 'Completely A Hustling Place'. The partnership has proved essential, not only in providing financial support to keep Venture Arts going, but to provide a platform for the organisation and the artists it supports.



MCR CONTEMPORARY AND MCR ART GALLERY

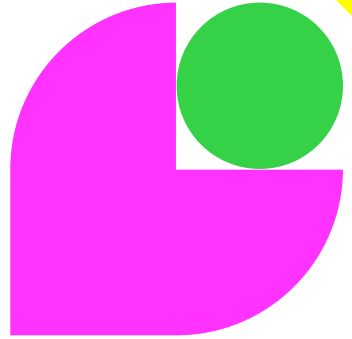
Since 2017, the Manchester Contemporary Art Fund has donated funds for Manchester Art Gallery to acquire 14 works from the Manchester Contemporary, which takes place alongside the annual art fair. The fund ensures that the city's collection remains dynamic and relevant, and that those involved follow in the footsteps of the many Manchester businesspeople who founded the gallery and have contributed throughout its 200-year history.



HOME AND ASK REAL ESTATES

In the summer of 2021, HOME and Ask partnered to deliver Homeground, a landmark outdoor arts festival on First Street. Running from May to August, it was created in response to the closure of cultural institutions during the pandemic and offered a safe place for people to return to live events. Ask provided substantial space, funding and support without which the project would not have been viable.





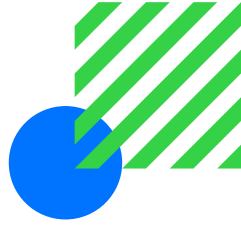
BROTHER AND THE HALLÉ

The 33-year relationship between the Hallé and Brother has survived the pandemic, several recessions and turbulent international events. Its enduring success is testament to a shared focus on supporting diverse communities and young people, as well as building a cultural offer in Manchester to rival any in the world.

ROYAL EXCHANGE AND WARNER BROS DISCOVERY

Royal Exchange and Warner Bros Discovery partnered to develop the Writers' Exchange, a unique scheme supporting writers whose voices are currently underrepresented on stage and screen, and who have experienced barriers to forging sustainable careers.





PROMOTION OF CULTURE AND EDUCATION

MADE

MADE, a collaboration across cultural, educational and youth-sector organisations, provides high-quality cross-curricular creative learning experiences. In 2021/22, MADE engaged 10,000 children and young people across more than twenty projects, creating amazing work at such an important time as we came out of the pandemic. "MADE has given me opportunities to be creative, make new friends, and use my skills to make a difference." MADE Creative Influencer.





REFORM RADIO

SUPPORTING THE NEXT
GENERATION OF CREATIVES,
CREATORS AND
BROADCASTERS

Reform Radio is an online radio station and arts organisation that works with over 350 young people every year, supporting them to access high-quality cultural experiences, creative skills training and career pathways. Every young person who takes part in Reform Radio's programme is engaged in arts creation, whether they see themselves as an artist or not. By the end of the programme, these young people devise, produce and deliver a live radio show.



SHOOTING STAR THEATRE SCHOOL

Shooting Star Theatre School is a Performing Arts School in Wythenshawe that delivers high-quality creative learning experiences for 2 to 18-year-olds. Students have successfully attended classes, passed exams and performed at competitions, shows and community events. The school works tirelessly to make sure that the children get every opportunity they can to succeed and reach their dreams.



FUTURE CREATIVES

THE MANCHESTER COLLEGE VISUAL ARTS DEPARTMENT AND MANCHESTER ART GALLERY

For the 2021 issue of Future Creatives, students created an exhibition and takeover of Manchester Art Gallery. 'Unlock the Love' culminated in a display of visual arts and dance, and a day of positive, collective action. Supported by their tutors and working with artist Jeremy Deller, the students showed their resilience in response to the two-year pandemic.



CREATIVE CITY

SKETCHBOOK CLUB

Creative City's Sketchbook Club in Gorton is a weekly group for local young people to build their creative skills for self-expression, explore big ideas through art, and encounter a wide variety of role models and art forms. The sessions are a safe space to feel creative and free, helping to boost confidence and wellbeing. Welcoming guest artists and engaging with wider cultural opportunities, the group also provides a bridge to other exciting things!



MADE IN MANCHESTER

AMID THE MIRK OVER THE IRK: WHEN IRISH MEETS KLEZMER

Evocative film of an imaginary meeting of Irish musicians from Angel Meadow and Klezmer musicians from Red Bank at the start of the 20th century. The Irk serves as a metaphor for the boundaries faced by newcomers. The film involved Manchester-based artists from the fields of musical composition, spoken text, sound, filming and production, musical performance, aerial footage, and original artwork.



THINGS THAT GO ON THINGS

Created in response to lockdown, COMPACT DISCO was a huge travelling mirror ball on the back of a trailer, with a sound system, lights and exuberant performers. At the Hulme Is Where The Art Is festival it visited those who were isolating on their streets, allowing them to take part. 'Disco Kits' were posted through their doors, with instructions and materials for making things with CDs. There were also other creative ideas and doorstep discos all over Hulme.



MANCHESTER YOUNG CARERS SUPPORT NOT SYMPATHY MUSIC VIDEO

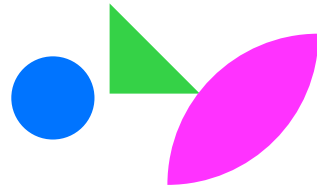
A partnership of organisations and schools worked together with Manchester City Council and over 100 of the city's young carers to produce a song and music video. It has been instrumental in raising awareness of hidden young carers in our city and how small changes can make a big difference.





MAPPING MIGRANT VOICES

Mapping Migrant Voices is an interactive map of musical and oral histories from 70 Manchester-based musicians from 27 countries. The Migrant Voices network connects Manchester children from diverse backgrounds with musical role models, enabling them to see adult versions of themselves as artists on stage.



POSTCARDS FROM OXFORD ROAD MANCHESTER LITERATURE FESTIVAL AND MANCHESTER POETRY LIBRARY

Postcards from Oxford Road is commissioned by Manchester Literature Festival and Manchester Poetry Library at Manchester Metropolitan University. Poets Hafsa Aneela Bashir, Andrew McMillan and Reshma Ruia wrote poems inspired by their memories and associations with Oxford Road. Postcards from Oxford Road was premièred at the inaugural Corridor of Light Festival.





PROMOTION OF EQUALITY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE



MICHAEL BISHOP

Michael is a 78-year-old volunteer who, as chair of the East Manchester Theatre Trippers, established relationships with the city's theatres to make it possible for lower-income residents in east Manchester to attend regular performances. This year he also launched a community amateur play reading group for older residents who have difficulty travelling far to the theatre. The group has helped to reduce social isolation.

Mike says: "It's quite simple really! If we all do a bit to give our neighbours and friends something to look forward to, we can all enjoy friendship and bring joy for them – and ourselves."

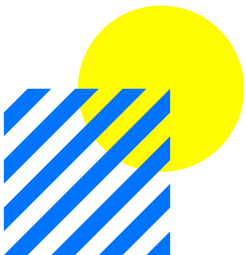
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UNCERTAIN FUTURES

Uncertain Futures is a participatory art and research project highlighting inequalities facing women over 50 in relation to work, whether paid or unpaid. It has been co-designed and co-produced by a group of women leaders from Manchester's diverse communities. This evolving project includes an art installation at Manchester Art Gallery, public events, and education initiatives.



MANCHESTER LIBRARIES – LIBRARIES OF SANCTUARY

Following a request by Manchester City Council's Afghan refugee response team, some 100 asylum-seeker families based at airport hotels attended hospitality sessions during the autumn and winter of 2021/22. Manchester Libraries staff and Manchester City of Sanctuary volunteers provided a warm welcome, offering engaging creative children's activities, which assisted with learning English and resettlement.

AFROCATS AND THE WHITWORTH

Afrocats and The Whitworth joined forces to connect asylum seekers and refugee families with the gallery. Over three days in February 2021, the gallery was filled with cultural and creative activities that engaged 1,674 families in an inclusive and equitable way; more than 90% were first-time visitors to The Whitworth.

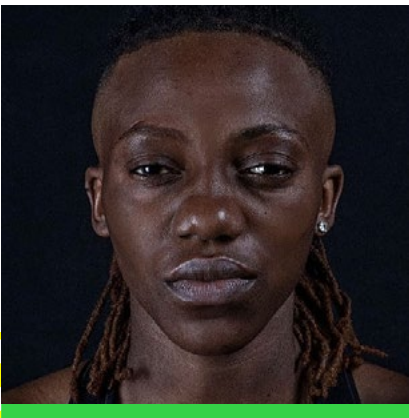


THE OASIS UNITY CHOIR

THE HALLÉ, PZ CUSSONS
AND THE OASIS CENTRE,
GORTON

This collaboration supports vulnerable and disadvantaged people to live healthy, happy and meaningful lives. The choir brings people together, uniting in the joy of singing and providing a diverse community where everyone is welcome and valued.

YOUNG CREATIVE OF THE YEAR



YANDASS NDLOVU

Yandass is the founder of I M Pact collective. She is an artist whose infectious energy, laughter, hard work and determination inspire all those she meets. This year, her work includes 'Little Amal' and 'When the Birds Land', as a choreographer with Manchester International Festival; Movement Director for 'Let The Right One In'; and an actor in 'Electric Rosary' at Royal Exchange. Further work includes creative lead at I M Pact Dance Lab with Lowry Theatre; Movement Director at Theatr Clwyd, 'A Pretty Shitty Love'; and choreographer with Young Company Contact Theatre for 'Everything All of the Time'.

"I wholeheartedly believe Yandass is the most exciting and inspiring creative working right now in Manchester."

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DANNY HASSAN

Danny Hassan is an inspirational young music producer, composer, guitarist, finger drummer and songwriter from Manchester. He creates a unique sound palette using a blend of real-world instruments, samples and software. Danny is currently a workshop facilitator and in-house engineer at Contact, and his kind nature and willingness to help others is apparent in everything he does. The young people he engages with always leave with more knowledge and a mentor.



MATTHEW NEEDHAM

Matthew Needham is a visual artist and strategic creative based in Manchester.

He advocates finding new ways to integrate queer, disabled and protected identities into institutional art spaces.

Matthew is also a Lead Art Agent with The Whitworth Gallery X British Art Show 9 and works for Young Manchester.

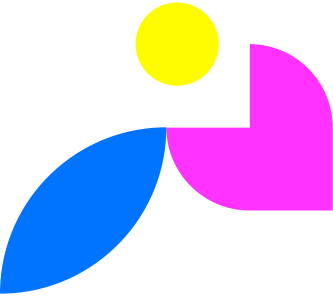
"My colleagues and I all appreciate Matt's endless passion. He is one of the most inspiring young people I have had the privilege to work with."





FAZ BARBER

Faz is an energetic poet, performer, activist, trainee architect and board member. He has received multiple nominations for his inspiring monologue at Contact Young Company's production 'Everything All of The Time'. Faz has recently been appointed to the board at MIF, and works as part of MIF's Young People's Forum. He also had a role within the Hulme Hippodrome campaign and is involved with Young Identity.

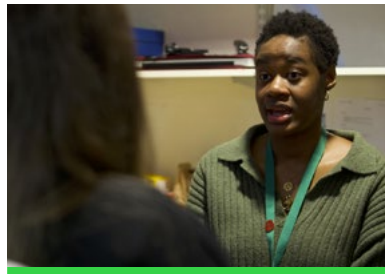


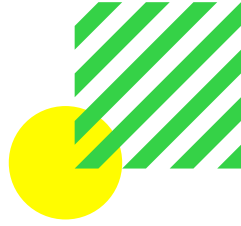
OCEANA CAGE NZENE

Oceana is an inspirational, passionate and generous young person championing opportunities for young people from Manchester.

She was part of Royal Exchange's Young Company – as a performer, writer and maker, and as a quietly confident natural leader she encouraged younger members. In 2021, she was appointed as Children and Young People Co-ordinator at the Exchange, supporting young people pastorally in workshops and outside sessions.

Alongside her work at the Royal Exchange Theatre, Oceana is a producer at SWITCH_MCR theatre company, founded by Royal Exchange Young Company members. She also curated and produced Save Me a Seat, a weekend festival of work by queer people from the Global Majority.





PROMOTION OF ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

.....

ERGON THEATRE: THE WICKED PROBLEM

The Wicked Problem at Contact was part of Julie's Bicycle Season For Change and Manchester's contribution to COP26. Set in 2060, the audience are jury in the UK's first ecocide trial of an individual. The question asked, "What would you put first: the future of the planet or your family?"





ROYAL NORTHERN COLLEGE OF MUSIC'S ROUTE TO DECARBONISATION

The Royal Northern College of Music has made bold advances on its route to decarbonisation thanks to a £6.5million programme of work. Delivered in partnership with GMCA's Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme, the substantial project has vastly improved the quality and efficiency of the Royal Northern College of Music's estate as it strives to become zero-carbon.



NATIONAL FOOTBALL MUSEUM

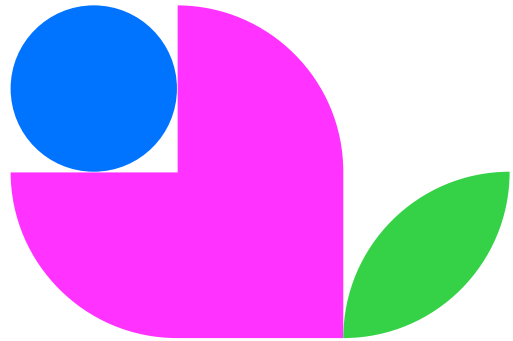
The museum's first Carbon Reduction Plan supports Manchester City Council's targets with a £1.9million upgrade to air handling, heating and cooling within the iconic Urbis Building, in addition to improvements across the toilets, café and shop. As a key partner of the 'Roots & Branches' scheme, the museum offered its staff Carbon Literacy Training.





ROOTS & BRANCHES

Roots & Branches is a unique collaboration, passionate about the active role that museums can and should play in addressing the climate crisis and social inequalities. The project creates opportunities for museums to build people's capacity, skills and knowledge, and experiment with new ideas for a more sustainable future.



KULJIT CHUHAN

Kuljit Chuhan is an artist, creative producer, and director of Crossing Footprints, with 15 years' experience of creative climate-justice work. Kooj collaborates with groups underrepresented in the climate movement, such as Ayna Bangladeshi Theatre and Amani African Arts, enabling new and urgent narratives from diverse communities that are most affected by climate change.



INDEPENDENT CREATIVE

SHARON RAYMOND

Sharon uses her creativity and passion to connect new audiences to culture in Manchester. As well as community members, she also meets with CEOs of organisations, as she believes that widening access starts at the top. For the Culture for our Communities project she created and motivated a group of 24 cultural ambassadors to connect over 2,000 people with offers at cultural venues as the COVID-19 restrictions were lifted.





ED WELLARD

WITHINGTON WALLS

Ed leads Withington Walls in his spare time, raising funds and adding artwork to walls, shop shutters, street cabinets and lampposts. He works with local groups, businesses, housing associations, volunteers and artists to deliver beautiful artistic creations in Withington. These have not only brightened up the area, but have also fostered community pride and attracted visitors.



JEZ DOLAN

Jez Dolan is a leading contemporary visual artist, based in Manchester and Salford. In 2021/22, he was artist in residence at Manchester Art Gallery's exhibition: Derek Jarman Protest! Connecting with artists, community groups and audiences, Jez delivered a public-facing programme of participatory activities and new artworks. His residency was crucial in connecting the gallery with the wider queer/ LGBT+ communities of the city, which will have a significant legacy beyond the life of the project.





PHILL HOWLEY

Phill is a professional drummer, composer, producer and educator with an inclusive approach to supporting young people. His passion for music is contagious to anyone who works with him, and he brings unwavering professionalism, calm and creativity to sessions with those from some of the most challenging backgrounds.



EMMANUELA YOGOLELO

Acclaimed Congolese British singer, songwriter and co-founder of African arts organisation, Amani Creatives CIC, Emmanuela has been nominated for her collaboration on cross-cultural music project 'When Musical Traditions Meet and Inspire', for which she delved deep into the folk-music traditions of her native Democratic Republic of Congo. She is an inspiring powerhouse of an artist who continually extends the boundaries of her creative practice. Emmanuela is a truly unique, mesmerising and inspiring artist!



PROMOTION OF HEALTH AND WELLBEING

THE EDGE

This venue works closely with people with learning disabilities, mental health issues, drug and alcohol dependencies, and people who experience homelessness. It also works with ex-prisoners, people who are alone and isolated, and those who have been neglected, abused and discriminated against, enabling them to enjoy creative, fulfilling and life-affirming involvement in theatre.





THE ROYAL EXCHANGE THEATRE WE'LL BE IN TOUCH PROJECT

This project was created in partnership with the Royal Exchange Theatre and Together Dementia Support (TDS), supported by Small Things. Participants living with dementia received phone calls as an opportunity for a creative conversation. A piece of text would be shared, which acted as a stimulus to spark the imagination and creativity of participants.



SOUNDPATHS SICK! FESTIVAL AND BRIGHTER SOUND

Soundpaths is a mobile app that takes users on a sonic journey through north Manchester. Its soundtrack is designed to boost physical and mental wellbeing, and changes as you move along the route. Composer Yoni Collier worked with local artists and communities to record the hums of nature and the urban landscape, incorporating them into his music, and allowing users to experience the area in a new way.



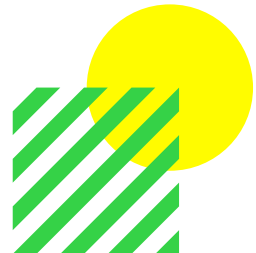
STILL PARENTS

Still Parents is a unique partnership with Manchester Sands charity using art and creativity to support parents who have experienced the loss of a baby. The groundbreaking exhibition has created a platform to share personal stories, open up conversations, and break the silence that surrounds baby-loss.



REFORM RADIO CREATIVE X WELLBEING

Through their online radio station and creative programmes, Reform Radio support hundreds of young people to raise awareness about wellbeing and mental health and to develop self-help strategies. Their programme includes specialist week-long programmes exploring wellbeing through creative expression, a weekly Life Lounge Forum, and a monthly BeWell radio show, hosted by Reform's very own Wellbeing Manager and qualified psychotherapist Dan Owens-Cooper.



MANCHESTER PEOPLE'S CULTURE AWARD

ED WELLARD

Ed volunteers his time to run the Withington Walls, which is responsible for transforming the area with over 100 vibrant public artworks by local artists. As well as fundraising, organising events, securing permissions, cleaning shop shutters, street cabinets and walls, and co-ordinating and championing local artists, Ed involves the whole community in the project.



ALISTAIR HUDSON

Under Alistair's leadership, The Whitworth and Manchester Art Gallery are making positive social changes in the city. Whether giving gallery space to local residents, inviting artists to work with Manchester's communities, or advocating for radical arts education as part of MADE, Alistair uses his position to empower others.





LIZ O'NEILL

Z-ARTS

Artistic Director and CEO of Z-arts, Liz has given national recognition to the UK's only arts centre for children and families. Passionate about hearing the voices of children, families and artists, she is the driving force behind many partnerships that improve creative opportunities for children in Manchester and beyond.



BLOCK CINEMA

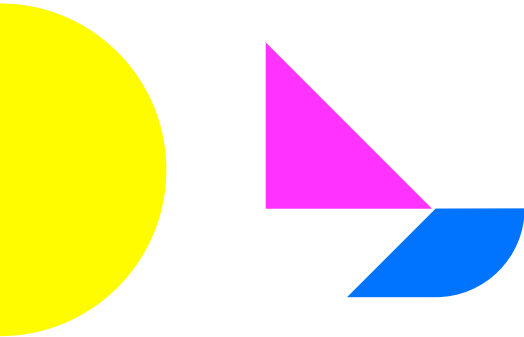
Block Cinema is an inclusive community cinema in Wythenshawe offering a range of accessible and affordable films. The inspirational team create a welcoming atmosphere for all. They are committed to offering free cinema nights to volunteers from other groups that make Wythenshawe a happier and healthier place to live.





DRYWAVE RECOVERY CIC

Ben Riley from Drywave is an ex-addict on a mission to bring sober events to Manchester’s club scene. The events attract the sober-curious, those in recovery, and people seeking wellbeing activities with a difference. Drywave also support early recovery through creative workshops at their recently built studio in Clayton.



ALL FM

ALL FM broadcast a diverse range of shows in different languages, including shows for carers, those with mental health issues, LGBTQ+ and many underrepresented communities. They provide free radio training for those at risk of isolation. Many unsigned Manchester musicians have had their first radio play on ALL FM 96.9.



BEST PERFORMANCE

THE GIFT

Z-ARTS AND TOUCHED THEATRE

The Gift is a new early years puppetry adventure commissioned from Touched Theatre by Z-arts to explore friendship post-pandemic. With immersive, highly visual storytelling, the production celebrated Christmas in outer space with grumpy astronaut Noli, a cheeky robot, and a kind star. The Gift performed to 1,078 families, sitting on 342 socially distanced planets.





WHEN THE BIRDS LAND MANCHESTER INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL

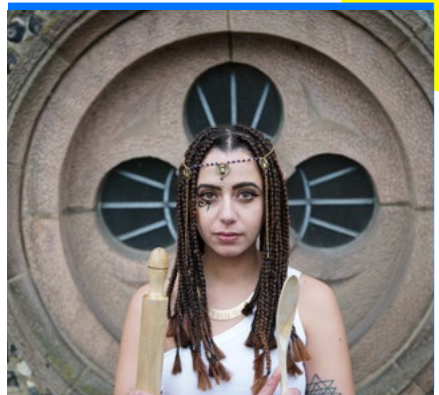
Over 4,000 participants, 110 local performers, three schools, 14 community advisers, as well as numerous charities and community leaders were involved in this free event produced by Manchester International Festival to welcome the refugee girl-puppet Little Amal to Manchester at the end of her journey from the Turkish-Syrian border.



THE BREAD WE BREAK MIRAY SIDHOM

Miray Sidhom's debut solo show was commissioned by Contact, and premièred in March 2022.

A decade on from the Arab Spring, Miray traces the origins of uprisings to the first workers' strike in the pharaonic era, questioning bread's cultural symbolism and using fermentation as a metaphor for social change. "A timely reminder of the vital role protest can play – and a championing of the cumulative power of individual acts of resistance." Circles and Stalls.



SATURNALIA

CONTACT YOUNG COMPANY

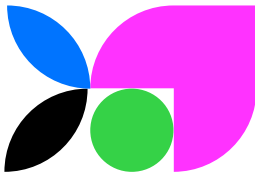
Saturnalia is an outdoor musical performance in Projekts MCR Skatepark. It involves multi-talented young performers, including DJs, MCs, poets, dancers, musicians and storytellers. After a year of isolation and lockdown, it provided the young artists with a much-needed platform. The team and cast created an immersive rave-concept performance, attended overwhelmingly by a young, diverse audience.



THE WIZ

HOPE MILL THEATRE

This was the first UK revival of the seminal Black musical The Wiz in over a decade. Produced by Hope Mill Theatre, it featured an all-Black cast of 14 performers and an all-Black and global majority creative team. It received rave reviews in the national media and multiple Black British Theatre Award nominations.



PROMOTION OF TALENT AND LEADERSHIP

LEVEL UP CONTACT

Level Up is a music project mentored by industry experts and supported by Contact's amazing team. Young emerging artists on the programme develop professional-level skills in music production, promotion and performance.

"Contact undeniably became my first springboard into becoming a self-dependent musician." Former participant





CREATIVE FELLOWSHIP MANCHESTER INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL 2021

This is a six-month Fellowship programme, which provides mentoring support, a £3,000 bursary, and opportunities to shadow the creation of major festival productions. Fellows were exposed to new networks in Manchester, the UK and worldwide to expand their professional connections and to learn about fundraising, digital content, producing and communications.

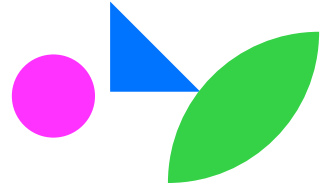
BOTH SIDES NOW LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME BRIGHTER SOUND

Building on the success and impact of Brighter Sound’s gender-equality work, this programme specifically focused on providing 120 in-depth leadership development opportunities for women and people of marginalised genders working in music. It included business start-up training for innovators and entrepreneurs, work placements with industry partners, and management training focused on authentic leadership styles.



VIC ELIZABETH TURNBULL

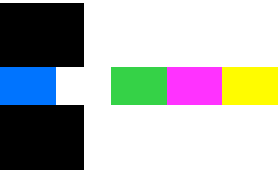
Vic is the founder of MIC Media and has a social mission to amplify unheard voices and stories through good-quality audio, for a richer, more diverse podcast landscape. She works with not-for-profit and value-led companies. A notable outcome was at the National Football Museum, where she trained four young, diverse female community producers to create a women's football podcast.



CHAIR DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

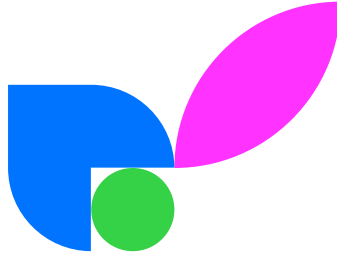
Z-ARTS

A chair development for five trustees from backgrounds underrepresented in arts leadership, the programme included shadowing other chairs, as well as meetings, mentor sessions, online learning and peer reflection. Z-arts are making a genuine difference in what leadership in the arts will look like in future years, as these newly skilled, confident, diverse leaders forge their paths in the sector.





BEST EVENT



HOMEGROUND

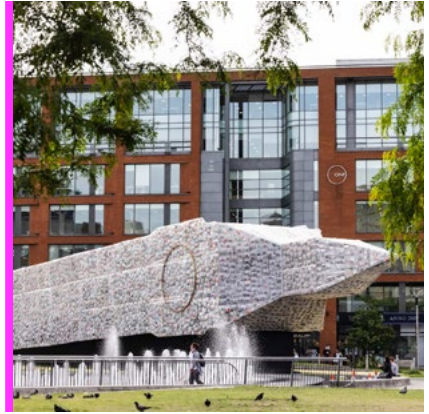
Homeground was an outdoor festival hosted between May and August 2021 at First Street. HOME worked with arts organisations across Manchester to engage over 700 freelance artists after a long period of venue closure, presenting events that included theatre, music, stand-up comedy, family shows and poetry nights. It brought live events back to audiences after lockdown, with 95% agreeing strongly that it helped to create a vibrant and inviting city centre.



MANCHESTER INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL 2021

After months of lockdown, Manchester International Festival returned between 1 and 18 July 2021 for 18 days of culture, creativity and connection. There were 68 events across Manchester, more than 57% of them free.

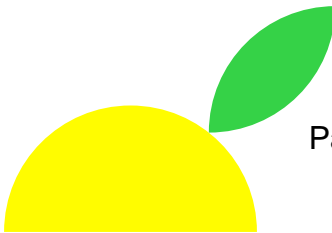
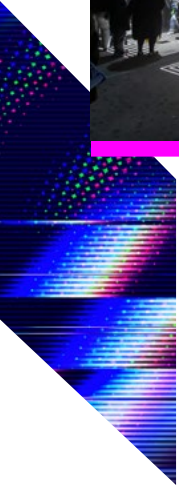
Nearly 6,000 people participated, 1,462,244 attended in person and 1.2million people from 187 countries engaged with the digital programme.



SUBMERGE FESTIVAL

Submerge Festival was full of groundbreaking performances and events in venues across Manchester throughout March 2022. It brought together subversive and underrepresented artists to present ambitious work, bringing radical and diverse perspectives to the fore.

“Not every performance is to everyone’s taste, but that’s what makes it exciting and thrilling! We need more experimentation and risk-taking like this.” Festival-goer





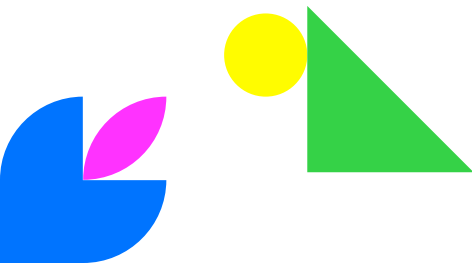
Z-ARTS SUMMER OF PLAY

In 2021, Z-arts delivered Summer of Play, a free programme of safe, creative fun for all ages in parks across Hulme. It was co-created with community groups, including Hulme Artist Network, Friends of Hulme Park, and Z-arts advisory group The Sparklers. Seventy artists and freelancers were employed and 3,099 attended.



INTERNATIONAL MOTHER LANGUAGE DAY MANCHESTER LIBRARIES

International Mother Language Day took place on Monday 21 February 2022, with a wonderful celebration of all the languages spoken in Manchester. Activities in the city’s libraries involved a range of multilingual and multicultural communities and partners. These gave people a chance to enjoy one another’s unique languages and rich cultures, and taught children the languages and traditions of their parents, grandparents and countries of origin.



BEST EXHIBITION



CANCER REVOLUTION: SCIENCE, INNOVATION AND HOPE

SCIENCE AND INDUSTRY MUSEUM

This exhibition showcased cutting-edge research and engaged audiences of all ages. Developed with people living with cancer, it explored revolutions in research and how science can give hope.

“Cancer is a difficult subject and to turn this crucial aspect of medicine into a highly creative, original and high-quality exhibition experience required daring, expertise and commitment.” Exhibition visitor



COMPLETELY A HUSTLING PLACE

VENTURE ARTS

Venture Arts' inspiring full studio show at Manchester Central Library exhibited new visual artwork from over seventy learning-disabled and neurodiverse artists. The exhibition was the studio's first physical show since lockdown and provided a poignant and permanent reflection of a moment in history.

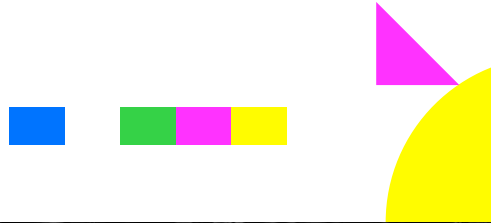


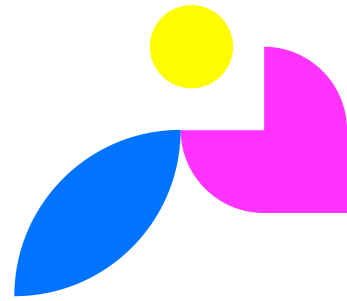
DEREK JARMAN PROTEST!

MANCHESTER ART GALLERY

The exhibition was a major retrospective of the work of one of the most influential figures in 20th-century British culture: artist and activist Derek Jarman.

Showcasing the breadth of his multimedia work, it attracted 125,090 visitors to the gallery during its five-month run and featured a dynamic engagement programme and collaborations.





MANCHESTER HIP-HOP ARCHIVE EXHIBITION

The Manchester Hip-Hop Archive Exhibition at Central Library celebrated the launch of the UK's foremost hip-hop repository and education resource, now homed at Archives+. The exhibition features rare and exclusive visual, audio and physical objects, telling Manchester's incredible untold hip-hop story and spotlighting local pioneers' global contributions from the 1980s to the present day.

POET SLASH ARTIST HOME AND MANCHESTER INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL

Curated by Hans Ulrich Obrist and Lemn Sissay for Manchester International Festival 2021, this exhibition brought together the work of 25 poets and visual artists who cross both art forms. Connecting cultures, continents, languages and generations, more than 4,000 visitors experienced this at HOME. Thousands more saw new commissions in the public realm, reaching those wary of returning to indoor galleries as pandemic restrictions lifted.





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MANCHESTER CULTURE AWARDS 2022



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**Manchester City Council
Report for Information**

Report to: Communities and Equalities Scrutiny Committee – 7 February 2023

Subject: Manchester Libraries Strategy Update

Report of: Strategic Director (Neighbourhoods)

Summary

The purpose of the report is to provide the Communities and Equalities Scrutiny Committee with an update on the library strategy and to present a draft vision for libraries.

Recommendations

The Committee is asked to note the contents of this report and consider the draft vision for libraries.

Wards Affected: All

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

Libraries support the zero-carbon agenda. This includes high quality, low-carbon buildings that are community hubs to be used by multiple organisations, that libraries encourage books to be read by multiple people and the increase in eBooks – reducing the use of paper.
More details contained within section 2.5.1

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

As this is an update report, an EQIA has not been carried out specifically on the report. Equalities, Diversity and Inclusion is at the heart of the library service. Examples of excellent EDI initiatives are outlined in 2.13

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	Libraries enable people to improve their skills, apply for work on-line, offer and offer volunteering opportunities, increasing residents' employability. Libraries lead the Council's work on reducing digital exclusion amongst residents. More information in 2.5.2
A highly skilled city: world class and home-grown talent sustaining the city's economic success	Libraries assist in raising literacy and skills levels, and with enabling our youngest residents to become school ready, helping to deliver Read Manchester. More information in 2.11
A progressive and equitable city: making a positive contribution by unlocking the potential of our communities	Libraries are at the heart of our communities and offer a wide range of services and activities for free that help to build and maintain community cohesion and place pride. More information in 2.5.8
A liveable and low carbon city: a destination of choice to live, visit, work	Good local libraries are part of the fabric of neighbourhoods, helping to sustain pride in Manchester and its communities. Manchester Central Library is a regional, national and international visitor attraction More information in 2.5.1
A connected city: world class infrastructure and connectivity to drive growth	Our libraries are a key location for residents to access digital technology and helping build skills that will assist future generation of Mancunions to sustain the growth of the city. Our digital inclusion work is increasing connectivity in homes. More information in 2.5.6

Full details are in the body of the report, along with any implications for:

- Equal Opportunities Policy
- Risk Management
- Legal Considerations

Financial Consequences – Revenue

None

Financial Consequences – Capital

None

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Background documents (available for public inspection): None

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Manchester's libraries embody the Our Manchester Strategy, providing locally based, customer focussed services at the heart of communities. The service contributes greatly to Manchester Strategy Outcomes, as detailed in section 2.5. Manchester's Library, Information and Archives Service delivers leisure, cultural, learning and information services through a network of 15 neighbourhood libraries, 6 community partnership libraries and the internationally renowned world class Central Library – the most visited public library in the country. The service also operates 24-hour virtual library, HMP Manchester Prison library and Books to Go (housebound) service and supports a number of neighbourhood-based book collections. Manchester Libraries manages the Greater Manchester County Record Office function on behalf of GMCA which holds records from across the city region. Manchester Libraries also leads on digital inclusion for the Council and city.
- 1.2 We have produced a new vision for Manchester Libraries which is included in Appendix 1. The vision sets out how libraries contribute to Manchester being a high-class city improving the lives of residents and neighbourhoods and sets out the priorities for coming years. The key priorities identified are: Our Manchester Our People, Literacy & Reading, Health & Wellbeing, Culture & Creativity and Digital Inclusion. This vision will be consulted upon, to help shape the future priorities of the service.
- 1.3 The library service has evolved and reinvented itself over the past decade and whilst seeing significant reduction in revenue funding we have seen £80 million capital investment, including the £50 million transformation of Manchester Central Library. In the last 10 years, and we have relocated over 80% of libraries into new or refurbished or co-located premises. The Libraries Capital Programme continues to see significant investment into the service, improving the estate and service further. The latest Adult Public Library User Survey reported that over 93% of customers were satisfied with the service – the highest satisfaction rating we have ever received.
- 1.4 As valued community spaces, libraries act as a shop front and access point for a range of other council, government and public services and partner organisations, enabling people to access these services at a local level. A wide range of council services are delivered through our network of libraries for example adult learning (including learning specifically aimed at getting people back to work), youth provision, councillor surgeries, benefits advice and many other advice sessions. This has been particularly beneficial to residents during the cost-of-living crisis, where libraries have been the Council's warm spaces, acting as the neighbourhood living rooms.
- 1.5 Library services also provide significant support for key Manchester City Council objectives such as raising literacy levels (both reading skills and digital), reducing dependency, sustaining local neighbourhoods and creating economic growth, and have a critical and key role in supporting the City Council's priorities. Libraries manage Read Manchester with the aim of spreading the love of reading throughout the city and increasing literacy levels

with children and adults. Manchester Libraries have a leading role with digital inclusion for the Council and city. We work with the VCSE sector to reduce digital exclusion across community venues and in people's homes. Libraries also play a vital role through the provision of free public access to computers, free Wi-Fi, access to information and advice sessions.

- 1.6 In terms of a strategic planning framework, Manchester Libraries continue to provide a strong, key and vital role in the heart of their communities and neighbourhoods supporting learning, literacy, economic opportunity and inspiration, through the 4 universal public library offers around reading, information & digital, health & wellbeing, culture & creativity. This ensures that we have a coherent structured offer which meets the current and future needs of our residents and also ensure that our service offer is aligned to support the delivery of Our Corporate Plan.
- 1.7 It is now nearly nine years since Central Library reopened following its transformation. It continues to be the most visited public library in the country, attracting a diverse range of residents as well as being a key attraction for visitors from outside the city. Part of the transformation vision for Central Library was to be an inclusive space, appealing to families, children and young people, aspiring entrepreneurs and visitors to the city, as well as traditional library visitors. Eight years on, despite the pandemic, Central Library's cultural programme, Library Live, exists as a busy and diverse cultural programme for everyone to enjoy, and Central Library remains the most visited public library in the country. Last year, in recognition of the importance of Central Library and Archives+, the library became the Northern Hub for the 1921 Census, being only one of three venues in England and Wales that was able to offer free access to the census.
- 1.8 Across the city, our neighbourhood libraries and community partnership libraries - play an integral role in their local communities, acting as safe, trusted, socially inclusive, free, accessible, welcoming and non-threatening spaces, that play a significant role in helping to address deprivation and inequality. Research has shown that using libraries improves residents' health and wellbeing by combating loneliness and social isolation, as well as providing a quiet place to study and read. We support customers with reading for pleasure and literacy, and the level of book-borrowing is increasing again after a fall due to the pandemic, whilst the borrowing of eBooks/eAudio has increased dramatically since the start of the pandemic.
- 1.9 Libraries are the primary community venue for residents to access IT, and offer training, support and assistance to residents. This is done through staff, volunteers and partner organisations, for example Citizens Advice Manchester, which offers highly popular weekly digital-advice sessions at libraries across the city.
- 1.10 Fundamental to our ability to provide a high-quality breadth and range of services is the need to work well and effectively with a broad spectrum of partners and volunteers. Our partnership working across the city ranges from local community groups to specialist intellectual property lawyers who give

their time pro-bono to support fledgling entrepreneurs, to the British Library, Manchester Metropolitan University, the University of Manchester, the Manchester College and Arts Council, England. Pre-pandemic, over 400 volunteers enable us to make the best use of the resources available within the city, and we are building up volunteer numbers again.

2.0 Delivering the Library Strategy in 2022 and beyond

2.1 Through investment in the previous Library 2020 strategy, the City Council has demonstrated its commitment to maintaining effective libraries at the heart of Manchester's communities. The key strands of Library 2020 strategy have been:

- Introducing and strengthening customer self-service transformation to all libraries.
- Introducing new Open Plus technology to increase opening hours and widen access at Withington Library, Wythenshawe Forum Library and Avenue Library.
- Transforming Withington library

2.2 A further £500,000 was allocated 2021-2024 for citywide library renewal works to ensure that all libraries are in a strong position to serve their local communities for the next 10/15 years. Works include redecoration, replacing worn furniture, shelving and carpets, plus redecoration where needed. For example, as part of this programme of activity,

- Remodelling Newton Heath Library to create a meeting room and interview/advice room.
- Refreshing other libraries such as Central Library and Archives +, Hulme High Street, Forum Library, Didsbury Library and North City Library.

2.3 Gorton Library moved into the new Gorton Hub in mid November 2022. Gorton Hub is a pioneering new community, integrated health and learning hub at the heart of Gorton district centre, which brings together a range of local services under the same roof. The Hub is a one-stop-shop for local people to access a GP, health and social care services, employment support and library – all in a purpose built, highly accessible development. These services have been delivered in different parts of the local neighbourhood, and the Hub makes it easier for residents in Gorton to access joined-up support, based on the understanding that all of these services are interconnected. Housing and good health, good employment, education and social care. Residents need all of these things to work together to lead happy, healthy and prosperous lives. Services include:

- A vibrant and modern library and learning space
- NHS community health teams, such as district nurses, health visitors and physios, including treatment rooms for both children and adults
- Manchester Adult Education Service (MAES)
- Jobcentre Plus

Further services moving into the hub through to Spring 2023, include:

- a new home for the Gorton Medical Centre GP practice
- a pharmacy
- A new café
- Working with One Manchester to bring a housing office to the Hub

In the first full month of opening (December 2022) the library saw over 7000 visits, nearly double pre-pandemic levels for December 2019. The library offers a range of community meeting rooms, that are already busy with a wide range of community support and creative activities. It is also designed as an Age Friendly space, with an area set aside with comfortable and attractive furniture plus a memorabilia cabinet and sound archive unit, where older people can read a book or the daily paper, or just enjoy being in a busy, social space without anything else expected from them. Local history has played a strong role in the design of not just the library, but the wider Hub, as a way of embedding the new building into the history and community of Gorton and creating a strong sense of place. Archive maps have been creatively used throughout the building, and these have proved popular with visitors and staff alike, who look for buildings, roads and places that they know or grew up in – providing a link back to the past in a building designed for the future.

- 2.4 There will be significant in capital works to libraries from 2023 to 2024. The grade 2 listed Chorlton Library will be fully refurbished during 2023, with a £600,000 budget for capital works, supplemented by additional AMP works and Open Plus budget. The works include remodelling and refurbishment of the newer extension area, creation of a new community meeting room, full redecoration, enabling the Open Plus access system, and restoring the historic dome over the lobby area that has been covered over in previous refurbishments. The library will close for approximately 10 months with a small temporary library operating from a nearby shop unit, and story times taking place at The Edge Theatre.
- 2.5 The new joint library and leisure centre at Abraham Moss will open to the public in late Summer 2023. The development is currently progressing. The library will work on the same model as Hulme High Street and Arcadia libraries, with the library being accessible outside of staffed hours for customers to use self-serve, making library services available from early morning until the centre closes, plus all day on Sunday.
- 2.6 Libraries played a crucial role during the pandemic. Being designated as an essential service, they remained open apart from the first 3 months of lockdown. Visitor figures obviously reduced with many residents staying at home, reduced capacity due to social distancing and a full engagement programme not possible. We resumed a full engagement programme and full range of services by the start of January 2022. By Autumn 2022, Libraries had approximately 66% of visitors compared to the same period in 2019. Six libraries have outperformed pre-pandemic visitor levels. In Autumn 2022 there were 20k participants in education sessions, which was higher than at the same time pre-covid, with 57,000 attendees of our events programme - a 16%

increase on pre-covid levels, with both regular and half term activities proving popular. In 2023 we will be focussing on developing and delivering the vision, including increased outreach activities and engagement to attract new customers and encourage lapsed users to return to libraries.

2.7 The library service contributes hugely to the Council's Corporate Plan Priority Outcomes

2.7.1 Contributing to achieving the zero-carbon target for the city

Libraries are possibly the longest standing re-use and recycling programme through the borrow and use of a book by multiple people. The increase in lending of eBooks and eAudio books reduces the carbon footprint of reading in the city still further. Each library is now a collection point for old devices – these get refurbished by Community Computers and sold to Manchester residents for discounted price, benefiting the resident and reducing waste. The library estate contains generally good quality buildings with excellent carbon emission standards, and the capital investment into several of the libraries improves this further. By widening use of libraries as community hubs, we are preventing the need for other services and organisations to have their own buildings and reducing travel time amongst staff and partner organisations. Neighbourhood libraries are accessible for partners as workplaces and for service delivery, supporting the Our Manchester and Bringing Services Together approaches. They can also be used for environmental and climate change campaigns, including Keep Manchester Tidy, which itself contributes towards carbon emission reductions.

2.7.2 Growth that benefits everyone

Libraries develop and implement the Council's Digital Action Plan, which feeds into the Digital Strategy. This work reduces the number of digitally excluded residents in the city and increases the level of digital skills. People without digital skills are at increased the level of disadvantage – e.g. unemployment, low wage employment, social isolation, financial poverty. The Business & IP Centre (based at Central Library) and the Build a Business in GM Libraries initiative support the establishment and growth of start-up businesses, increasing the number of successful businesses in the city and the creation of jobs and opportunities. Libraries play an important role in supporting the business community in Manchester, and across Greater Manchester, offering insights and access to free resources, training and events. In 2022 the BIPC offered more activities and support than ever before.

2.7.3 Young People

Libraries support young people from 0-18 years, as outlined in the Libraries Services to Children and Young people in Appendix 2. Libraries contributed greatly to Our Year and have started running very successful HAF Sessions Working with Read Manchester, children and young people and their families benefit from library use, resulting in increased skills, confidence, happiness, literacy, educational attainment and job prospects. Libraries are positive environments that children and young people choose to use. A new children's

library has opened this year, in partnership with Manchester Libraries, at Z-Arts in Hulme. Two of our libraries offer times in the week where young people are the only users of the library. We are working with Youth, Play and Participation to develop a Strategy for Young People and Libraries. Section 2.11 outlines more information on the offer for children and young people.

2.7.4 Healthy Cared-For People

People who use a library have improved health and wellbeing. A Central Library survey during the pandemic reported that 87% of respondents said they felt happier after using the library. The CIPFA Public Library User Survey of 2019 reported that over 80% of Manchester's respondents who sometimes felt lonely, felt less lonely after using the library. Libraries reduce social isolation in a whole range of its customers – from Mums and Dads attending storytimes with their children, to older people who use the library for social interaction in a welcoming environment, and Books to Go customers who are housebound and may not see anyone else for a few days apart from the delivery driver who provides a range of books. Libraries are also key for residents receiving accurate health information, through digital access, health information and books on prescription and reading well collections. Libraries are also used by partner organisations to deliver health promotion sessions. All library staff have received training on dementia and are Dementia Friends.

2.7.5 Housing

Libraries contribute to the social infrastructure of successful and cohesive local communities. We work in partnership with Housing providers to reduce digital exclusion within their residents – to the benefits of the tenants and the housing providers. We work with organisations such as Lifeshare and Booth Centre to encourage and enable homeless people to access library services.

2.7.6 Neighbourhoods

Libraries are the beating heart of communities, being used and owned by the communities they reside in. They are well used venues key to successful and cohesive local communities. As community hubs they are used to gain access to skills, creative opportunities, digital access and access to a wide range of services at neighbourhood level. Libraries are increasingly becoming community hubs used to meet a whole range of priorities of people in the neighbourhood. The existence of a library within the neighbourhood is a critical factor to the quality of life of communities and residents in the neighbourhood. They are vital in the Council's response to the current cost of living crisis, with each library acting as a 'warm space' - more details in section 2.9. Throughout 2022 we participated in roadshows and events with partner organisations in neighbourhoods where digital exclusion is highest to talk to residents and raise awareness of digital inclusion offers in their area.

2.7.7 Connections

Libraries ensure residents are digitally connected – particularly those who do not have Internet access at home. Each library offers free Internet access and high-speed Wi-Fi. Libraries are digital hubs where residents can access other services through video technology – for example Citizens Advice Bureau. More information about digital inclusion in section 2.10

2.7.8 Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion are at the forefront of everything libraries do. Libraries are representative of the diverse communities in which they are located and are a key means to increase community cohesion. The book stock is diverse, including the recent ‘See Myself in Books’ initiative and the events programme outlined contains artists and authors from diverse backgrounds and is attractive to all. Key EDI events are celebrated in libraries such as Black History Month, South Asian Heritage Month, International Women’s Day, LGBT History Month and International Mother Language Day. Manchester Libraries are accredited Libraries of Sanctuary. More details on this and our wider EDI work in 2.13.

2.7.9 A Well Managed Council

By widening use of libraries as community hubs, we are preventing the need for other services and organisations to have their own buildings and reducing travel time amongst staff and partner organisations. Neighbourhood libraries are accessible for partners as workplaces and for service delivery, in an Our Manchester and Bringing Services Together approach.

2.8 The Latest Public Library User Survey (PLUS) that we conducted in 2019-20 reported that over 93% of customers were satisfied with the service – the highest satisfaction rating we have ever received. We believe that this figure will increase further when its next carried out, as the feedback from customers to our service during the pandemic has been positive. We have been a lifeline to so many residents. The survey provided some powerful insight into the libraries role in reducing social isolation. As part of the Survey, four in ten respondents reported experiencing feelings of loneliness or isolation from others. Respondents who indicated that they often or sometimes experience feelings of loneliness were asked whether the library helped combat these feelings. More than 80% of these people agreed that it did. So over 80% of people feel less lonely as a result of using the library. We are holding a further Public Library User Survey later in February 2023, and will present the results at our next report to the Communities and Equalities Scrutiny Committee.

2.9 Central, Neighbourhood and Community libraries

Each library has a huge impact upon its local neighbourhood and residents. Here are brief examples from each library that show the range of services we deliver and impacts on residents.

- **Abraham Moss Library** - The library is in a temporary unit currently with the brand-new library in Summer 2023. The temporary library

offers a full range of library services for everyone from a thriving, well-attended Storytime for pre-school children with parents & carers to popular visits for classes of children from local primary schools. It is used by all sectors of the community and has partnerships with the local community from the Cheetham & Crumpsall Festival, Independence Day at the Ukrainian Club, Bollywood Nights dinner dance and Pamper Days with Winning Hearts.

- **Arcadia Library** - Arcadia's joint partnership with GLL (Greenwich Leisure limited) ensures that the library offer is seamlessly available to customers from 6.30am - 10pm on weekdays and 9 – 5pm at weekends, including Sunday. Working together we provide a joint coffee morning for gym users, swimmers and library users. We now have a full schools' programme bringing the fun of reading to our young children.
- **Avenue Library** - Avenue Library is busy and popular with a packed programme for community groups including 2 Age Friendly knitting & craft groups, a well-attended and fun Hello Saturday art club for children and families and a fortnightly Code Club for kids. A thriving Latin Club and reading groups as well as weekly employment and information session from Yes Manchester and Citizens Advice Manchester make this library an essential hub in the Blackley and Charlestown community.
- **Beswick Library** – Local residents continue to be supported online by Beswick Library for their local needs such as parking permits and other digital offers. This recently refurbished library is a cornerstone of East Manchester with a great network of partnerships and events with local organisations including the Etihad stadium, Manchester Active and East Manchester Youth and Play Partnership. We're building a strong Ambassadors group with partners Royal Exchange Theatre group offering free community theatre tickets.
- **Brooklands library** - We were delighted to have the wonderful author Pip Jones come to launch the Summer Reading Challenge, who was joined by children from Baguley Hall Primary School. We also had a very popular wise owl event for Harry Potter day and Zoo Lab attended in October with a very popular animal handling session- Over 40 people attended. The library is also popular with older people with weekly Age sessions with Board games and socializing using new seating.
- **Central Library** - is at the heart of the city's 22 libraries with an exciting cultural programme. This year we have worked with some great partners including Manchester Jazz, Literature and Science festivals to bring activities to our users. Our special Sunday openings for Chinese New Year, Libraries festival, Manchester Day, Halloween, and Winter brought thousands of visitors into the library to specifically engage with our cultural and creative program. We have a new regular activity in our chess club which has gone from strength to strength and enabled us to

engage with a diverse audience who have created their own small community. We launched the 'package for Val' scheme to help eliminate period poverty, anyone can ask for a package and supplies are handed out discretely. The packages are generously supported by donations from the Central Library and Town Hall Extension teams. Our weekly digital drop-in sessions are in demand and help an average of 10 people per session and have supported over 300 people since July.

- **Chorlton Library** – Our customers are excitedly waiting the newly refurbished library. The Age Friendly coffee morning is growing from strength to strength after restarting following covid. We have around 10 attendees each week who love stopping for a drink, a chat and a couple of biscuits. It's a great way to meet people, build friendships and find out what's happening in the community.
- **Didsbury Library** - We have run adult craft sessions in the library and at the Didsbury Good Neighbours Centre. These sessions covered many types of art from porcelain painting to gift tag making and have been very popular. Local Schools attended and enjoyed Alfie's First Fight and were all given a signed copy of the book. Working with DGN and Barlow High we have started an intergenerational ICT drop in.
- **Forum Library** – Forum Library Funday was part of the Festival of Libraries, and it was an amazing day. It was lovely to see the library busy with people having such a great time and the library was beautifully noisy with sounds of music from the various different workshops. We have restarted the STEM club and also started a Saturday Colouring Club. Toys and Games are now also available in the library.
- **Gorton Library** - Gorton Library is now in the Gorton Hub, a new library that really represents the community. We have successfully brought all our groups to the new building including the Local History Group. We have a new Local History glass cabinet which displays the mayor's diary who was from Gorton which is situated under the original library plaque of the original Gorton Library 1901. In addition, we have a Local History Kiosk which holds childhood memories of visiting the Belle Vue Zoo and the Speedway collected by the Manchester Histories Festival in 2014. It brings history to life through recorded conversations on a purpose-built tablet for everyone to access.
- **Hulme High Street Library** is a popular library reflecting the community it serves. The library programme with its IT digital drop in and Talk English sessions are so important as they support our residents who are digitally excluded to gain new skills in IT. The conversational English helps those residents to access courses in English and Maths and onto further education.

- **Longsight Library** - This library is a busy community library with lots of activities for adults and children. Reading levels of children dropped during the pandemic, so the library team wanted to prioritise building closer links with our local schools - both Primary and Secondary. A strong programme of school inductions promoted reading as fun and school classes were invited to the library with 2836 children attending. Our partnership with Plymouth Grove school was so successful this year that we worked together with the school visiting every week.
- **Moss Side Powerhouse Library** – The library has a community offer 11-2pm and a young people’s offer from 3-7pm. This has enabled provision of a warm space in the mornings and events in the afternoons and early evening. We are working with all the local schools who regularly visit us and recently recruitment of volunteers has enabled us to begin a homework club. The children are growing up really appreciating their library and also coming to the centre means that they are joining in with the youth offer provided by the Millennium Powerhouse Centre. Working together with the centre with joint events & us all supporting families where English is not their first language.
- **Newton Heath Library** - Vibrant and busy, this library is a true community hub and a lifeline for local people with a strong offer for all ages from pre-school story time to teens and a popular coffee morning for older folk. The Holiday Activity Fund sessions for local young people has seen the summer and Christmas holidays offer a terrific range of activities including jewellery making, writing rap and performing a traditional Sierra Leone song with musicians and performers. Library staff work hard with local partners Winning Hearts and Minds to engage local young people with creative and positive, diverting activities including ping-pong, games, karaoke and music. Our weekly Saturday activity club for children continues to attract new families and the recent Women’s Euros saw us hosting the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra to create a Manchester anthem and offer an orchestral taster session.
- **North City Library** - This Creative Space library offers high quality cultural highlights on the doorstep for Harpurhey and Moston folk such as International Mother Language Day, Manchester’s Festival of Libraries and Fun Palaces family fun days. This library has a busy atmosphere with Film Clubs, art exhibitions, workshops by local poet Kingsley Bray plus riotous sessions by shouty storyteller Gav Cross, amongst other events for schools. Great partnerships with internationally renowned Sick Festival, Contact Theatre Agency, Brighter Sounds and Manchester Youth Zone bring brilliant and imaginative events and local talent to our community. Toys and Games for children to play whilst in the library help make this a favourite family destination for kids to share and enjoy and for parents to relax and socialise with others in this diverse and busy community.
- **Withington Library** – In December 2022 we started a partnership with The Bread and Butter Thing. The library recruited volunteers to work

with TBBT to pack the bags of groceries for the library Hub and distribute to residents. About 50 people attend weekly to buy the bags of food for an extremely discounted rate. In January an information/support and Covid drop-in day was organised to coincide with The Bread and Butter Thing session.

Community partnership libraries – run in partnership with community groups and volunteers

- **Barlow Moor Library** - Library Staff supported Barlow Moor Community Association with Mersey Fest 2022, running a stall offering Free Crafts. As part of Chorlton Book Festival we attended the after-school club and delivered a creative fabric printing session. We promoted and delivered the Summer Reading Challenge running craft activities for Children to support this. The children's library has some new furniture and additional seating added to the adult library.
- **Burnage Library** - School visits to the library remain popular as well as the story times and ICT drop in. Ian Morris, who designed the new children's library card ran a workshop to support our competition for children to design a new children's card. They came up with some wonderful creative designs. The library is supported by Southway Housing and the Friends of Burnage Library.
- **Fallowfield Library** - Library staff supported Fallowfield's 90th birthday Celebration event by running a craft stall. Children and adults enjoyed making fabulous 3D fish. Very busy event which was enjoyed by all. We organised full day summer school holiday workshops to support the Place at Platt Lanes holiday club.
- **Miles Platting Library** - This compact library punches above its weight with activities from Christmas Fun days with local housing partner Adactus, to a diverse programme of Holiday Activity Sessions with food for local teens including traditional dance, African music, arts and craft which engage with mental health, environmental and climate change and the natural world. The rich cultural and recreational activities offered here to local families and schools are unique due to its pleasant green space and play facilities.
- **New Moston Library** - New Moston Library's Wednesday coffee morning has enjoyed a programme of special events with visits from Cheetham Sketcher Mary Burke talking about art for recovery and exhibiting her exquisite illustration to ad-hoc Story & Play sessions for local preschool families and Festive Mince Pies.
- **Northenden Library** – The storytime session remains popular with good attendance as does all the school holiday children's crafts. At October half term we had a Zoo Lab animal handling activity attended by over 40 people. The age-friendly afternoon is popular as well as a

brew and a biscuit regulars attend to play board games and just have a chat. This library is supported by the Friends of Northenden Library.

Other libraries

- **Books to Go** – This service delivers books, information and other resources to housebound residents. Many Books to Go customers have been shown how to borrow eBooks and eAudio books from the libraries' Borrowbox service, enabling vulnerable residents the choice of 1000s of books available in an accessible format, in addition to their usual book delivery. All customers were delivered Winter Warmer packs, as many are in a vulnerable situation.
- **HMP Manchester Library** - The prison library aims to improve the literacy levels of prisoners, as low literacy levels correlate with a higher likelihood of re-offending on release. The Prison Library is actively developing Age Friendly services, as many prisoners fall within this category. The library has worked with a number of partners within the prison and there are 3 collections in the library that support the work of DELPHI (Drug and Alcohol Rehabilitation), MHIT (Mental Health In-Reach Team) and AIG (careers support for men). The collections have been chosen by each team, are branded in the library and are being used within the men's work plans encouraging the men to actively use these resources. The prison library works closely with a number of wings who are unable to visit the library and have satellite collections that are regularly updated/new stock purchased for. The library also works closely with POPS (Partners of Prisoners) to promote family contact – this was particularly important during the time that face to face visits were not taking place in the pandemic and included attending the family forums to speak about the activities run by the prison library such as Story Book Dad, SWAPS, DPIL Making it Up and a new project – Raising Readers. Men are also able to access legal reference works and case law using a variety of sites.

2.10 Warm Spaces and Cost of Living Crisis

2.10.1 Libraries have a key role to play in the Cost-of-Living crisis. In October 2022, each of the 22 libraries became the Council's designated warm spaces, registered on <https://www.warmwelcome.uk/>. They are continuing to offer the free, welcoming service in a warm space where people can stay as long as they want in comfortable seating, with access to a wide range of resources including Internet, wi-fi, newspapers, books etc. With a wide range of support and leaflets available. We introduced new services as warm spaces.

- Free hot drinks are available, with over 20,000 drunk since October. This will continue until the end of February 2023.
- Free SIMs that provide 6 months free data.
- The Bread and Butter Thing now operate weekly from Withington Library, Gorton Library, Beswick Library with Newton Heath Library to follow soon.

- Central Library offers free sanitary products, to tackle period poverty, using donations mostly from City Council staff.
- All libraries in the North Area are donation points for Winter Warmth packs which are being donated to residents in need across the north of the city, including some of our housebound Books to Go customers
- Several libraries act as donation points for their local foodbank
- Most libraries have been fuller than normal, especially in December because many people stayed in the library longer, and lots of residents came in that staff hadn't seen before.

2.11 Digital inclusion

2.11.1 Libraries have always been the primary community venue to provide access and support to use the Internet. However, over the last couple of years, we have increased our role and taken responsibility for developing and implementing the Council's and city's strategy to combat digital exclusion, especially crucial during the pandemic and with the current cost of living crisis. The Digital Inclusion Action Plan that we have developed and are implementing for the Council is included as Appendix 2. Libraries have expanded their role in tackling digital exclusion inside and outside of the libraries, supported by £50k per annum from GMCA. A report on digital inclusion is being taken to Communities and Equalities Scrutiny Committee on 7th March, which will give more details. There were over 1.1 million uses of free Internet in libraries in 2022. Every library now has at least one session per week where extra support is available – from staff or volunteers or partner organisation. We have continued to manage telephone support to residents who have Internet access but don't have the skills or confidence to use it effectively. We assisted nearly 150 residents in 2022. Residents access it themselves by texting us on 07860064128, or they can be referred by another person/organisation via email. In addition to this we have supported people who have no Internet access at home by delivering 250 devices (Chromebooks or laptops or smartphones) and over 400 free data SIMs have been provided so far from libraries, that are available from every library. To ensure there are low cost devices available to Manchester residents, we have commissioned Community Computers to deliver a refurbished device scheme. Each library as a donation point for old devices, with over 100 old devices been donated by residents to the scheme. Our role supporting digital excluded residents is highlighted by the need for voter ID from May's elections. Each library has at least one session per week where residents can receive support for applying for ID online, including support taking and uploading a digital photograph. Support for voter ID applications is also being offered via our telephone support service. We will continue to deliver this support in coming years, more details to be provided in the Report to March 2023's Communities and Equalities Scrutiny Committee.

2.12 Libraries play an important role in supporting the business community in Manchester, and across GM. The Business and IP Centre (BIPC) in Central Library supports entrepreneurs from the first spark of inspiration to successfully launching and growing their business. Offering insights and

access to free resources, training and events, in 2022 the BIPC offered more activities and support than ever before:

- Over 650 one to one sessions, workshops and events
- Over 4000 attendees in person and online

The Business & IP Centre Manchester is the most attended in the national network outside London. Alongside offering access to the business information assets, the team have a track record of delivering innovative programming engaging with entrepreneurs and local enterprises.

Our ERDF part-funded business support programme, Build A Business in GM Libraries continues to engage across the Combined Authority and has delivered over 150 workshops to date. More information in Appendix 5.

2.13 Children and Young people

2.13.1 Libraries have a core offer to children and families which is shown in Appendix 3 – Children's and Young People Offer. This includes Bookstart, storytimes, Summer Reading Challenge and class visits, as well as a year-round programme of author visits and support for national campaigns including World Book Day, Empathy Day, Refugee Week and National Storytelling Week. Libraries also programme authors and activities for local events such as Chorlton Book Festival and the Festival of Libraries.

2.13.2 Libraries and Education work together to support literacy and reading for pleasure through the Read Manchester campaign, which operates as a National Literacy Trust hub. This helps to improve literacy levels across all ages and communities in Manchester and spread a love of reading. Ensuring access to books has played a large part in this, including our Bookgifting programme which has provided brand new books for children and adults to own.

2.13.3 In 2022, libraries and Read Manchester were a key delivery partner of Our Year, enriching the lives of children from 0-18 years. This included a competition for children to redesign library cards which attracted 500 entries and participating in the Baby Week activities in July including an Artful Playground session at Central Library. Libraries are often a child's first introduction to cultural activity, including storytimes and events such as Baby Week, and are a free, safe space for parents and children to visit, meet others and share stories. Our libraries are bright, attractive, and well-stocked, supporting a child's literacy journey through life. In 2022, a new children's library was opened at Z-Arts, in a partnership between the city council and the charity, using funding from the Arts Council England and Manchester City Council. An unused space in their building was transformed into a beautiful and welcoming children's library, launched by author and Children's Laureate Joseph Coelho. Local children and families helped to co-design the space. The library is very attractive and is well used with over 100 children becoming members in the first couple of months of opening.

2.13.4 2022 also saw Read Manchester gift the first of its See Myself in Books collections to schools. These are mini libraries of 25 books which feature books by authors of colour, and characters from different ethnic backgrounds. As Manchester has such a diverse population, we wanted to ensure this was reflected in our book stock, and also in the authors, poets and illustrators we bring in for class visits. The mini libraries have now been gifted to almost 40 schools, and importantly these include some of the least diverse schools in the city as well as the most diverse. This means that children in the city can see themselves reflected in books but also see other communities too. A See Myself in Books event was also held at the Festival of Libraries in June, featuring online and in-person author visits and a celebration of storytelling at Central Library.

2.13.5 Manchester Libraries and Bookstart gift book packs to more than 10,000 babies and 3–4-year-olds annually to encourage an early love of books and reading. The baby pack remains a universal offer, gifted via the Registrars, whilst the Toddler and Pre-schooler are targeted, delivered via Early Years partners.

2.13.6 Since the pandemic started Libraries and Read Manchester have also gifted books and magazines through our programmes and community work, targeting the 1 in 8 disadvantaged children who don't own a book. During the pandemic, access to reading material was more limited and now the cost-of-living crisis has also impacted families' ability to buy books. Publishers have donated books to us, and we have gifted them through a variety of partners including foodbanks, community grocers, mental health organisations, Early Years partners and schools. This has enabled us to grow our partnerships with grass roots organisations and reach new audiences. During the calendar year 2022 alone, Read Manchester has gifted 114,000 books and since the start of the pandemic, we have gifted almost 160,000 books. The infographic in Appendix 9 shows the 80,000 books gifted in the academic year September 2021 to August 2022.

2.13.7 We have received feedback from various partner organisations including:

Emmie's Kitchen, a charity supporting families with children in hospital received 200 books as part of our Festive book give-away. The books were used as part of a Christmas bag that was given to parents that were staying in Royal Manchester Children's Hospital with their poorly child over the Christmas period.

'The parents were overwhelmed to receive something for themselves through their child's potentially long and difficult stay. They were grateful to be thought about and said they love the books to help keep them distracted or provide a little down-time/self-care. Escapism.'

Feedback from Rainbow Surprise, foodbank:

'These books are amazing. I can never afford to buy books for my children.'
(Father of three comment).

- 2.13.8 Our Transition Read is now in its third year and gives a book to every year 6 pupil to support the move up to high school, with over 7000 pupils receiving a free copy of *The Lion Above the Door* by Onjali Rauf. Teaching resources are available for years 6 and 7 and the book provides a conversation topic and shared experience as children navigate the journey to their new high school. Onjali launched the read to teachers at an online meeting in April and also set and judged a writing competition for the pupils.
- 2.13.9 The Summer Reading Challenge encourages 4–11-year-olds to maintain their reading levels and avoid the slide in literacy over the summer holidays by reading any six library books and receiving incentives along the way. Libraries also offer a range of free activities for families including storytimes and crafts. We were part of a national Summer Reading Challenge extended pilot in 2022, having taken part in the original 2021 pilot, aiming to work collaboratively with other partners to increase take-up of the Challenge, an evaluation of this is detailed in Appendix 4. In Manchester, Education funded and supported the pilot approach with fifty primary schools which signed up to be involved. Thirty-seven out of the forty schools involved in 2021 took part again, with thirteen new schools signing up. Pupils in the pilot schools were automatically joined to the Summer Reading Challenge and resources were delivered into schools for them to distribute to pupils. Additionally, children who were not already library members were automatically joined to the library. Children from non-pilot schools were also able to join the Challenge in their local library as part of a universal offer. Both pilot and non-pilot schools were offered a suite of Summer Reading Challenge engagement sessions, with 17,000 children participating in these. As part of the Challenge, Libraries also ran a book review competition and received an impressive 700 entries.
- 2.13.10 Class visits have continued and grown compared to pre-pandemic, with many schools attending virtual class visits with authors. During the academic year September 2021 to July 2022, 123 schools engaged with libraries (58% of total schools). Over 36,000 children attended class visits in the academic year 2021/22. Six of our libraries were venues for the Holiday Activities and Food programme in Easter, Summer and December. Sessions involved lunch and activities such as arts and crafts, reading, music and other positive, engaging activities, and were aimed at ages 11-16. In summer 2022 over 400 young people participated in these sessions at Forum, Miles Platting, Withington, Central Library, Gorton, Newton Heath and Fallowfield. These aimed to keep young people fed and entertained over holiday periods when they were out of school, and also to engage them with libraries.
- 2.13.11 From October 2022, six libraries started to offer a selection of games, toys and play equipment to keep children and families occupied. These include board games and educational toys and are available at Forum, Longsight, Newton Heath, North City, Powerhouse and Withington.
- 2.13.12 A priority of the service is to increase engagement with teenagers to build on the success of young people's sessions at Arcadia and Hulme High Street,

and also the HAF sessions. We are working with staff from Youth, Participation and Play to create a Strategy for Young People and Libraries.

2.14 Age Friendly Libraries

- 2.14.1 Manchester Libraries are committed to ensuring that all our libraries become recognised as Age Friendly places, and we provide services that meet the needs of our older customers. Manchester Libraries have now been formally assessed and proudly display the Manchester Age Friendly Library logo.
- 2.14.2 They are creative community hubs, offering older people a safe, enjoyable and positive experience when they visit with comfortable places to sit and enjoy the company of others. In partnership with Age Friendly Manchester, we have agreed and adopted a set of Age Friendly standards - see Appendix 6. Library staff have recently carried out a customer service audit to find out what is important to older service users, after listening to their feedback we have produced an action plan and started to make positive changes. We created cosy welcoming Age Friendly areas with dedicated seating for people to relax, read newspapers /magazines, we are improving signage and are currently planning a programme of activities and events for 2023. As a playlist for Life Help Point, Manchester Libraries are a place where people can access information about creating and using a personal playlist to help someone living with Dementia. All Manchester Libraries offer a weekly Age Friendly drop in for older people, everyone is welcome to pop in for a drink and chat, access information displayed on our dedicated Age Friendly noticeboard or to enjoy an activity/event. Partner agencies and services often attend these sessions to share information, such as making sure everyone is claiming their benefit entitlements, promoting the nearest food banks and signposting to relevant health information; support online is also available at these sessions. There are several older people's social groups which meet in libraries on a regular basis, including the Grand Day Out groups which are friendly informal groups of local people who meet once a week at the library to chat, discover new friends, explore new interests and arrange trips out. Three libraries in South Area now have their own Age Friendly QR code corner thanks to the Wythenshawe Age Friendly network. The QR code takes you directly to the Age Friendly Wythenshawe app. Each corner has contact details, location links and immediate access to the venues' website. It also gives informative direct links to local health services, advice, community hubs and organisations such as Age UK and Citizens Advice. As part of our exciting programme of events, on International Day of Older Persons, libraries hosted four intergenerational events, our fabulous Fun Places – which are a nationwide initiative celebrating people's passions and sharing skills, took place in four libraries across Manchester, each hosting a day of free activities for all ages. Archives+ have installed Unlocking Our Sound Heritage listening stations in two of the community libraries' refurbished Age Friendly areas, where people can relax in comfortable surroundings and search for images and sounds of local places and people in Manchester. This project includes hundreds of oral history interviews with Manchester people, describing all aspects of their lives touching work, play, music, family, housing, leisure and lots more. Several age friendly activities and events are planned as part of this project. We have

developed a bespoke Dementia Friends session for libraries staff, and training is ongoing; workshops have also taken place training staff in how to set up and facilitate Age Friendly groups, activities and events. Manchester Libraries is committed to supporting Manchester City Council becoming recognised as an Age Friendly Employer. We have supported staff who want to reduce their working hours or take flexible retirement and through open recruitment events we have recruited a number of new staff over the age of 55.

2.15 Equalities, Diversity, and Inclusion

Manchester Libraries are at the heart of the community and are welcoming and used by all and promote equality, diversity and inclusion.

In June 2021 Manchester Libraries received the accreditation of Libraries of Sanctuary. This award from the national City of Sanctuary organisation demonstrates that asylum seekers and refugees receive a warm welcome in our libraries. Our commitment to asylum seekers and refugees has again been shown with the welcome we have given to Ukrainian residents. We have Ukrainian language children's books in 3 libraries, several libraries have hosted Ukrainian information sessions and we took part in a celebration event in Cheetham Hill.

There are many other examples of libraries promoting equality and diversity across the service. The following are examples from Archives+ at Central Library

2.15.1 Disability

Young Creatives

Following on from last year's project in which young disabled people learnt about the Disabled People's Archive and produced and delivered creative performances at Contact MCR, Greater Manchester Coalition of Disabled People (GMCDP) were successful in their funding application to extend to a second project. Archives+ are supporting this again throughout 2023, working in close partnership with GMCDP and Contact MCR.

International Day of Disabled People (IDDP) 2022

Tying in with "Our Year 2022", young disabled people from the Young Creatives project were invited to lead on the planning, organisation and delivery of our celebration event for IDDP which took place at Central Library on 2nd December 2022. In the lead up to the event, Archives+ and GMCDP held hybrid sessions with these young people to discuss what important issues they would like to include at the event, which artists they would like to invite to perform and how they would like the event to be delivered. The event was compered by Anis Akhtar, one of the curators of the "Nothing About Us Without Us" exhibition at the People's History Museum. Artists included Dennis Queen, disability activist/singer-songwriter, neurodivergent young people from the "Changeling Project", a creative writing group, and a classical

music trio with Ilana from the "Young Creatives". With speeches by GMCDP staff members and support from Manchester City Council Equality, Diversity and Inclusion team, the event was a huge success.

Students with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND)

Building on our close connections with local colleges, Archives+ have delivered a number of workshops to SEND students, utilising the fantastic resources in the archive collections to discuss and share Manchester's rich history. In addition to these workshops, Archives+ have also provided student placement opportunities for SEND students in our "Digital Journalist" volunteer role, digitising the Town Hall Photographers' Collection. A new exhibition displaying highlights from this photographic collection is currently in the main exhibition hall at Central Library. Students have gained many skills on these placements including confidence in visiting the city centre and improved communication skills. Workshops will continue throughout 2023.

2.15.2 LGBTQIA+

Working closely with volunteers from the LGBT Foundation, archive handling sessions were held to promote the collections during Pride Month (August 2022) and Transgender Awareness Week (November 2022). An exhibition of items from the Transgender collection was curated by one of the Archives+ apprentices and these were displayed to coincide with Transgender Awareness Week.

LGBTQIA+ themed family crafts are planned for February half term during LGBT History Month, plus the LGBT Foundation will hold a handling session and are working closely with the North West Film Archive to potentially make a call out for material from our communities to tie in with the theme this year "Behind the Lens". Also, during LGBTQ+ History Month, the "Legacy of '67" exhibition will be launched at Central Library. This project will illuminate the stories and histories of LGBTQIA+ people before and after the partial decriminalisation of homosexuality in 1967.

2.15.3 Race

To celebrate Black History Month, Manchester Libraries commissioned the Ahmed Iqbal Ullah Race Relation Resource Centre and Education Trust (AIURRRC) who curated a resource pack on Carnival History, delivered workshops with local historian Linford Sweeney for adults, families and children/young people, and held a Carnival Party celebration event, with dance, music, spoken word and lots of fun! Library staff received training from AIURRRC, prior to delivering Carnival History workshops in branch libraries citywide. Archives+, working closely with members of the wider MCC staff team, invited Manchester Carnival elders involved in setting up the first carnival in Manchester to share their memories of past carnivals at a carnival showcase event. Carnival performers, dance troupes and costume designers joined in the celebration and members of the local community shared photographs from their own collections to build on the carnival archive held in

Archives+. We plan to utilise the new additions to the archive to share widely this important community led Manchester history.

2.16 Culture and Creativity

2.16.1 Manchester's libraries are an important part of the city's cultural and creative infrastructure, often providing access to a first cultural experience. The Central Library's cultural programme, Library Live, is complemented by three libraries badged as Creative Spaces – North City, Longsight and Wythenshawe Forum. The cultural and creative programme has been developed through several successful Arts Council England funding grants, establishing strong relationships with the city's cultural organisations and groups and supporting library staff's skills and confidence in programming creative events.

2.16.2 Alongside the busy events calendar delivered by library staff, such as cultural festival days, Sunday Fundays, school holiday crafting, author events etc, the cultural programme provides access to other high quality creative experiences and opportunities on residents' doorsteps, as well as an introduction to the citywide offer. The cultural programme is delivered in partnership with the city's cultural organisations and artists, supported and informed by library staff.

2.16.3 During 2022 libraries have worked hard to re-invigorate the 'live' cultural and creative programme following the pandemic as a priority to re-connect and engage with residents in celebratory and communal events. The libraries are essential element of the city's Culture Covid Recovery Plan as safe, local spaces for people and culture to re-engage. Here are some examples of activity that has taken place over the last year.

2.16.4 Fun Palaces returned to libraries in October 2022, with events at North City, Longsight, Forum and Central Libraries. Fun Palaces are a national initiative, part of a campaign for community at the heart of culture and culture at the heart of communities. They are intergenerational, celebratory community events that champion everyone as artists and scientists. Activities were provided by local artists, organisations and groups with an emphasis on sharing skills, socialising and having fun! All the Fun Palaces were packed with an amazing, diverse range of activities and refreshments. A selection includes: poetry writing inspired by Moston and Harpurhey, making bags and bunting with the Anamika Cultural Group, a Black History Postcard activity with artist Tina Ramos Ekongo, crafting with Afrotots, music with Brighter Sound, drama, dancing, drawing, archives and much more. Nearly 1,500 attended the Fun Palace events, with great feedback from people running the activities and participants.

[I learnt that] *"everyone can be a poet"!*

"It was such a lovely atmosphere and so many people told us how much they and their families had enjoyed things"

"Just wanted to congratulate you all on a fantastic fun palace!!"

2.16.5 After their a four-year partnership in Cheetham and Crumpsall, with much activity taking place at Abraham Moss Library, the Royal Exchange's Local

Exchange programme began in Beswick, Openshaw and Clayton this summer. Local Exchange is a long-term programme, which sees the theatre take up residency in communities across Greater Manchester, building upon existing partnerships, developing new connections and bringing together people, places and artists to cement long-lasting relationships with the communities. Beswick Library is a key partner in the programme and as well as holding regular creative session for young people and adults in the library, staff are supporting the theatre to make local connections and networks – including recruiting Local Exchange Ambassadors to help shape the programme.

- 2.16.6 Manchester Libraries are members of Big Imaginations, a network of organisations working together to bring excellent children’s theatre to the North. The network is led by Z-Arts and receives Arts Council, England funding. Proud and Loud’s, Shadow Girl Origins was a new play about a girl with a vivid imagination, incorporating Makaton sign, it is an adventurous show about friendship, growing up and discovering what it means to be brave. Proud and Loud worked with Big Imaginations and the libraries to create a versatile and atmospheric show adaptable for non-traditional theatre spaces. The play was written by Chrissy Jones, a Manchester based artist living with a learning disability and long-term member of Proud and Loud. Shadow Girl Origins sees her work expand and develop to reach wider audiences, specifically young people. Chrissy wants to provoke a positive discussion about learning disability with a wider public audience. The play was seen in May/June 2022 by an audience of 150 at Beswick, Forum and Central libraries.
- 2.16.7 When Another Dragon Roars, a play with outstanding puppetry and distinctive storytelling was about a mum and boy learning emotional resilience and how stories help us figure out a complicated world. It was first programmed by libraries for schools on zoom during the Spring term in 2021 and returned for 2 live performances last November.
- 2.16.8 Following the Manchester Hip Hop Archive exhibition at Central Library during the summer of 2021, the archive has been submitted to Archives+. These resources will be a major element of Manchester Hip Hop Archive’s education programme, building on pilot delivery to 18 schools during 2022. The Manchester Hip Hop Archive is the first archive for the Hip Hop movement in the United Kingdom. It is dedicated to telling the untold story of Hip Hop in Manchester, collecting and verbal, visual, audio and physical documents, to curate a rich collection that authentically highlight the events, groups and individuals that contributed to the social and cultural phenomenon known as Hip Hop. The project is led by Unity Radio working with community curators, volunteers and partners, including Manchester Libraries and Archives+.
- 2.16.9 Manchester Libraries were finalists in 2 categories in the 2022 Manchester Culture Awards for their work as Libraries of Sanctuary with the Refugee Response Team offering engaging creative children’s activities, which also assisted with learning English and resettlement and for a rich, culturally

diverse programme for International Mother Language Day. The Manchester Hip Hop exhibition at Central Library was also a finalist for Best Exhibition.

2.17 Archives

2.17.1 Manchester Libraries manages the Greater Manchester County Record Office function on behalf of GMCA which holds records from across the city region. We manage two partnerships – The Archives+ partnership with colleagues at Manchester Central Library and the Greater Manchester Archives and Local Studies Partnership with the nine other GM Local Authorities.

2.17.2 In recognition of the quality and popularity of Archives+ and the library, Manchester Central Library was designated the Northern hub for the 1921 Census, meaning people have had completely free access throughout 2022 when all other people needed to pay. Since becoming available in January, over 300,000 1921 Census records have been viewed for free, that would have otherwise been charged for. A launch of the Greater Manchester rate books and electoral registers project with Findmypast is planned for during May's Local and Community History Month – this new resource will make thousands of indexed family history archives accessible online for free at Greater Manchester archives and libraries for the first time. The Manchester & Lancashire Family History Society Helpdesk has been extremely busy throughout 2022. Over 4500 customers have been assisted compared to 3500 pre-pandemic.

2.17.3 The National Lottery supported Unlocking Our Sound Heritage project at Archives+ digitised over 4,500 at-risk sound recordings from around the North West Region. A selection of these recordings will be published at a new British Library website scheduled for launch in 2023. These include oral histories and radio shows from Bolton, Manchester, Oldham and Tameside which provide fascinating insight into lives of residents between the late nineteenth century and the present day. A successful two-year £22.5k Networks for Change bid was made by Archives+ to the National Archives in summer 2022 which will create a new network to improve skills, equipment and awareness of sound heritage around the North West.

2.17.4 Using capital funds, the Archives+ exhibition area is being overhauled to ensure it is sustainable for the next seven years. The film pods are being transformed into Sound and Vision pods which will feature sound archives for the first time alongside the films. This includes Unlocking Our Sound Heritage archives and Manchester Voices material – an MMU project that explored the accents of Greater Manchester.

2.17.5 A great example of contemporary collecting is the tributes left at the Marcus Rashford mural in Withington. Following the European Championships Final in July 2021 the mural was defaced. In the following week the mural was covered in messages of hope and support from local residents and visitors from across the country. We worked with Withington partners to gather the messages which are now held at Archives+ alongside the tributes left at St Ann's Square after the death of Queen Elizabeth II. The three-year project to

catalogue and make accessible the Disabled People's Archive in partnership with the Greater Manchester Coalition for Disabled People is progressing well and has made important disability archives available online in a variety of formats for the first time and has contributed archives to the high-profile "Nothing About Us Without Us" exhibition at the People's History Museum – more information in the Equalities, Diversity and Inclusion section in 2.12.

2.18 Manchester City of Literature

2.18.1 One of the library service's key partners is Manchester City of Literature. The report in Appendix 10 gives an overview of the commitments to UNESCO and the benefits the designation brings; the governance model for Manchester City of Literature, the independent organisation that coordinates the designation, and its vision, achievements and impacts for residents, local writers and for international initiatives. It also shows how high-quality community celebrations such as Festival of Libraries have impacted on wellbeing and engagement for residents (59.7% reported improved wellbeing; 37% will visit their libraries more often and 47% will encourage other people to visit and use libraries). It shows how Manchester City of Literature has generated an additional £250K+ of external investment in literary activity in the city and supported and created new partnerships. It shows how Manchester is contributing to the UNESCO Creative Cities Network and the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

3.0 Recommendations

The Committee is asked to note the contents of this Report, and consider the draft vision for libraries.

4.0 Appendices

- Appendix 1 Vision for Libraries (Draft)
- Appendix 2 Digital Inclusion Action Plan 2023
- Appendix 3 Libraries Children and Young People's Offer
- Appendix 4 Integrated Authority 2022 Summer Reading Challenge Report
- Appendix 5 Images of Z-Arts Children's Library
- Appendix 6 Manchester Libraries Age Friendly Pledge
- Appendix 7 Supporting Businesses – BIPC and Build A Business
- Appendix 8 Performance in 2022
- Appendix 9 Infographics showing libraries performance in 2022, Summer Reading Challenge, first 2 months as warm spaces
- Appendix 10 Manchester City of Literature update

Appendix 1 – Our Vision for Manchester Libraries 2023 (Draft)



OUR VISION FOR
Manchester Libraries 2023



 The possibilities are endless
manchester.gov.uk/libraries

Manchester Libraries

the beating heart of
our communities



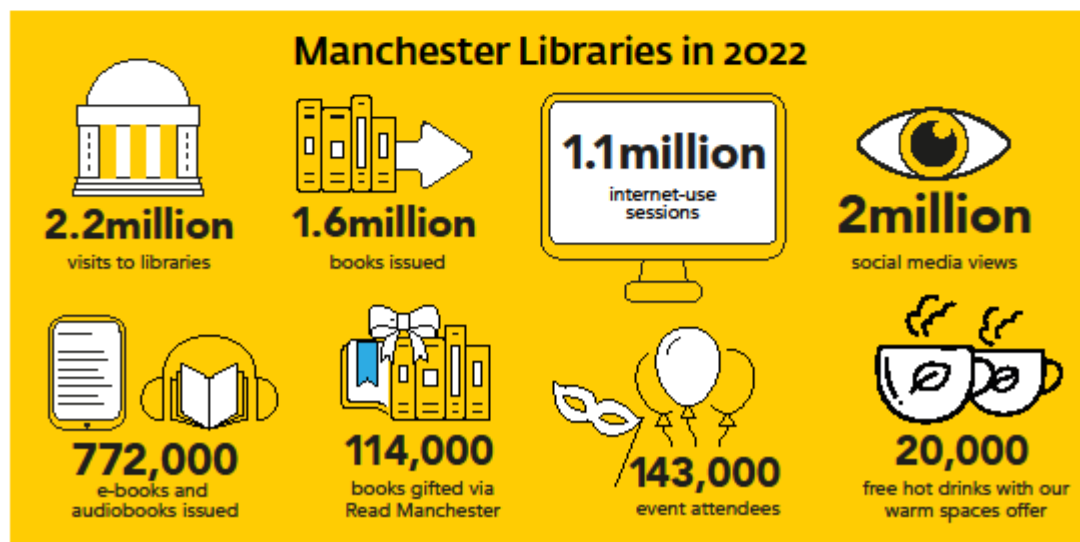
Manchester Libraries and Archives Service deliver leisure, cultural, learning and information services through a network of neighbourhood libraries, community partnership libraries and the internationally renowned, world-class Central Library – one of the most visited public libraries in the country – HMP Manchester Prison library and Books to Go for housebound people.

People are at the heart of everything at Manchester Libraries. Each library helps to make its neighbourhood a vibrant place and serves the whole community, offering a warm welcome to all. Our high-quality buildings have received investment of several million pounds in recent years and are high-quality buildings that enable a fantastic service to be delivered.

We want everyone to get the most from our libraries. In recent months people have been facing a cost-of-living crisis that will last for months and possibly years to come. Libraries are helping Manchester residents more than ever. They provide welcoming spaces that improve people's lives by offering a free service for all in the community, as well as a warm welcome, support and resources. We have recently abolished fines for late returned books.

There are so many reasons to use libraries, including:

- A vibrant, exciting and diverse events programme for all ages
- Book stock that promotes reading for pleasure and literacy
- High-quality Internet, Wi-Fi and printing at each library
- A skilled workforce, dedicated to offering an excellent service to customers.





The library is a place of refuge to me – a world of knowledge, with the latest books to read and fantastic events.
Forum Library customer



Our priorities for the next five years

Our Manchester, Our People

Our libraries will continue to focus on people, helping to make our neighbourhoods great places to live and Manchester a world-class city.

We will:

- Be neighbourhood venues where local residents are welcome, can talk to people and be helped by skilled hospitable staff
- Provide a warm welcome to all, helping people to live side by side, and be Libraries of Sanctuary
- Be fully accessible, increase opening hours through Open+, and deliver books to people who are housebound
- Support people's skills and job prospects
- Increase engagement with young people
- Support local businesses and start-ups through the BIPC and other projects
- Implement the Green Libraries Manifesto, contributing to Zero Carbon
- Continue to invest in high-quality buildings – refurbishing libraries and outreach venues
- Support safer and stronger communities and thriving neighbourhoods
- Tackle poverty and social exclusion, combating disadvantage.



The library stops time and noise, broadens my mind, and it makes me explore and discover new things. It excites my little boy and he feels happy. I love my library because it's always there.

Central Library customer

Literacy and reading

Reading remains at the core of our library service. Literacy is key to life chances.

We will:

- Run Read Manchester as a National Literacy Trust Hub
- Provide access to books for all ages, in all formats, including ebooks and books in different languages
- Ensure that libraries and archives stock represents our diverse communities
- Run Storytimes in every library
- Manage Bookstart
- Engage with schools, running class visits
- Run the Summer Reading Challenge
- Gift thousands of books to children
- Support book clubs
- Host book festivals, eg. Chorlton Book Festival, Manchester Literature Festival
- Work with the Shannon Trust to improve prisoners' literacy
- Work in partnership with Read Easy, improving residents' literacy.

Digital inclusion

Our libraries provide free, high-quality access to Wi-Fi and the internet, and help residents with their skills and confidence.

We will:

- Provide drop-in and structured learning and skills sessions
- Support residents with specific initiatives, eg. parking permits, voter ID
- Provide higher-level skills sessions through the Business and IP Centre
- Seek opportunities to provide free data and devices for residents
- Continue to provide and improve services and resources online that are available 24/7.

Culture and creativity

Our libraries are neighbourhood cultural and creative spaces where people can enjoy creative activities and events on their doorstep.

We will:

- Programme vibrant, diverse and exciting events, accessible to all ages, including International Mother Language Day, Festival of Libraries and Fun Palaces.
- Encourage and foster creativity and participation for all ages
- Widen access and opportunities by partnering flagship organisations, such as Factory International, HOME, and Royal Exchange Theatre
- Run Holiday Activity Fund sessions
- Host exhibitions
- Bring archives and local history to neighbourhood libraries and Central Library
- Present Library Live, Central Library's cultural and creative programme.

Health and wellbeing

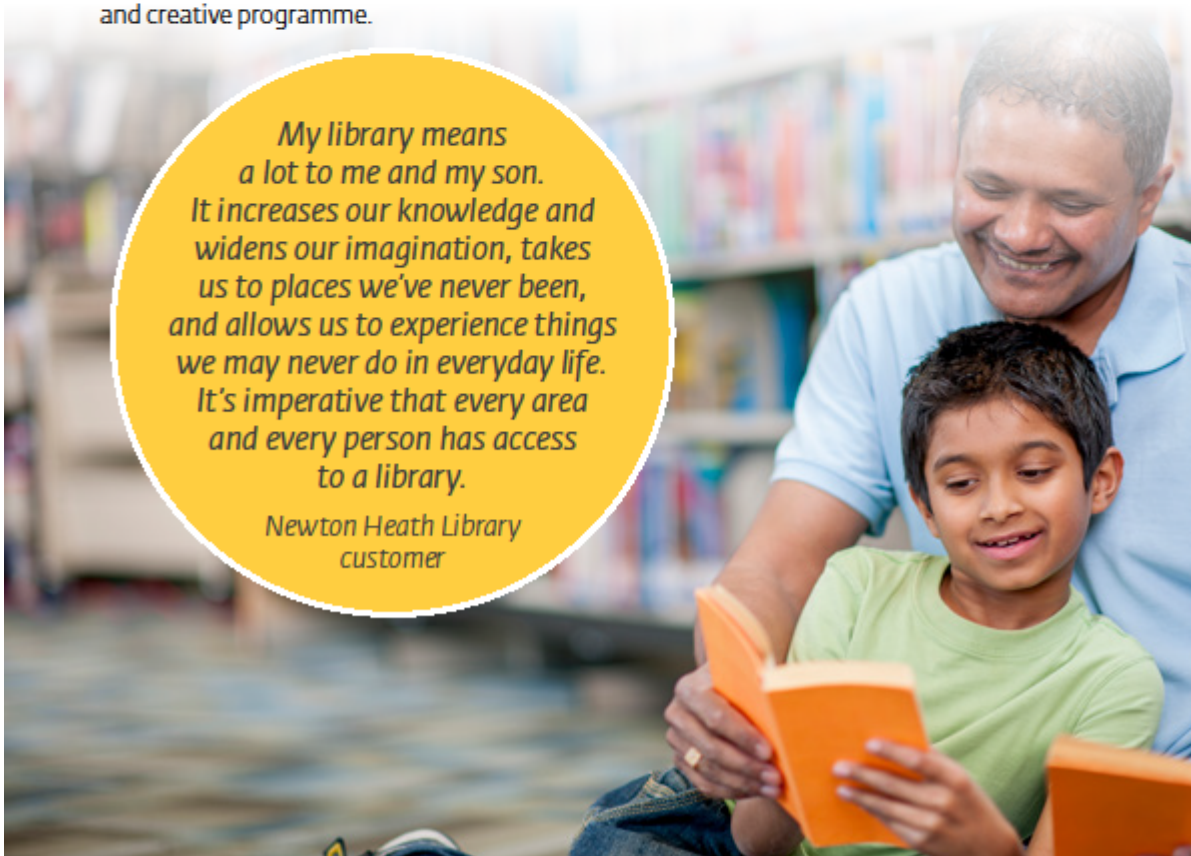
Using our libraries makes people feel better.

We will:

- Encourage people to use our safe, warm, free spaces, helping to reduce loneliness and make people feel better
- Be Age Friendly libraries
- Run social clubs, reading groups, coffee mornings
- Provide access to health information in the library and online and through signposting
- Provide and promote health books and books that improve wellbeing
- Host organisations that support people's health
- Increase the number of volunteers
- Be a trusted ear to residents
- Increase people's pride in their local area through archives and local history.

My library means a lot to me and my son. It increases our knowledge and widens our imagination, takes us to places we've never been, and allows us to experience things we may never do in everyday life. It's imperative that every area and every person has access to a library.

Newton Heath Library customer





"Manchester Libraries are extremely popular, well-used and well-loved, and we take pride in helping to make people's lives better. We will continue to improve our services in the future, including our online resources."

Councillor John Hacking – Executive Member for Skills, Employment and Leisure, and
Councillor Adele Douglas – Deputy Executive Member for Skills, Employment and Leisure

If you have any questions about this vision, or any of its contents, or want to make suggestions or comments on how we can improve further, email libraries@manchester.gov.uk

Appendix 2 – Digital Inclusion Action Plan 2022

DIGITAL INCLUSION ACTION PLAN OVERVIEW							
Purpose: All Manchester residents are supported and enabled to become and remain digital citizens - who are regular and confident online users.							
KEY OBJECTIVES				EXPECTED OUTCOMES			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evidencing the challenge of digital exclusion faced by residents across the city. Listen to more residents who have been identified as most likely to be digitally excluded, to gain a better understanding of their challenges and motivations. Support community organisations to create stronger pathways into digitally excluded communities, sustain their delivery and enable residents to access further learning and employment opportunities. Support more residents to access the internet through coordination of data and kit schemes and initiatives. Better promote the benefits of engaging with digital and remaining online. 				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strong local knowledge base to influence the Manchester Digital Strategy, including a clearer understanding of what motivates residents to 'go online'. More residents can access the internet and are supported to build their confidence and digital capabilities. Community organisations are supported to reach and positively engage residents to be online. More residents understand the benefits of going online and engage in digital in a way which benefits them most. Coordination and centralisation of partnership working to bridge the digital divide. 			
WORKSTREAMS							
Lets Get Digital Branding and Campaign	Improving data-led decision-making and measuring impact	Community or organisations growing and sustaining DI provision	Sustaining and adapting the MCC Led Digital Access Scheme and Telephone Skills Support Service	Strengthening access to Digital Health, Wellbeing and Care	Increase access to devices, data and skills	Placemaking – working with SH tenants to shape their neighbourhoods	MCC priorities e.g. Future Council, RBDxP, HS2, Victoria North, Cost Of Living, Refugees, MMF, Electoral ID
Ongoing campaign, including monthly newsletter, and branding to be used by stakeholders.	Digital Exclusion Index led by PRI Open Data Manchester research	Digital Inclusion Working Group Key stakeholders – DIWG, feed into Digital Skills Network (DSN)	Managed by the Libraries team with support from the Work and Skills team and MAES Key stakeholders – MHCC, One Manchester, Food Poverty team, CAM	Led by MHCC supported by the Work and Skills team Key stakeholders – GM integrated care	Led by Libraries team, supported by Work and Skills team Key stakeholders – MAESPP, MAES	Led by the Digital Strategy team and the DI team Key stakeholders – social housing tenants, SH providers, ISPs	Led by the Work and Skills Team and the Libraries team Key stakeholders – RBDXP, Resident at Risk, Future Shape, MMF

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Appendix 3 – Libraries Children and Young People’s Offer

For all Ages

- Books to borrow for all ages, promoting reading for fun, improving literacy and helping with homework. Books that appeal to all communities, and are inclusive reflecting our communities, and bringing in a wider range of authors, poets and illustrators from Black, Asian and ethnic minority backgrounds
- Free Internet and Wi-Fi
- Events and activities programme including opportunities to meet authors, poets and illustrators, and national literacy events such as Harry Potter Book Night, Empathy Week, World Book Day
- Libraries as venues for other cultural offers e.g., Manchester Literature Festival
- Gifting of books and magazines to tens of thousands of children via schools, Surestart and foodbanks

0-5 Years

- Bookstart pack gifting for babies
- Storytimes in all libraries. The child’s first welcome to the library and to engage in cultural activity, including stories in Spanish and French and sensory storytimes at Central Library.
- Lego clubs at 6 libraries

5-11 Years

- Annual Summer Reading Challenge to address the dip in reading over the summer holidays
- Educational visits from schools at all libraries, to allow children to experience the library, borrow books and research topics
- Time to Read packs for reception class children
- Family Book Trails in parks and links to Little Free Libraries

11 – 18 Years

- The Transition Read gives a book to every year 6 pupil to support the move up to high school.
- Holiday Activity Fund sessions at 6 libraries for 10-16 year olds
- Educational visits from schools at all libraries, to allow children to experience the library, borrow books and research topics
- Youth activities and reading groups and STEM clubs
- Youth library facility at Moss Side Powerhouse, and young people only sessions at Arcadia Library and Hulme High Street Library
- Study space at all libraries
- Campaigns to promote wellbeing including Take 10 and Reading Well collections
- Volunteering opportunities, such as Duke of Edinburgh, Literacy Champions, Archives

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Appendix 4 – Integrated Authority 2022 Summer Reading Challenge Report

Integrated Authority 2022 Summer Reading Challenge Report

Manchester Libraries took part in the extended cross-authority pilot in 2022, having been one of the first Local Authorities to pilot this approach in 2021. The cross-authority pilot involves local authorities working collaboratively across teams/services to deliver the Summer Reading Challenge. In Manchester's case, Education funded and supported the pilot approach with fifty primary schools which signed up to be involved. Thirty-seven out of the forty schools involved in 2021 took part again, with thirteen new schools signing up.

The offer to schools

Pupils in the pilot schools were automatically joined to the Summer Reading Challenge and resources were delivered into schools for them to distribute to pupils. Additionally, children who were not already library members were automatically joined to the library. Given that the vast majority of schools had been involved in the 2021 pilot, the number of children joining as new members in 2022 was much smaller (6,472 v. 15,725 in 2021).

A Data Protection Impact Assessment was undertaken to ensure the secure transfer and handling of data from Education to the Library Management System. The transfer took place under 'Legitimate Interest', meaning that parents/carers were offered an 'opt-out' rather than an 'opt-in' to the scheme.

Children from non-pilot schools were also able to join the Challenge in their local library as part of a universal offer. Both pilot and non-pilot schools were offered a suite of Summer Reading Challenge engagement sessions. These ranged from library staff speaking at school assemblies to in-person and online meet-the-author sessions and Summer Reading Challenge launches in libraries. In total 16,870 children from 59 schools (both pilot and non-pilot) participated in these engagement sessions.

Statistics

The Library Management System is used to record participation in the Challenge. Any books that were read but not borrowed from Manchester Libraries will not be included in the results.

	Pilot	Non-pilot
Primary schools	50	93
Number on roll	20,700	38,253
Number joined Challenge	21,203	1,509
Number completed (read at least 6 books)	1,754	1,006
Number completed as % of pupil population	8%	3%
Total loans	25,790	12,813
Number of children borrowing at least one book	3,098	1,373
% children borrowing at least one book	15%	4%
% children borrowing a book during Challenge and up to 7/12/22	16%	
% schools involved in Challenge library sessions before school holidays	52%	35%

What is the impact of the pilot approach?

Manchester's approach is unusual amongst Local Authorities in that the Library Management System is used to record book borrowing for the Challenge. While this provides exact book borrowing data, it does not pick up any reading engagement that may have taken place in school or at home with non-library books. Headline data shows:

- Pilot school children constitute 35% of the primary school population, yet borrowed 67% of the books
- 28 of the 35 top performing schools for Challenge completers (read 6 books or more) are pilot schools
- 14 of the 16 schools with 10% or more of their pupils completing the Challenge are pilot schools
- 35 of the 50 schools have 10% or more of their children actively borrowing books (up to 7/12/22). This has increased from 31 schools who had 10% or more of children borrowing books during the Challenge period which ended on 18 September

The challenges of the pilot approach

The data shows that more children from the pilot schools completed the Challenge than children from non-pilot schools (8% v. 3%). However, these completion figures are lower when compared to overall completion figures pre-pilot. Pre-pilot, over 60% of children joining the Challenge would go on and complete (read 6 books or more). During the two years of the pilot, these figures have dropped to 24% in 2021 and 20% in 2022. This is not unexpected given the scale of the pilot approach.

The data also shows that children joining the Challenge in the Library (rather than via their pilot school) are more likely to go on and complete the Challenge. These children are more likely to be regular library users already, so joining the Challenge and borrowing books is already part of their regular routine.

The challenge in any future work will be to continue to engage with schools and convert Summer Reading Challenge joiners into active library users.

Proposed integrated approach 2023

Libraries will continue to monitor book borrowing by children from the pilot schools and be pro-active in working with these schools as part of the ongoing school engagement programme.

Education has once again agreed to fund an integrated approach to delivery and the same fifty schools will be invited to take part again. In 2023, automatic library card membership will not be offered, but the vast majority of children will already be library members from previous pilots. It is expected that in-depth targeted work will take place with six schools, with a particular focus on parental/carer engagement with the Challenge.

Appendix 5 – Z-Arts Childrens Library, opened in November 2022



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Appendix 6



Manchester Libraries – Age Friendly Pledge

We are Age Friendly

Manchester Libraries have committed to a Set of Age Friendly Library Standards which clearly defines the level of service older people can expect from their library.

Our Age Friendly Manchester Libraries offer the following commitment to older people using our service. **We will:**

1. **Ensure you feel welcome.** Our staff will ensure your visit is a safe, enjoyable and positive experience. Services inside the library will be well signed for better wayfinding. This is your Library, please do let us know how we can help you.
2. **Encourage Social Engagement.** We offer a diverse range of activities, some are aimed specifically at older adults. Our libraries are comfortable places in which to sit, socialise and enjoy the company of others.
3. **Be accessible.** Our libraries are well lit and clutter free with no services only accessible by stairs. We will pay attention to the needs of those with mobility issues by offering: supported access through doors, flooring that is even and clutter free and an accessible counter service.
4. **Have places to sit.** You will find a sufficient range of seating throughout each of our libraries and we will ensure seating is always available near entrance points where you may need to rest or await transport.
5. **Offer volunteering opportunities.** We want to hear about the skills you have that you want to share with others.
6. **Have large print books, talking books and e-books.** We will ensure our stock is age appropriate and meets the broad needs and tastes of Manchester's diverse communities. We will promote our Books to Go Service to those not able to get into the library.
7. **Support you with your computer use.** Our staff and volunteers will patiently support those who need additional IT support. Our "IT Drop Ins" are designed for new users. We will work with partners to offer additional IT training.
8. **Provide information.** Where we cannot support you with your enquiry we will signpost you to someone who can help.
9. **Display leaflets and posters.** We know how important access to information is. We will keep our notice boards up to date and relevant. They will be easy to see and interact with. We will promote our activities across the community.
10. **Have toilet facilities including accessible toilets.** These will be checked regularly for cleanliness and supplies.

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Appendix 7 - Supporting Businesses – BIPC and Build a Business

Business & IP Centre Greater Manchester

The Business and IP Centre in Central Library continues to support local businesses across the city and in 2022 offered more activities and support than ever before:

- Over 650 one to one sessions, workshops and events
- Over 4000 attendees in person and online

The BIPC GM is the most attended centre outside of London. In fact, in the first 3 months of 2022, attendance exceeded the BIPC London, representing almost a quarter of the entire national network's audience. Within the first six months we had exceeded our annual target by 35%.

38% of attendees are planning to start a business, with the most popular sectors being Creative & Media (12%), Retail (15%) and Education/Healthcare/Social (19%).

Supporting diverse audiences & communities

The BIPC Manchester performs strongly in engaging minority groups traditionally harder to reach:

- 57% of new business owners supported by the BIPC were women (women represent only 22% of business owners across the UK)
- 33% of users come from BAME backgrounds

In Q2 of 2022, 65% of attendees were Women, and 50% from a BAME background.

Examples of events in the last 12 months include:

Women Talk Business!

This speed mentoring event during International Women's Week gave female entrepreneurs a chance to meet role models, other businesses, and potential mentors.

Olderpreneurs: starting your business over 50

Partnering with Work and Skills, the BIPC delivered this webinar in August discussing the challenges of starting a business later in life as well as the rewards. The event was so successful that it was followed up with a similar in-person event as part of Global Entrepreneurship Week in November.

Black Creatives:

Celebrating Black Creatives in Business

The BIPC has worked extensively with Cultureville, a Manchester-based, award-winning fashion brand specialising in handcrafted clothing and accessories featuring bold African wax prints in contemporary designs. Cultureville's journey to date has been supported by the BIPC particularly in the areas of digital marketing & product showcasing.

On Friday 28th October, over 100 people attended a glamour-infused fashion show featuring Cultureville and other design houses. The magnificent Shakespeare Hall in

Manchester's Central Library was transformed into a spectacular setting featuring models, designers & a DJ.

Cultureville were chosen by the British Library to take part in their national marketing campaign. This included posters across the UK, digital advertising, and a Video On Demand trailer shown on Sky TV. They were also selected to be one of only 3 businesses across the national network to take part in a new national ad.

New Experts in Residence:

Malcolm Garrett MBE has been appointed by the BIPC as an Ambassador for creative small businesses and entrepreneurs in Manchester. The world-renowned designer behind iconic artwork for Buzzcocks and Duran Duran amongst many others is promoting the Centre to the region's creative small businesses and entrepreneurs.

"The BIPC is an incredible resource for entrepreneurs, start-ups and SMEs from across GM which offers information services, business support and opportunities to learn from other entrepreneurs. I am excited and honored to be supporting the BIPC in its mission to give start-ups and small businesses the strongest start and help local SMEs to innovate and grow. Being an Ambassador plants my feet more firmly within the Manchester creative business community."

Garrett is also co-founder of the annual Design Manchester festival, now in its eighth year and was awarded an MBE in 2020 for services to design.

Vic Elizabeth Turnbull: Podcaster in Residence

On International Podcast Day (30th September) we announced our latest expert by welcoming our new Podcaster in Residence: Vic Elizabeth Turnbull the founder of podcast production and training social enterprise MIC Media.

Vic has been offering workshops on all aspects of podcasting, including how to start a podcast, interviewing techniques & recording and editing. She will be helping small businesses to think about how to use the format to get noticed in this competitive field and to stand out from the crowd. Vic says:

"I am thrilled to be working with the BIPC as their new expert in residence, giving everyone the opportunity to amplify their voice and share stories through top-quality audio. I am excited to be able to help more people unlock the power of podcasts and couldn't be happier than to be doing just that here at the Centre."

The BIPC's Podcasting Studio is a successful addition to services and has proven very popular, offering free access to a range of high quality equipment.

Intellectual Property

IP is important to all businesses, regardless of size, but particularly for anyone in the creative industries (including freelancers). Manchester PATLIB (operating from the BIPC) is part of a European network of more than 300 Patent Information Centres

(the "PATLIB Network") and makes an important contribution to innovation support. The UK Patent Library Network provide users with local access to patent, trademark, designs and copyright information. The dedicated enquiry service continues to receive a high volume of IP related enquiries, answering almost 700 IP enquiries in person, by phone or email from November 2021 to October 2022.

The BIPC's ERDF part-funded business support programme, Build A Business in GM Libraries, continues to provide workshops, one to one help and access to industry standard business information giving participants the skills and know how to launch or grow their business.

The core programme offers 12 hours of intensive workshops to help residents to plan, develop and grow their business idea. Manchester is the lead authority of the project, with the BIPC as the hub. Build A Business is due to end in June 2023, however additional funding is being sought due to it's success across the Combined Authority. To date:

- Delivered over 150 workshops across 8 authorities
- 700+ attendees
- 68% of attendees are Women
- 45% BAME
- 97% rated Excellent / Good (84% Excellent)

Rachel Craig from local city centre business Ruche Marketing:

"After deciding to set up a creative content agency in Manchester, specialising in legal marketing, we were unsure of where to start. We found the Build a Business course online and had no idea whether it would be of benefit to us, but it most definitely was.

The first part of the course, "Know Your Market - Get Competitive" was extremely useful, providing information on the range of research tools and databases provided by the library and guidance on how to access them.

During the IP session we discovered we had a number of assets to protect, things that we'd never even thought of. As well as giving us insight into our intellectual property, it also provided us with guidance on how to go about protecting them. The final part of the course was provided us with much needed advice on how to legally set up our business and the appropriate business structure for us.

What was really helpful about attending all three of these courses was meeting other entrepreneurs in a similar position as us. We were all able to share stories and insight into what we'd learned so far. Overall, the course was extremely valuable, and we would highly recommend it to anyone thinking of starting their own business."

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Appendix 8 – Manchester Libraries Performance 2022

Appendix 8.1 Manchester Libraries Performance 2022

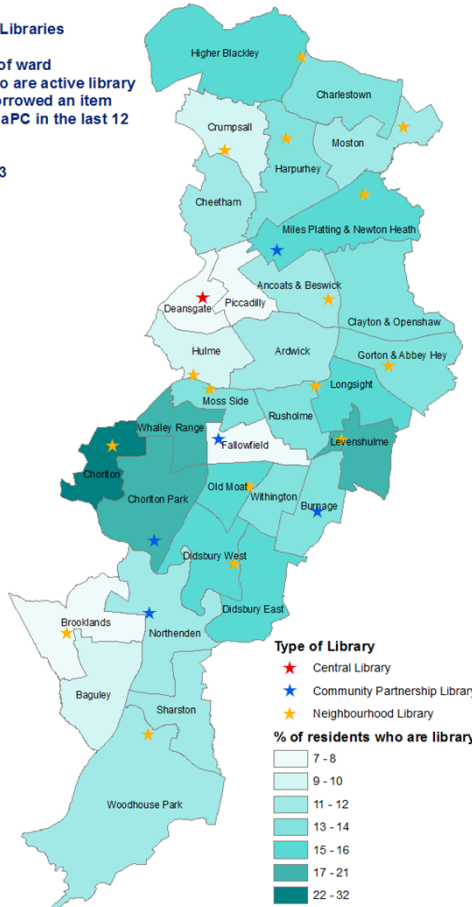
2022	Visits	Loans	PC Usage (hours recorded)	Wi-Fi (authenticated sessions)	Education Session (participants)	Events and Activities (attendees)	Active Members (borrowed stock and/or used PC)
CITY-WIDE							
Online/Telephone	-	200,981	-	-	-	-	140
Ebook/audiobook	-	944,268	-	-	-	-	-
Books to Go	-	36,815	-	-	699	-	426
Outreach (non library based sessions)	-	-	-	-	48,560	7850	-
BRANCHES							
Abraham Moss	13,736	15,265	1,718	-	1,374	1,453	4,495
Arcadia	110,817	30,798	8,258	23,819	493	1,831	3,198
Avenue	35,700	21,223	5,983	1,865	873	5,575	2,803
Barlow Moor	2,023	1,648	547	1,978	-	34	118
Beswick	13,067	10,876	3,382	7,732	635	2,112	2,217
Brooklands	14,686	14,803	2,946	2,253	721	3,752	1,173
Burnage	12,746	11,438	491	1,063	1,162	2,590	1,166
Central Library	1,181,898	100,595	105,990	368,881	2,801	46,160	32,569
Chorlton	104,344	76,789	7,863	3,897	3,431	7,442	11,790
Didsbury	64,107	55,842	3,920	6,283	146	4,425	5,140
Fallowfield	56,486	6,505	7,187	636	403	2,023	1,556
Forum	103,839	39,253	13,539	7,267	1,711	14,751	5,390
Gorton	42,432	18,988	7,365	2,320	1,178	3,083	3,083
Hulme High St	104,510	18,272	8,672	7,865	-	2,303	1,970
Longsight	137,277	43,816	24,649	6,283	5,060	10,578	6,997
Miles Platting	5,151	2,610	630	124	132	1,467	385
Moss Side Powerhouse	16,239	11,881	7,673	3,686	-	3,221	1,329
New Moston	2,860	1,961	605	871	298	424	458
Newton Heath	31,920	13,226	4,952	1,424	810	5,860	2,315
North City	47,569	20,208	10,808	8,758	595	5,183	3,518
Northenden	4,821	4,310	792	439	-	1,819	297
Withington	74,417	39,234	10,355	16,608	447	8,569	4,783
Branch Totals	2,180,645	559,541	238,325	474,052	22,270	134,655	96,750
Total (including City-Wide)	2,180,645	1,741,605	238,325	474,052	71,529	142,505	97,316

Appendix 8.2 Number and Percentage of residents who are library members – January 2023

Manchester Libraries

Percentage of ward residents who are active library members (borrowed an item and/or used aPC in the last 12 months).

January 2023

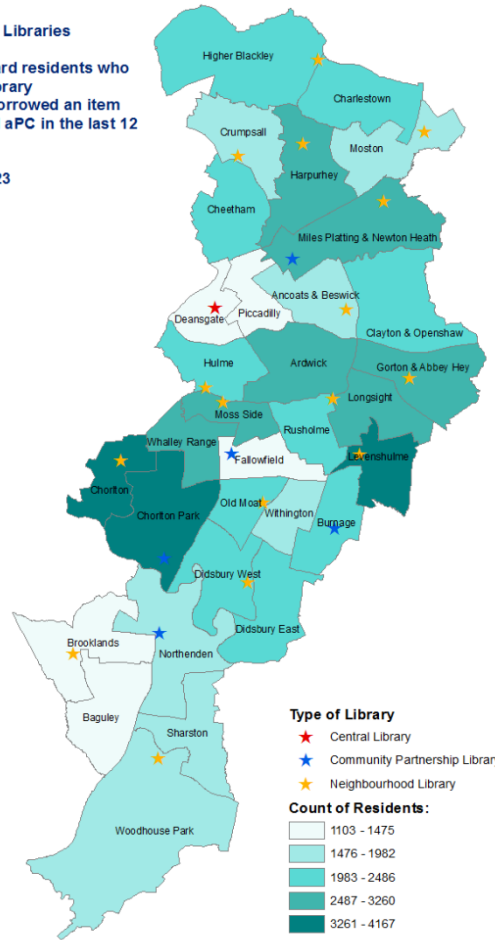


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Manchester Libraries

Count of ward residents who are active library members (borrowed an item and/or used aPC in the last 12 months).

January 2023



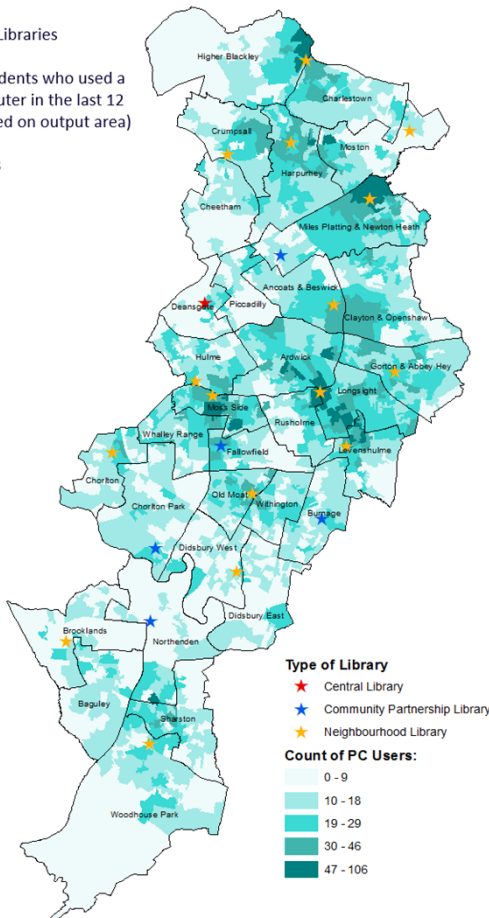
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Appendix 8.3 Library computer users compared to Index of Multiple Deprivation

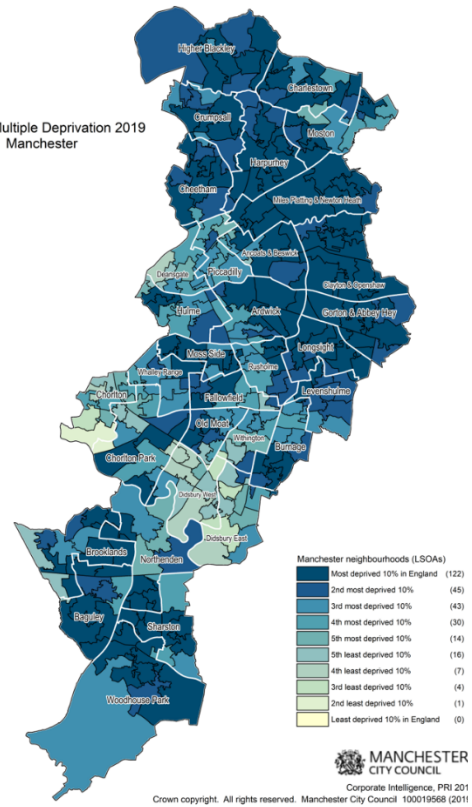
Manchester Libraries

Count of residents who used a library computer in the last 12 months (based on output area)

January 2023



Index of Multiple Deprivation 2019
Manchester

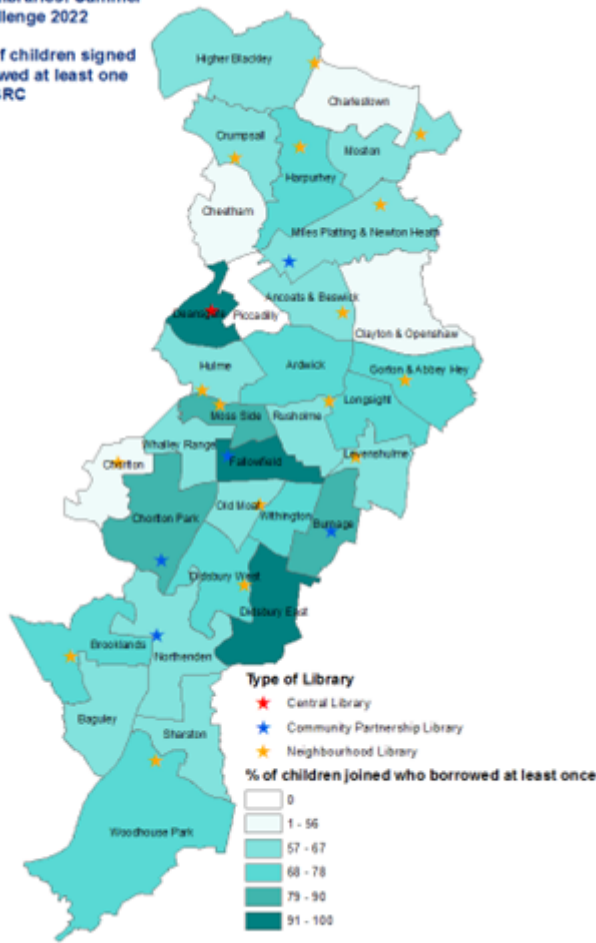


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Appendix 8.4 Summer Reading Challenge 2022: Number and Percentage of children borrowing at least one item of stock during the challenge

Manchester Libraries: Summer Reading Challenge 2022

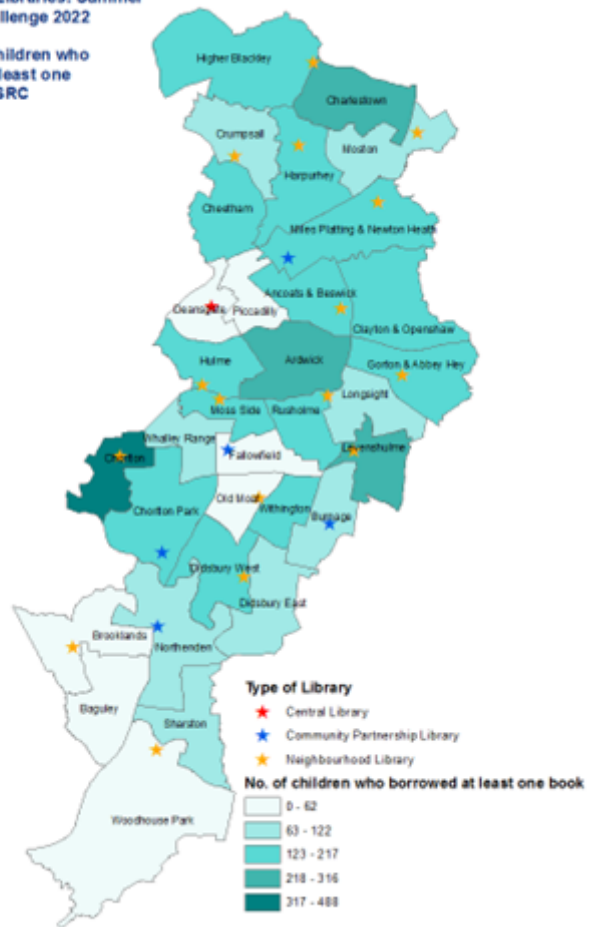
Percentage of children signed up who borrowed at least one book during SRC



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Manchester Libraries: Summer Reading Challenge 2022

Number of children who borrowed at least one book during SRC

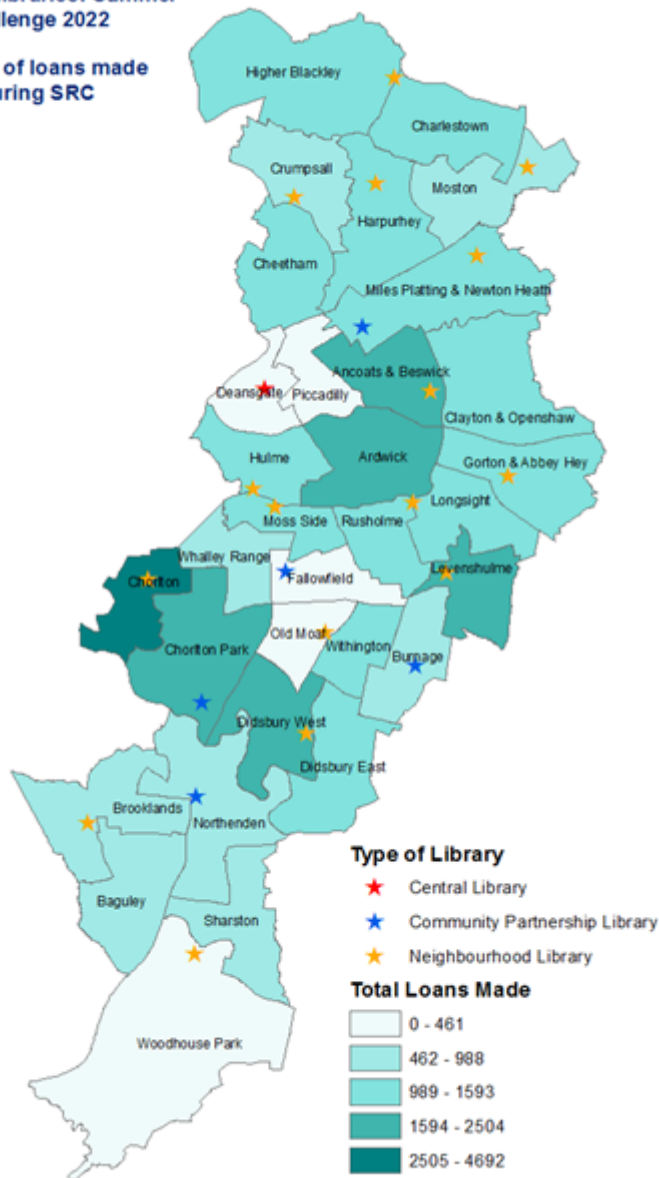


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Appendix 8.5 Summer Reading Challenge 2022: Number of loans made by children during Summer Reading Challenge

Manchester Libraries: Summer Reading Challenge 2022

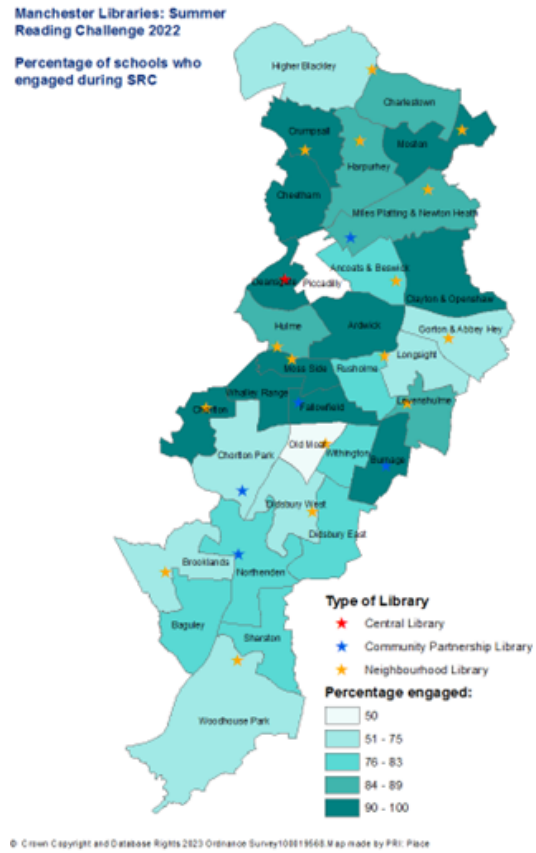
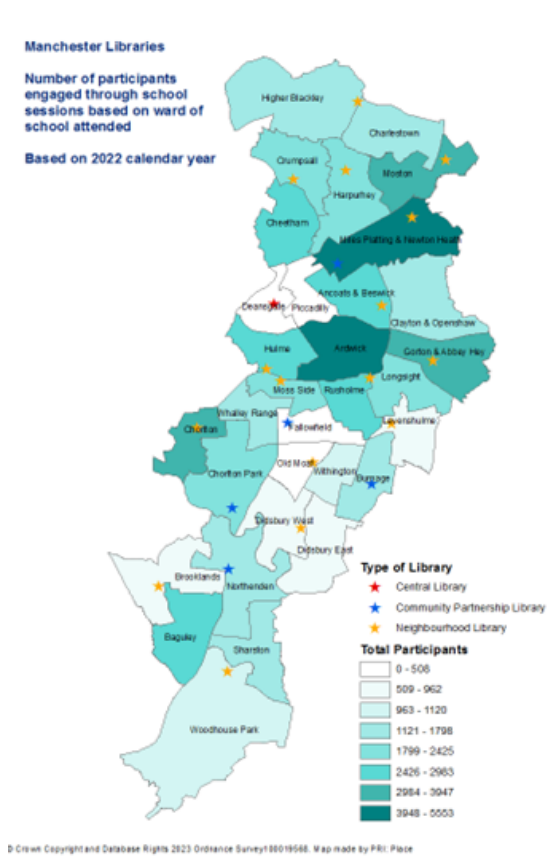
Total number of loans made by children during SRC



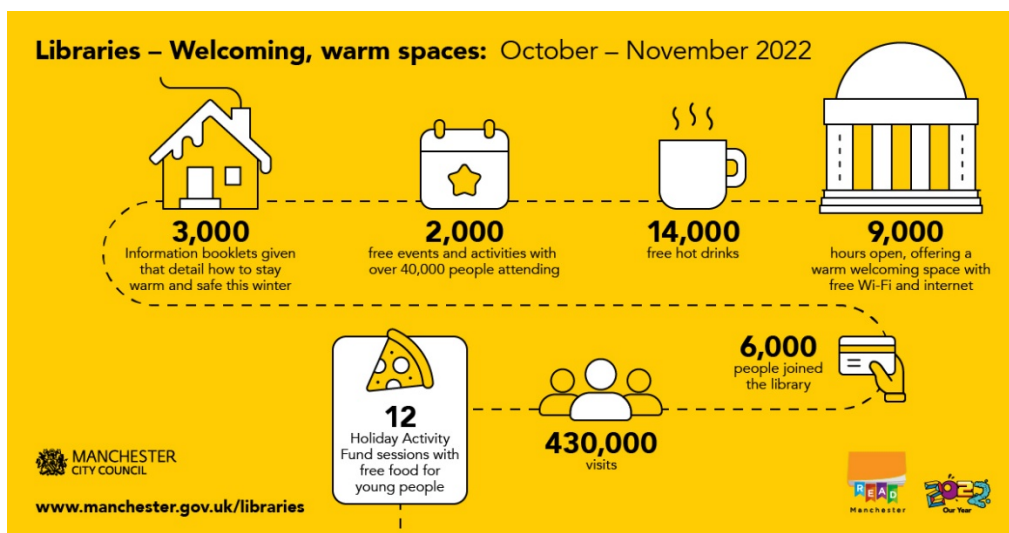
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Appendix 8.6 – Number and children attending class visits

Appendix 8.7 – Percentage of schools engaged with the summer reading challenge



Appendix 9 – Infographics



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Appendix 10 – Manchester City of Literature update

Background to Manchester City of Literature

31 October 2022 was the fifth anniversary of Manchester being designated a UNESCO City of Literature. Manchester's successful application to become a UNESCO City of Literature was led by Manchester City Council, The University of Manchester and Manchester Metropolitan University (the 'Commissioning Partners'), working with a range of literature sector partners from across the city.

The new independent organisation established in 2019 to coordinate the designation became a registered charity in 2020.

The designation, which is awarded to Manchester City Council in perpetuity (subject to successful review every four years), brought Manchester into a global network of (now) 290 UNESCO Creative Cities across seven creative fields: literature, design, crafts and folk arts, media arts, film, music and gastronomy. There are (now) 42 Cities of Literature across six continents.

Commitments to UNESCO

Member cities of this UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN) recognise the value - economically, socially and environmentally - of placing creativity and culture at the heart of their sustainable development. The City Council retains a key role in the realisation of the UNESCO designation, including a commitment to UNESCO to strengthen participation in cultural life and to integrate culture into city strategies to meet the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This global plan for a sustainable future where no one is left behind shares many features with Our Manchester and policies such as the Council's Family Poverty Strategy and Our Manchester Industrial Strategy.

The Council was the lead applicant to UNESCO for the designation in 2017 and will retain responsibility as the official holder of the designation in perpetuity.

The UNESCO designation links with a range of other strategic priority areas and Executive Member portfolios, including but not limited to: international; skills development; children and families; economic development; social inclusion; and community cohesion.

Now the charity is established City Council officer level involvement has changed from a leadership and initiation role towards grant monitoring to safeguard our investment; partnership working on shared priorities and initiatives; and support for the Council's representative on the Board.

Manchester is required to attend two international conferences with other Creative Cities each year to share the city's best practice and exemplar creative projects on sustainable development. At the Annual UNESCO Conference, attendance by a senior political figure from the city is required. In 2022, Cllr Rahman spoke in Santos, Brazil at this global forum about the Our Manchester strategy, linguistic diversity and libraries as community and creative hubs. The cost of travel was paid for by Manchester City of Literature.

Manchester submitted its first Membership Monitoring Report to UNESCO in late 2021 covering 2017 to 2021. Following peer and expert review, UNESCO rated Manchester's Report as EXCELLENT in all relevant categories. It is exceptional for a city to receive the highest score for its first Report.

Benefits

Whilst there is no funding attached from UNESCO, the designation and active participation in the UCCN is already bringing a range of benefits to the city for example:

Raised profile of the city and its cultural offer regionally, nationally and internationally;
 Raised profile of the city's publishing sector and related creative industries, attracting new businesses and inward investment;

A stronger voice in policy development on the international stage, and opportunities for sharing best practice, with regards to culture and sustainable development;
 Development opportunities for local residents and cultural organisations such as international artist exchanges and residencies;

Increased potential to lever new funding into the city for cultural activity, including work that promotes literacy

Vision and Governance Model for Manchester City of Literature

Manchester City of Literature's vision is to create *an innovative, distinctive, equitable, globally connected city of reading and writing, where diverse voices are celebrated, creative talent and industries are nurtured and where literary activity changes lives.* The ambition is for Manchester City of Literature to be owned by the whole city, with literary organisations empowered to develop and promote Manchester's literary and cultural offer through a consistent but diverse collective voice and shared branding. Manchester City of Literature has already helped support, connect and add value to existing activity; encouraged partnership working and joint fundraising; raised the profile of the sector; ensured the city's active participation as a member of the UCCN; and enabled Manchester's diverse range of voices to be represented and celebrated, with everyone in the city benefiting from the designation.

The values that underpin the designation are:

Distinctive – creating distinctive cultural experiences inspired by Manchester's unique, radical character and rich cultural heritage whilst looking to the future;
 Inclusive – celebrating the rich diversity of voices in the city, building on the strengths of Manchester's people and widening participation in literary activity;
 Transformative – developing skills, nurturing creative talent and transforming lives;
 Connected – linking and supporting literary activity and enabling collective advocacy for Manchester's literary community and international collaborations;
 World-leading – a beacon for high quality, culturally democratic, truly diverse literary activity.

A Board of Trustees oversees the work of Manchester City of Literature and ensures it delivers its charitable objectives and obligations to the Commissioning Partners. Following an open recruitment process, Manchester writer Zahid Hussain was appointed as the first Chair of the Board. Each of the Commissioning Partners nominate a trustee for the Board: currently Cllr Luthfur Rahman for Manchester City Council; Professor Sharon Handley for Manchester Metropolitan University; and Professor John McAuliffe for the University of Manchester. They are joined by 7 Community Trustees selected via open recruitment.

There is a staff team of three (two FTE): Ivan Wadeson, Executive Director; Reece Williams, Community Engagement Manager; and Del Derrick, Partnerships and Communications Manager (maternity cover for Jo Flynn). Freelance project staff are engaged for funded initiatives such as Festival of Libraries.

Manchester City of Literature works with and through a partnership network of over 30 organisations including HEIs, publishers, writing agencies, libraries, festivals and booksellers.

Manchester City of Literature Project Activity

Manchester City of Literature highlights the city's literary and cultural strengths to local residents and to global stakeholders. Through programmes and projects it amplifies the city's strong history of literary expression and free speech, its linguistic diversity, its world-class literary education, its vibrant creative industries sector, its innovative spirit and its ambition to ensure more people engage with culture than ever before. A selection of these projects include:

International Mother Language Day (IMLD)

IMLD is an annual celebration of cultural and linguistic diversity. Since 2018 over 12,000 adults and young people have engaged with IMLD events created by partners including Manchester Libraries, Manchester Metropolitan University, University of Manchester, Community Arts Northwest, Instituto Cervantes and Comma Press. The programme of IMLD events for February 2023 has just been announced and can be viewed [here](#).

Multilingual City Poets

To further promote Manchester's linguistic diversity, three Multilingual City Poets were appointed in February 2021 to create new poetry in English, Urdu, Arabic and Spanish. To date poems have been created [about Manchester's languages](#) for World Poetry Day, about [the John Rylands Library](#) for Festival of Libraries and about Manchester's history of protest for Manchester Literature Festival.

Festival of Libraries

This is a unique Festival in the UK that celebrates the role of public, heritage, specialist and medical libraries. The first festival was in 2021 with a mixture of socially-distanced and online events. 2022 was fully in-person with 98 events across the five days of the Festival in all ten boroughs of Greater Manchester.

Footfall in libraries during the 2022 Festival was 27,764 and 3,518 people attended individual, bookable in-person events.

The independent evaluation showed 95.5% positive rating of events for enjoyment, that 63.4% gained new knowledge; 59.7% reported improved wellbeing; 37% will visit their libraries more often and 47% will encourage other people to visit and use libraries.

“Was lovely to go to an event with my little boy (age 7) and see him listening and wanting to ask questions and making links – very inspirational, I will certainly look for other events we can attend together.”

Community Champions

Since 2020, our Community Champions pilot work has successfully used a community-led model to engage people from marginalized groups with literature, reading and writing. It empowers participants to improve their lives and communities through art and creativity. Over 20 community sessions have been delivered to build stronger communities with the Black Caribbean Pentecostal community in Moss Side and Hulme; with young South Asian women in Longsight and with families in Mostyn and Harpurhey. The Community Champions programme is now engaging African Caribbean NHS workers and their families to celebrate the 75th anniversaries of the NHS and Windrush in partnership with MMU.

Opportunities for Writers and Artists

Manchester City of Literature has supported 20+ Manchester writers to take part in international projects or residencies developing their work, profile and connections. Some residencies are only open to writers resident in a UNESCO City of Literature. Events like Festival of Libraries have created over 100 paid opportunities for writers, illustrators, musicians and artists since 2020.

Growing Publishing in Manchester

Manchester City of Literature has played a brokerage role to integrate London trade publishers setting up Manchester offices within the local ecology. Commercial publishing giants Hachette and Harper North are now active members of the partnership network alongside local and long-established independent publishers such as Carcanet and Comma Press. This together with the new MA in Publishing at MMU promotes Manchester as a growing force in UK publishing.

Securing Additional Investment

Manchester City of Literature has been highly effective at leveraging investment into Manchester’s literary sector. In just two years, Manchester City of Literature has secured over £240,000 of new investment into literary activity from Arts Council England, National Lottery Heritage Fund, British Council and corporate sponsors. Working with the University of Manchester and MMU has secured a further £150,000 of investment from the Arts and Humanities Research Council for literary and community projects in the city during 2023.

Global Profile and Influence

Manchester City of Literature representatives have represented the city in global showcases in person in Iowa City, Krakow, Fabriano, Nanjing, Reykjavik, Santos, Melbourne, Milan & Aarhus. Manchester has led other UNESCO Cities to participate in IMLD including Tartu, Angoulême, Reykjavik, Slemani, Dunedin and Kuhmo. Gothenburg, one of the newest Cities of Literature, has created Multilingual Gothenburg, a programme modelled entirely on the learning and practice shared by Manchester.

Check out the unexpected

Discover a world of events, culture and creativity at your local library

Festival of Libraries

15-19 June 2022

#FestivalofLibraries
manchestercityofliterature.com

Check out some of our 14 winners of the look for a book competition held by @MCCityLit!

And here's the lucky recipient! Picked with permission from mum. Thank you @FestivalofLibraries @MCCityLit @manchestercityofliterature



Manchester's Multilingual City Poets: Ali Al-Jamri, Anjum Malik and Jova Bagioli Reyes

Films of 'This Here; by Anjum Malik [2 minutes and 43 seconds]

In Urdu: https://youtu.be/JAdjpbP_Siw

In English: <https://youtu.be/7JONG6IL8pg>

In Arabic: <https://youtu.be/OoWKzX5kV1E>

In Spanish: <https://youtu.be/tm3cy3fTlgU>

**Manchester City Council
Report for Information**

Report to: Communities and Equalities Scrutiny Committee – 7 February 2023

Subject: Manchester Sport and Physical Activity Strategy 2022 Annual Update

Report of: Strategic Director (Neighbourhoods)

Summary

This report highlights the annual (January to December 2022) progress that has been made in the development and achievement of the Manchester Sport and Physical Activity Strategy (MSPAS) which includes an update on the strengthened governance arrangements of MCRactive and identified areas of focus for 2023. An update has been provided against the refreshed strategic themes of the strategy (Appendix 1) that were endorsed by Executive in September 2022; the amends were made to respond to the cost-of-living crisis and climate emergency and to ensure that the city builds back fairer from the impacts of the global pandemic and remain on target to deliver a sustained increase in participation levels.

Recommendations

The Committee is recommended to:

- (1) Consider and note the progress made on delivering against Manchester Sport and Physical Activity Strategy during 2022.
 - (2) Endorse plans for the Publication of the Refreshed Strategy in 2023.
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Wards Affected: All

<p>Environmental Impact Assessment - the impact of the issues addressed in this report on achieving the zero-carbon target for the city</p>
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<p>Theme 8 of the Sport and Physical Activity Strategy, 'Contributing to a Zero Carbon City' directly contributes to this theme. MCRactive will continue to work with partners to support Manchester in accelerating its efforts to encourage all residents, businesses, and other stakeholders to take action on climate change.</p>

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

<p>As part of the Strategy, MCRactive has added the following to ensure we instill EDI within our work practices: Champion an unrelenting emphasis on diversity, inclusion, skills, and behaviours, to open up and increase volunteering and employment opportunities for people from a broader range of backgrounds and experiences. MCRactive continues to ensure a broad appeal of sport and physical activity and to recognise and overcome barriers to participation.</p>
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Manchester Strategy outcomes	Summary of how this report aligns to the OMS/Contribution to the Strategy
A thriving and sustainable city: supporting a diverse and distinctive economy that creates jobs and opportunities.	The Sport and Physical Activity sector is a key economic driver within the city not only as an employer, but also in attracting inward investment to underpin a wide range of key sectors in the city.
A highly skilled city: world class and home-grown talent sustaining the city's economic success.	The Sport and Physical Activity sector provides significant opportunities for training, development, apprenticeship programmes and volunteering. This contributes meaningfully to employment within the Manchester economy.
A progressive and equitable city: making a positive contribution by unlocking the potential of our communities.	MCRactive is at the core of neighbourhoods and creates significant opportunities for all communities within the city to engage actively and energetically.
A liveable and low carbon city: a destination of choice to live, visit, work.	MCRactive has made a strong commitment to environmental sustainability through investment to modernise the estate. This is embedded within the management of the existing estate and the plans for refurbishment. The recent inclusion of a new theme focussing on how the sector addresses the global climate emergency further embeds this in our work
A connected city: world class infrastructure and connectivity to drive growth.	The Sport and Physical Activity sector has over the last twenty years already invested significantly in new assets that have helped drive the City's growth agenda.

Full details are in the body of the report, along with any implications for:

- Equal Opportunities Policy
- Risk Management
- Legal Considerations

Financial Consequences – Revenue

There are no specific or additional revenue consequences arising from the adoption of the refreshed Strategy.

Financial Consequences – Capital

There are no specific or additional capital consequences arising from the adoption of the refreshed Strategy.

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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.

- Report to Scrutiny – Sport and Physical Activity Strategy 5th December 2019
- Communities and Equalities Scrutiny Committee - Sport and Physical Activity Strategy, 5th December 2019.
- Communities and Equalities Scrutiny Committee - Manchester Sport and Physical Activity Strategy Update and Proposed Refresh, 6th September 2022 and Report to Executive 14th September 2022.
- Communities and Equalities Scrutiny Committee - Manchester Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sport Strategy Update Report, 11th October 2022 and Report to Executive, 16th November 2022.

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 In May 2018, the Council Executive approved the establishment of MCRactive and a Sport and Physical Activity Strategy for the organisation to deliver against was launched in 2019. In addition, new arrangements were put in place to manage Manchester Indoor Leisure stock. A refresh of the Strategy was approved by Executive in September 2022, this reviewed the strategic priorities and themes to determine how best to adapt and respond to the challenges faced by the sector, including the climate emergency.
- 1.2 Over the past 12 months there has been significant progress in the development and achievement of the strategic themes of the strategy. Despite the many challenges, officers have worked to recover from the covid pandemic, have attracted new world-class sporting events to the city, forged new relationships with health partners, secured investment and progressed a number of capital schemes, and have further advanced a one stop digital platform for residents to find activity across the city.
- 1.3 This report summarises the annual (January to December 2022) progress that has been made in delivering to the Manchester Sport and Physical Activity Strategy (MSPAS). An update has been provided against the refreshed strategic themes of the strategy that were endorsed by Executive in September 2022.

2.0 Annual Report - Progress on Manchester Sport and Physical Activity Strategy

A summary against each strategic theme is set out below.

2.1 Theme 1 – Encourage Residents to Move More

- 2.1.1 Increasing regular activity for all people falling short of the recommended levels contributes to improved health outcomes. The remit of this theme is to encourage residents to move more, particularly those with poor health. A range of pilots and affordable place-based approaches to tackle inactivity with residents and communities have been delivered over the past 12 months. Collaborative partnerships have been forged and funding secured to deliver engagement programmes with a focus on addressing health inequalities in targeted neighbourhoods encouraging residents to move and have provided inclusive opportunities and support for those who need new or different ways to take part, removing barriers which has increased access.
- 2.1.2 MCRactive have worked closely with partners across Greater Manchester where collaborative work has resulted in increased investment and participation into walking and cycling – two priority focus areas identified during consultation when setting the strategy. With raising inflation and a cost-of-living crisis impacting on disposable income, it is imperative now, more than ever that localised free or low-cost provision such as walking, jogging running, cycling and park-based activities have and will continue to be prioritised.

- 2.1.3 **Walking** - In partnership with the Canal and Rivers Trust (CRT), MCRactive have provided walking workshops to Manchester groups to build their skills and knowledge and to support them to establish walking activities. Following the success further workshops are planned in future. The GM Walking Festival was held in May, approx. 30 walks were held in Manchester (provided by 25 groups and organisations). In addition, two VCSE groups have received Manchester Moving (Local Pilot) funding to deliver walks in Manchester. Wythenshawe Scout group delivered a six-week hiking challenge over the summer holidays which engaged families (396 people in total), the funding supported them to purchase walking boots and waterproofs which were loaned to families as this was a barrier identified to residents taking part. New Leaf Foundation delivered 14 weekly nature walks, attended by 45 adults in Manchester Parks including Debdale, Philips/ Clayton Vale, Crumpsall, Crowcroft, Platt Fields, Didsbury, Old Moat, Alexandra and Heaton Park.
- 2.1.4 **Cycling** - MCRactive works closely with Cycling UK, promoting their funding opportunities to our health and community contacts and co-investing into their evidence-based Big Bike Revival programme, which has funded groups in Manchester. A mixture of new and established groups have been funded including Bee Pedal Ready, Station South, Chit Chat Chai and Communities for All. MCRactive continues to challenge and influence our partners to look at more low cost, affordable activity at a local level. An example is a recent agreement with British Cycling to employ a new full time community cycling coach for the city, who will be able to undertake out-reach sessions in local communities, bringing all the equipment needed. ACES Europe (a not-for-profit organisation) have introduced an inaugural European Capital of Cycling Award 2024. In recognition of the importance of cycling not only as a way to be fit and active that is accessible for all, but also as a sustainable transport solution, Manchester has submitted an expression of interest to be awarded the new prestigious title as it offers lots of opportunities for the city and can be used as a catalyst to fast track our cycling ambitions.
- 2.1.5 The Physical Activity and Movement team has been testing new ways of working throughout the year. The team has worked alongside non-traditional partners such as GPs, link workers, and social prescribers to design targeted health and well-being interventions for small cohorts. The success of these interventions has been due to the multi-agency person-centred approach and the inclusion of community providers as equal stakeholders.
- 2.1.6 In December the TUPE of the PARS (Physical Activity Referral Service) was completed. This will bring together and expand the pathway to support for residents with long term conditions, thus improving their health outcomes.
- 2.1.7 The latest Active Lives Survey results were published in April 2022 and although it shows no statistically significant change (due to confidence levels on the data), the direction of travel seems positive and shows a very good recovery through 2021 from the pandemic. Whilst Manchester is still some way behind where it was pre-pandemic, the numbers of active residents are up by 2.4% (to 60.1%) and inactive residents are down by 3.1% (to 27%). Manchester is now only slightly behind the national average, which is

remarkable given the impact of the pandemic in Manchester. However, there is still more to do, continuing the journey of increasing active lives and widening access to tackle under-representation. The next data for Manchester will be released in the new financial year and the interventions above are hoped to contribute to an increased number of active residents.

- 2.1.8 A key focus on the messaging around the importance of movement, sport and physical activity continues to be a priority. MCRactive have been working closely with the council to ensure that physical activity features in Manchester's Building Back Fairer (Marmot) Framework to help build capacity and create the appropriate opportunities for residents to move more. MCRactive will continue to explore opportunities to create a pathway for Mancunians to move between any health system – be that advice, signposting, or referral – into physical activity. With a key focus on people living with health conditions, the ambition is to create an easy, simple patient journey, personalised and supported to increase their likelihood of being active and improve their health.

2.2 Theme 2 – Positive Experiences for Young People

- 2.2.1 **Our Year** - 2022 saw 'Our Year' bring much closer focus to the MCRactive's work with Children and Young People in the City, with the teams ensuring that they were at the forefront of future programmes and planning. MCRactive have been providing staffing and funding resources to enhance the offer for children and young people across the city. With 2022 being just the start of Manchester's commitment to become a UNICEF child friendly city this work will continue to be a priority.
- 2.2.2 **Coaching and Instruction** – Whilst all coaching and instruction programmes for young people at council owned leisure centres were heavily impacted by the pandemic, they have recovered well with patronage now at its highest levels to date, ahead of pre-pandemic levels across the city. There are currently 7,990 young people registered on swimming lessons and courses across the city. The growth of dry sports is slower than swimming with just over 600 participants on programmes including Tennis, Basketball, Gymnastics Squash and Athletics. There have been some challenges with coaching recruitment that is preventing the growth of some dry sport courses, however work is underway to address this.
- 2.2.3 **Education Swimming** – 148 schools are now receiving their regular swimming in leisure centres, 237 sessions a week have been delivered, supporting 10,989 pupils. Although the return to education swimming is positive, it should be noted that national curriculum attainment for swimming at key stage 2 remains 5% below pre-pandemic levels at 73% attainment. This is due to a number of factors including the impact of multiple lockdowns, during which schools did not swim meaning pre pandemic attainment is not directly comparable. Schools have been offered additional lessons and provided advice and support to reduce the impact on the affected pupils. In response to the cost-of-living crisis and to further support COVID recovery GLL (BETTER) and Everyone Active in partnership with MCRactive have recently launched an

offering of a 50% discount on swimming lessons for children in receipt of free school meals at all the Council owned swimming pools across Manchester – initial sign up has been strong.

- 2.2.4 **16 and Under Free Swimming** - The partnership continues to offer free swimming throughout all holiday periods and specific times at weekends at all pools for all school children aged 16 and under. Over the course of the year there have been 20,344 usages across the city. It is fully recognised that the annual figures presented are below pre pandemic figures across the board. Whilst there is some mitigation with a pool programme squeeze on the existing offer following the capital programmes at Abraham Moss and Manchester Aquatics Centre along with the introduction of an expanded free activity across the city to include the Holiday Activity Fund Programme. It is recognised that the Free Swim Offer needs to be reinvigorated. Working with operators GLL and Everyone Active a combined marketing strategy has been in place across the city utilising council assets such as advertisement boards and the school's network. Previous booking restrictions have also been lifted which enables children to access the pools without an online booking, which was highlighted as a barrier earlier on in the year. All marketing collateral has been amended to promote this change. MCRactive will continue to work with the operators on the offer to ensure there are no barriers to access and once the capital programme is completed a city-wide approach is taken to programming all pools to maximise the availability for the free-swimming initiative to access the offer.
- 2.2.5 Manchester hosts two Junior parkruns in the city, at Alexandra Park and Platt Fields Park, which are weekly free to enter 2km runs. An average of 100 young people take part weekly across the two runs with a cumulative total of 4,795 in 2022. MCRactive are working with local volunteers to look at expanding the number of junior parkruns that take place across Manchester, with an initial focus of an offering in the north of the city to be explored in 2023.
- 2.2.6 **Holiday Activities** – Holiday Activity provision has growth significantly with a focus on providing support for children and families eligible for free school meals, with funding secured from The Department for Education, allowing the delivery of enriching and inclusive activities alongside a healthy meal. This year, MCRactive commissioned over 140 providers to deliver the scheme and provided activities to in-excess-of 14,500 residents.
- 2.2.7 Discussions are ongoing to allow local Community organisations to use school facilities in the holidays for their Holiday Activity Fund (HAF) provision. Statistics for the October half term holidays are below (December figures are not available in time for this report).

	February HT 2022	Easter 2022	Spring HT 2022	Summer 2022	October HT 2022
Providers	21	74	16	115	33
Sessions	166	902	103	3,466	192
Engagements (visits)	4,954	20,621	2,588	81,847	7,555
Participants (unique)	1,765	5,925	1,092	14,572	2,780
Eligible for free school meals	-	86%	92%	86%	91%

2.2.8 The 'Active Streets' programme was restarted this year, bringing together services including waste and recycling, street cleansing and sport, 'closing off' 14 different streets in 12 wards, with nearly 600 adults and children enjoying activities from snakes and ladders to table tennis and swing ball, leaving a lasting resource for continued delivery by residents. This programme of activity continues to grow and evolve strengthening the offer and delivery with partners. After each event, all the relevant contact information in relation to the provision of support to local residents is provided as well as the loan of equipment to encourage regular engagement.

2.2.9 **Active Lives for Children and Young People** - The recent Active Lives for Children and Young People release, published in December 2022, shows that nationally there is a return to pre-pandemic levels in the proportion of children and young people meeting the Chief Medical Officer's (CMO) guidelines (a recommended average of 60 minutes or more of sport and physical activity a day). Whilst data for Manchester is currently unavailable, the report, which covers the 21/22 academic year, shows that the proportion of children and young people who are active has increased by 2.6% compared to 12 months earlier. There is also a positive association between activity levels and mental wellbeing, with higher scores for those who are active than those who are less active. The data also shows those from the least affluent families have lower happiness levels and are the least likely to be active, with only 42% meeting the CMO guidelines compared to 52% of those from the most affluent families.

2.3 Theme 3 - Active Adults Increasing and Sustaining Activity Levels

2.3.1 Ensuring that adults continue to stay active has never been so important. Localised activity sessions are prioritised in wards that do not have sports facilities or where travel may present a barrier to participation. MCRactive will continue to work with partners to increase sport and physical activity participation opportunities in communities who have proportionally less activity. MCRactive continues to engage with sports clubs and community organisations within localities across the city, building relationships and providing tailored support to each individual organisation. These organisations are now starting to come together across the three areas North, Central and South Manchester to form Community Alliances. The Alliances are led by the Neighbourhood Sport Officers within each of these areas, with a strong emphasis on being driven by the organisations within them. The broad object is to bring sporting organisations together to share ideas, work collaboratively and improve the sporting/activity offer.

- 2.3.2 The city's sports clubs are facing unprecedented times with the energy cost increase and the cost-of-living crisis which is extremely challenging. MCRactive is working closely with the clubs to ensure they can continue to offer sport and physical activity to our residents at free or a low cost. MCRactive plan to launch the Neighbourhood Sports Fund in 2023, which will directly target the impact that the cost-of-living crisis is having on families by granting clubs funding to offer reduced fees / free membership to Manchester residents who may not be able to pay. Several clubs have been doing this already using up their own reserves to support residents, however with rising costs that's clubs are facing the Neighbourhoods Sports Fund with further strengthen or start clubs to offer this financial support. In addition, MCRactive will also relaunch Champions Charter which will fund talented young people in sport. Coaches will also be able to apply for grants towards the cost of coaching courses which should help with some of the coaching shortages across the city.
- 2.3.3 Leisure centre usage continues to recover well which is positive for Manchester residents. Recovery has continued confidently in 2022, with health and fitness memberships at Wythenshawe Forum, Moss Side Leisure Centre and Whalley Range Sports Stadium now exceeding pre-covid closure numbers in 2019, with all other centres hitting between the 84% and 97% mark. Overall leisure patronage across the city in 2022 was 2,732,068 which is 86% recovery and encouraging considering there are 3 centres on the contract which are either closed or providing a severely reduced service due to refurbishment and rebuild capital projects currently taking place there.
- 2.3.4 The council's leisure operators are continuing to be supported to engage with residents to widen access and ensure that there is adequate provision for protected characteristic groups. Targeted programmes continue and are constantly reviewed to meet the needs of all residents. Across the leisure facilities there is a positive membership balance with female 51% and male 49% however, the overall usage by women is lower (43%) than male users (57%). Equally, when looking at the number of memberships held by Black, Asian, and other Minority Ethnic backgrounds this currently stands at around 42.2% of the overall membership, with usage for the same group sitting at around 61% of 2022 visits. This is an encouraging figure; it shows significant progress and reflects positively the cultural diversity of Manchester's population. It is important to note, however, approximately 18% of the yearly visits the users do not disclose their ethnicity. Where possible, leisure operators will continue to source missing data to strengthen the accuracy of the leisure member base data. Similar challenges exist when looking at data collected on users with a disability - around 3% of leisure centre members have declared that they have a disability. Whilst there are issues with under-reporting, the data does highlight that there is still more work to be done to include all residents.

It is also important to note that certain user groups will access the facilities and will book under a group name which will result in only the lead bookers details being collected for analysis. This is especially true for a variety of groups in all

under-represented groups, including women, people with disabilities and BAME user groups, and a difficult issue to address in the short term.

- 2.3.5 Manchester hosts five free weekly park runs which take place across five Manchester parks. MCRactive has been working closely with parkrun colleagues to support the further growth of these weekly 5km runs. A new parkrun will start at Phillips Park early in 2023 which will give even more residents opportunities to take part in free activity. From January 2022 to December 2022, 79,798 people took part in a Manchester parkrun.
- 2.3.6 The importance of Manchester parks as natural spaces was especially noticeable during the pandemic lockdown in particular with increased walking, running and cycling. Investment opportunities and legacy from events have been leveraged to increase opportunities for participation at a localised level, an example of this is the installation of seventeen non-turf cricket wickets at fourteen parks and playing fields as part of the legacy of the 2019 Cricket World Cup. Some wickets have already been activated and a community activation plan is being developed for the sites where additional activation is required. Plans will be shared with local members ahead of the start in the spring 2023. Park Tennis continued to grow using the online booking system for Alexandra, Chorlton, Fletcher Moss, Fog Lane, Platt Fields and Wythenshawe Parks, the council recorded 22,715 court bookings over the last 12 months and 2,765 newly registered players over the same period. (Note total court bookings in 2021 was 29,387 which was much higher than 2022 mainly due to the Covid pandemic and Tennis being one of the only sports available to play as lockdown restrictions were lifted).

2.4 Theme 4 - World Class Sport that inspires positive change

- 2.4.1 Positive progress continues to be made in cementing Manchester as a world class city for sport. The refurbishing of the 'House of Sport' at the Regional Arena on the Etihad Campus is nearing completion and is due to open in February 2023. Basketball England, British Taekwondo, England Lacrosse, England Netball (Regional Office), England Squash, Greater Sport and Manchester FA have all confirmed they will be taking up office space, joining the Rugby Football League in what we hope will become a world-renowned hub for sport administrative organisations, joining the likes of British Cycling and GB Taekwondo, who call Manchester their home. The city is now home to 14 National Governing Bodies and Sporting Federations, hosting national and regional performance centres that have strategic importance for the development of sport in the city. Athletes made and trained in Manchester are now dominating in national and international sport, including Athletics, Basketball, Cycling and Taekwondo. Each venue is open to the public to participate in a wide range of sport and physical activity. Bringing local communities into iconic spaces enabling them to try different sports and inspire the next generation of home-grown Manchester talent.
- 2.4.2 From an events perspective, Manchester's reputation as a world class sports city continues to strengthen. Manchester's venues are showcasing the very best events in track cycling, football, BMX, squash, speedway, taekwondo,

netball, athletics and basketball amongst many more. MCRactive played a critical part in the preparation of the 2022 Women's Euro Football tournament working with the Manchester based stadiums, fan zone creation and activation, alongside an extensive Legacy Programme, where the group secured investment of £100k+ to drive the women and girls' game. Successes included investment into a Women's Recreational Officer role, 9 female specific play centres established in Manchester (walking football, flexi league and refugee specific), 8 new recreational teams established, a new summer league established, a Manchester Women's Flexy League established with 20+ teams registered, a placement programme to support the Women's Euros legacy project with 8 HE student completing (one of which has secure full time employment with Manchester FA), delivery of a Female specific coaching and referring courses, a Football Festival delivered to over 500 women and girls participating. The unprecedented success of the Lionesses' will be a turning point in girls' football and MCRactive will continue to work to maximise the legacy of this fantastic achievement with local clubs creating a talent pathway to professional football.

- 2.4.3 Manchester was a host City for the Rugby League World Cup in October and November, with the Men's and Women's Finals taking place at Old Trafford and the Wheelchair Final at Manchester Central. The latter saw a record attendance of 4,500 spectators and live coverage on BBC TV, giving great exposure to one of the City's most iconic venues. For good measure, England claimed the World Cup title in what was lauded as one of the most inclusive sporting events in recent history.
- 2.4.4 In October, Belle Vue Sports Village hosted the two-day Inner-City World Cup Football tournament on its floodlit outdoor pitches. The event brought 24 amateur football teams from across Manchester, with players representing their country of origin in celebration of the rich diversity of the city. Expansion plans are in place for the event in Summer 2023 to engage even more communities.
- 2.4.5 The European Breaking (Breakdancing) Championships was also staged at Belle Vue, in November. The event saw the best breakers from across Europe come to Manchester and compete in what will be a new sport for the Paris 2024 Olympic Games and was broadcast live by BBC Sport. In partnership with colleagues in the Youth Service, there were eight Breakdancing coaching sessions delivered at the Manchester and Hideout Youth Zones prior to the event and we hope to build on this in the future. In-School breaking sessions will also commence in February 2023 in four primary schools, with further roll out following that. Due to the interest and demand, the ambition is to create coach education opportunities for local young people, which will ultimately give us an instructor workforce,
- 2.4.6 Looking forward, Manchester will host the World Paralympic Swimming Championships in 2023 at the newly refurbished Manchester Aquatics Centre, where 1,000 athletes from across the globe will try to secure their place at the Paris Paralympics. Manchester is part of the bidding process to be a host City for the Women's Rugby World Cup 2025, with games potentially to be staged

at the AJ Bell Stadium. Working closely with colleagues at Manchester City, the Council is part of the UK and Ireland bid for the UEFA European Football Championships in 2028.

2.5 Theme 5 – Active Place and Neighbourhoods

- 2.5.1 MCRactive continue to oversee and progress the approved capital programme through the design stages, with 14 capital projects live and in development and 5 projects completed in year. In the last 12-month period, there has been significant progress in the journey to modernise the Cities Indoor Leisure Facilities as part of a long-term transformational renewal programme to secure a sustainable future for our world class assets and wider community leisure estate. The approved programme includes the refurbishment of Manchester Aquatics Centre and National Cycling Centre, demolition and construction of Abraham Moss Library and Leisure Centre new build, and upgrade of the National Squash Centre to host new House of Sport Facilities for our National and Local Sport Partners. Facilities will be opened in a phased manner and available for community use from summer 2023. The investment will protect much needed services across our communities and growth programme into Leisure Facilities that will continue to drive the city's growth agenda and delivery of national and local sport priorities.
- 2.5.2 In addition, British Cycling opened their state-of-the-art wind tunnel in October. Housed at the Manchester Institute of Health and Performance on the Etihad Campus. The new facilities will support British Cycling to remain at the forefront of global Track Cycling for the next period; and a further £350k external investment has been secured to construct Greater Manchester first English Cricket Board (ECB) accredited indoor cricket hall as part of the Abraham Moss Leisure Centre Build.
- 2.5.3 In the last 12-month period, MCRactive have led the refresh of Manchester Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sport Strategy, in line with Manchester Local Plan. The Strategy aims to protect, provide, and enhance existing provision and will be used to guide future provision and management of outdoor sport facilities in Manchester City Council area. Manchester Play Pitch Outdoor Sport Strategy (PPOSS) report secured full sign off by Council Executive in December 2022 and is now a live Council document used to aid planning decision for development of playing field land; and to inform the need for developer contributions, and associated S106 funding to address local priorities. The Strategy will be delivered with partners with a vested interest in development and improvement of playing pitch and outdoor sport provision. All short-term facility priorities are identified in the Council's Leisure's Capital Programme, or currently being brought forward with external partners as set out below. At the same time, MCRactive is working with partners to bring forward a long-term investment plan to deliver the sport specific recommendations for action over the strategy period.
- 2.5.4 The headline position is there is a sufficient supply of grass pitches to meet current demand for most sports, with some shortfalls in rugby, football, and Gaelic Sports. The future position is there is projected shortfalls in most sports

and pitch types citywide. Shortfalls can be addressed through qualitative improvements to existing sites and converting existing grass pitches where there is capacity to do so. There are also recommendations to secure long term community use at school sites to protect existing use and support future growth.

- 2.5.6 For Artificial Grass Pitches there is a current shortfall of 3G pitches identified in South and Wythenshawe area that is proposed to be addressed from Hough End and Wythenshawe Park site, with plans underway. There is sufficient supply of all other artificial pitch types citywide.
- 2.5.7 The city has made some significant strides to deliver the PPOSS priorities over the last 12-month period. This includes completion of a citywide Non-Turf Cricket Wicket programme that has seen the installation of seventeen non-turf cricket wickets at fourteen parks and playing fields as part of the legacy of the 2019 Cricket World Cup. The England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) invested £200k into this project for Manchester parks and playing fields from Heaton Park in the north to Wythenshawe Park in the south. These wickets are ready for play whether its competitive team matches, casual friends and or families use. Artificial wickets extend the period of use you can continue to play and train well beyond the traditional summer season.
- 2.5.8 Good progress has been made in delivery of a citywide Tennis Court Improvement Programme. This has included the full court refurbishment at Greenbank and Debdale Park sites met from Section 106 Funding, and a further £294k of investment secured (made up of £164k Council Funding and £130k Lawn Tennis Association) to deliver citywide parks tennis upgrades across eleven sites. The investment will support to address unmet demand in tennis participation and move facilities to a more sustainable operating model in the long term.
- 2.5.9 MCRactive continues to work with partners to deliver Manchester Local Football Facility Plan. This includes delivery of The FA pitch Improvement pilot, a 10-year investment programme to deliver annual enhanced grass pitch maintenance in partnership with anchor clubs at key playing field sites. Current approved sites include Broadhurst Park, Cringle Playing Field, Merseybank, and Holly Hedge Park. This programme will support to address pitch quality issues and will increase capacity of use and provide long term tenure for community clubs to enable future growth. In addition, MCRactive is working with partners to develop a citywide PlayZone investment programme, an FA Local Authority Investment Programme targeted to increase sport participation in underrepresented groups in areas of most need. Manchester will shortly launch its first PlayZone Facilities at Scotland Hall Road and Ladybarn Park in partnership with City in the Community. The new PlayZone Facilities will provide new active spaces in our parks and will be supported by a community multi-sport activation plan. Facilities are targeted for completion in March 2023.
- 2.5.10 A 10-Year Cycling Facility Investment Plan has been developed in partnership with British Cycling to inform the priorities for investment across all cycling

disciplines, this includes the development of new recreational cycling hub facilities across our Park Sites. The joint investment plan saw the opening of Manchester's first Cycling Hub Facility at Wythenshawe Park. Since opening in September, the site has increased its footfall by over 20%, supporting more people to get active. The new infrastructure provides the City's first traffic free recreational cycle park, available for all ages and abilities to enjoy including over 3 miles of cycling trails, a mountain bike skills area, learn to ride area and BMX pump track offering a range of activities for the area.

2.5.11 The Capital Programme is currently funded through a mixture of external grants and contributions, capital receipts, Council borrowing and spend to save capital investment. The Capital Strategy will continue to be prioritise projects in line with the Council's investment prioritisation process where there is a clear and compelling business case and in a manner that is sustainable and supports long term growth both financial and local participation.

2.5.12 MCRactive continues to support development of new lease arrangements and alternative management models, empowering clubs and community organisations to secure and manage investment programmes to maintain and enhance Sport and Leisure assets. In the last 12-month period a new 25-year lease was agreed with Love Withington Baths to provide long term tenure and to continue to manage and operate the leisure centre on behalf of the Council, delivering key services such as school swimming in partnership with MCRactive. The new and extended management arrangements widen access to high quality sport and leisure facilities at a neighbourhood level and maintain much needed services and programmes for our Manchester residents.

2.5.13 In December, following an options appraisal, the council asked GLL to 'step in' and take on the management of Broadway Baths in the Moston ward as Broadway Community Development Group were no longer able to operate the facility. The transition of Broadway to GLL has been progressing at pace and has included the employment of 4 new starters recruited from the local community. GLL have been working hard to support the centre getting back on its feet and will enhance the delivery of community objectives for improving health outcomes in North Manchester and protect the council to fulfil its statutory obligations to provide primary school education swim provision for the 10 local primary schools that utilise the facility.

2.6 Theme 6 – Communicating with and Connecting Communities

2.6.1 The strategy sets out a commitment to establish a one stop shop for all information on sport and physical activity in Manchester, this has led to the development of a digital and data project to transform the way the leisure industry communicates activities in Manchester. The aim is to create a place that provides opportunities, in a single digital location, to access and find inspiration on where to experience sport and physical activity. Over the past 12 months, the platform has undergone notable change and enhancement with several local providers signing up to the providers portal and the streamlined 'Activity Finder' that sits at the heart of the search platform has

been enhanced. In support of the roadmap, enhanced functionalities to the MCRactive Provider Go account have been introduced, a function which addresses digital exclusion / poverty by allowing approved organisations to register and book residents onto activities if they are unable to directly manage or access themselves. Whilst the communications proposition continues to improve, significant additional developments are still planned over the next 12 months to further integrate websites, applications, and functionality between MCRactive and various sport and leisure providers. This will ensure the customer journey from activity search through to booking and payment online will be simpler and streamlined.

- 2.6.2 It is recognised that there continues to be some challenges with the digital programme. Progress has been made in the delivery of phase one with both operators, however there are some acknowledged technical challenges with phases two and three, booking and membership strand of the project. MCRactive have formally written to GLL to ensure that emphasis is put on the delivery of phase two in an appropriate timeframe. With regards to Everyone Active, it is hoped that joint pressure with Westminster Sport and Leisure will progress the implementation of open bookings allowing progression in this area. MCRactive continue to meet with all project partners on a regular basis to ensure progress continues on the strategy, in addition the digital lead was recently successful in being appointed to the ODI and Sport England Open active board, which it is anticipated should help assert pressure from a more national strategic footing on our two leisure operators.
- 2.6.3 Following some concerns raised earlier in the year around bookings on the Better app, GLL have continued to develop their online booking system following a change in their leisure management system. This has brought about some transitional challenges that have caused some customer disruption; however these have deteriorated as the year has progressed and feedback from customers has been positive over the past few months including from mystery visits in QUEST assessments (External leisure quality assessments).
- 2.6.4 A series of posts have been shared throughout the year promoting opportunities to participate in sport and physical activity to include HAF provision which promoted and documented the fantastic work taking place across the city by local providers, offering free activities and hot meals to Manchester children through a series of highlight videos. In addition, the second edition of the Neighbourhood Sports Team's social media takeover day ran in August which followed the team throughout the day and visited a number of providers delivering HAF activities to children, featuring figures, images, and interviews.
- 2.6.5 Marcomms support of the HAF programme continued to deliver positive engagements, be that digitally on both the portal and website, establishing their own social platforms for the HAF team across the city or delivering, nutritionally balanced recipes to feed local families for less than £15 a week. Normality also returned to Manchester's events calendar with the Rugby League World Cup Wheelchair final at Manchester Central, the European

Breaking Championships at Belle Vue Sports Village and the World Taekwondo GP at Manchester Regional Arena, all helping drive communication, further enhancing our city of sport credentials and creating the legacies in our communities when bringing events to the city.

- 2.6.6 The wider Marcomms and Social Strategy has pivoted away from initially planned website campaign messages, to focus on promoting gateway activities of walking, swimming, cycling and running, delivering positive engagements across the board. Alongside this, a successful tender was undertaken to search and appoint a new social agency, one with outstanding non-profit credentials, who will start to manage the platforms in the new year.

2.7 Theme 7 – Realising the Potential of the Workforce

- 2.7.1 Earlier this year, work took place to improve the MCRVIP for Sport Volunteers, working with the developers and project lead MCRActive added specific questions for new users around the type of volunteering opportunities they are interested in and how they heard about MCRVIP. This allows us to look more specifically at the opportunities arising as well as how many new volunteers are utilising the system. Summer saw a significant increase in the number of young volunteers mainly as a result of the Women's Euros.
- 2.7.2 As with many sectors, sport and physical activity providers have been impacted by workforce shortages, most notable roles such as lifeguards, cleaners, stewards and instructors has been a real challenge to recruit to and has exacerbated challenges at various times in the year such as recruiting female lifeguards to undertake women only sessions.
- 2.7.3 Manchester's Providers have widening their recruitment reach to create opportunities for residents, including the GLL Employability Programme that works with partners such as Bridge College to provide work placement for autistic students, Princes Trust Leisure Programme offering two weeks of leisure training for young people with the potential offer of employment at the end, Ket4Life Partnership offering ex-offenders training opportunities and funding courses to support clubs and residents into employment.
- 2.7.4 During August and September, Learn to Ride sessions in Cheetham were provided and funded following on from the Cycle Nation community cycling research study (with British Cycling / University of Glasgow) as there was lots of interest from (mainly South Asian) women wanting to learn to ride. 38 women attended in total (126 attendances, not every woman attended every session, however it is above average attendance compared to TfGM's public courses). The training was very mixed in ability (from those who couldn't ride at all, to more confident riders) which provided some challenges for the instructors. Of these women one borrowed a bike and three purchased their own bikes with many of the women keen to join in discussions about future steps for community cycling in Cheetham.
- 2.7.5 The development of the Volunteer workforce in the VCSE has continued in the winter, courses in Paediatric First Aid and Safeguarding have been held with

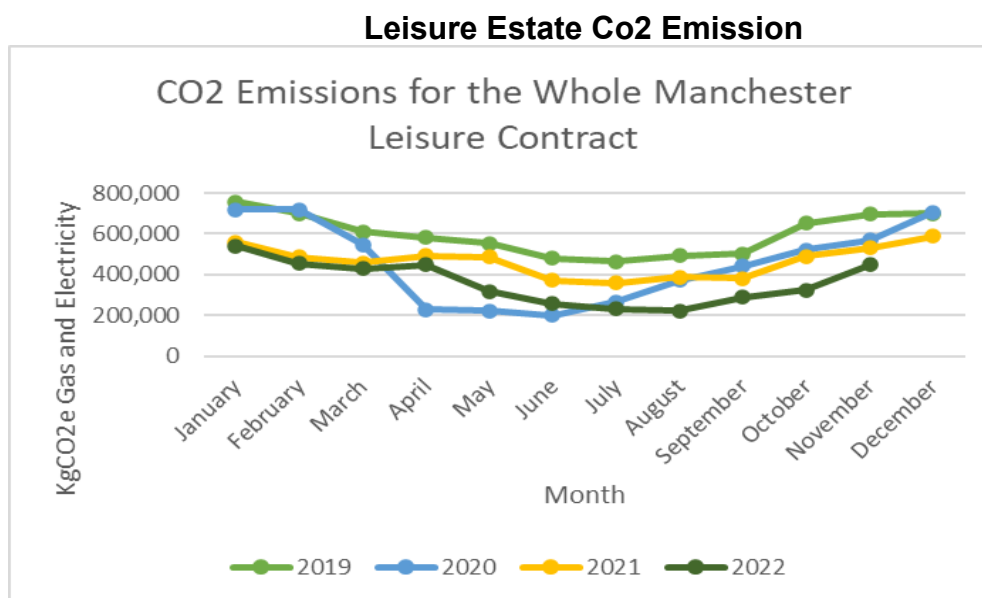
12 attendees at each. A level 2 Sports leaders course with 10 attendees has also taken place to improve the quality of delivery in the VCSE sector.

- 2.7.6 In early 2023, a Workforce survey will be going out to the VCSE sector and all Holiday Activity Fund (HAF) providers to ensure the courses offered meet the needs of the sector.
- 2.7.7 A number of workstreams aimed at strengthening MCRactive's governance were implemented in 2022 to include the establishment and recruitment of a permanent Chief Executive Officer with responsibility for providing strategic leadership for the day to day running of the organisation and driving forward the deliverables of the Sport and Physical Activity Strategy and the recruitment and appointment of an independent chair to the MCRactive Board.
- 2.7.8 Following an extensive recruitment process, MCRactive has appointed Andy King to the role of Chief Executive Officer, commencing on February 1st, 2023. Andy brings a wealth of experience from his roles as CEO at Your Trust in Rochdale and as a director at facility operators GLL and SERCO. He is currently Chair of GM Active, a collaborative organisation representing the interests of the 12 facility operators across Greater Manchester.
- 2.7.9 In parallel a new independent Chair has been recruited to guide the organisation through the next period. Following a competitive recruitment process, Chris Brindley MBE will be taking up the role in February. Chris brings experience from his executive roles with NatWest, British Gas and Metro Bank and most recently with Rugby League where he held the position as Chair of the widely lauded Rugby League World Cup.

2.8 Theme 8 – Contribution to a Zero Carbon City

- 2.8.1 In response to the declaration of the Climate Change Emergency, a new theme 8 was endorsed by Executive in September 2022. Three new 'we wills' actions were added all of which reflected the work that had been progressing but wasn't sufficiently emphasised within the existing strategy or sat across a number of themes.
- 2.8.2 A 5-year Sustainability Strategy has been developed, which sets out the strategic framework and key objectives that are aligned to the CCAP outcomes for zero carbon emissions by 2038. An overarching Leisure Facility Sustainability Action Plan has been developed with our leisure operators, which details the actions and the targets – this is underpinned by individual leisure centre Environmental Action Plans. The objectives for the Action Plans are as follows:
- Decarbonise Buildings
 - Efficient and Effective Supply Chain
 - Influence and Educate Partners
 - Sustainable Waste and Recycling
 - Sustainable Travel Plans

- 2.8.3 The Council's decarbonisation programme has seen over £20m invested into carbon reduction technologies across the leisure estate such as solar PV's, Ground & Air Source Heat pumps. Although the installation of the technologies has not provided 12 months data the graph below demonstrates there has been a significant impact on Co2 emissions across the leisure estate. This reduction is also supported by smarter operations across the estate.



- 2.8.4 Leisure Operators are operating at a much-improved waste and recycling system and recycling rates are up by 2% on 2021, this is supported by the introduction of a waste hierarchy that includes preventing waste through to how it is disposed of.
- 2.8.5 Focus for 2023 is around education of partners and behaviour change, in particular around events and how the objectives set out in the strategy can be achieved through pre-event planning.

3.0 Conclusion and Next Steps

- 3.1 Since the Sport and Physical Activity Strategy was agreed in 2018 significant progress has been made in delivering the strategy most notably in relation to investment into improved facilities, establishing physical activity interventions, attracting national organisations and major events to Manchester, and rebuilding the impact of the global pandemic. The strategy refresh endorsed in September by the Executive was timely in the context of the climate change emergency, building back fairer from the pandemic and responding to other strategies that have been refreshed during an unprecedented period.
- 3.2 Following the approval of the refreshed strategy, MCRactive will be developing new assets to promote progress made against the strategy to date under the refreshed strategic themes which were designed to make it easier for partners and residents to understand and engage. Plans are underway to relaunch the refreshed publication of the strategy in March 2023.

- 3.3 The development of affordable place-based approaches to tackle inactivity with residents and communities, particularly those with poor health will continue to be a priority and MCRactive will further strengthen its partnership with key health and sport organisations to prioritise the link between physical activity, sports and local health systems to encourage more people to move.
- 3.4 The following next steps are proposed:
- Publication of Refreshed Strategy (March 2023).
 - 12-month review of progress (February 2024).

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Appendix I: Manchester Sport and Physical Activity Strategy Refresh

Strategic Theme I

	Current	Proposed	Notes
Theme	Encourage residents who are currently inactive to become regularly active.	Encourage Residents to move more	This is a specific shared commitment from GM Moving (GMM) and succinctly captures the essence of supporting the least active to move more and addressing inequalities.
Narrative Description	This theme is about supporting a decrease in the percentage of people physically inactive, with a particular focus on underrepresented groups – for example, disabled residents, women and girls and older people. Manchester City Council, Manchester Active together with residents, local communities and partners will:	This theme is about improving sport and physical activity experience and opportunities, so they are inclusive, irrespective of gender, ethnicity, age, disability, or whether you live with a health condition. We will follow the established concept of “proportionate universalism” in the work that we do, balancing targeted and universal provision in a way that’s proportionate to the level of need and helping to ensure that we are tackling inequalities across the city. Manchester partners together with residents and local communities will:	Redrafted to highlight the focus on inclusion, proportionate universalism, and addressing inequalities. The language also draws on some of the commitments within Uniting the Movement (UTM) regarding ‘connecting with health and wellbeing’.
We Wills	I. Co-produce new community led initiatives with resident led groups and embed sport and physical activity as part of a place based integrated services approach in priority areas within the city	I. Develop a range of place-based approaches to tackle inactivity with residents and communities, particularly those with poor health.	The focus is on geography and areas of poor health. This continues to align to the work through the Sport England Local Pilot.

	Current	Proposed	Notes
	(people on low incomes and inactive people).		
	2. Place physical activity at the heart of health related initiatives such as social prescribing approaches across the city	2. Work with partners to improve, develop and prioritise the link between physical activity, sport and local health systems.	Rather than being too prescriptive to a single concept this has been broadened to focus more strategically on the link between the physical activity and sport and health systems. This aligns to the focus of Sport Englands Uniting The Movement Strategy which talks to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ‘Support meaningful links between the sport and physical activity sector and health systems.’ • ‘Support local solutions, develop leaders who respond to local need and help bridge the gap between physical activity and sport and local health systems.’
	3. Ensure the sport and physical activity offer available is diverse, inclusive, affordable, accessible, and is tailored towards tackling the main barriers of participation (e.g. lack of time, lack of money, availability and timing of sessions) particularly amongst under- represented groups.	3. Ensure the ways in which we encourage people to move more are affordable and inclusive providing opportunities and support for those who need new or different ways to take part, removing barriers and increasing access.	The focus remains on ensuring the formal/informal offer and interventions are inclusive.

Strategic theme 2

	Current	Proposed	Notes
Theme	Helping young people enjoy being active and healthy, and reach their potential	Positive experiences for Children and Young People	This aligns to one of the 5 big issues in Sport England's Uniting The Movement Strategy. The slight reword is a more succinct way of saying the same thing.
Narrative Description	This theme is about supporting children and young people to have the best start in life (aged 0-18), to enjoy taking part in sport and physical activity and support their all-round wellbeing, to reduce childhood obesity, and to help provide the skills that will help them to reach their potential in life through sport and physical activity. Manchester City Council, Manchester Active together with residents, local communities and partners will:	This theme is about supporting children and young people to have the best start in life, to benefit from being active in a safe and positive environment and have equal chance to achieve their potential. Positive experiences at an early age help build the foundations for an active life. This will support their all-round wellbeing, help to reduce childhood obesity, and provide skills that will help them to reach their potential in life. Manchester partners together with residents and local communities will:	Minor tweaks to emphasise the importance of a positive experience.
We Wills	4. Embedding physical literacy into young people's lives (0-5s) through parental education, through Early Years settings, and through raising awareness and education for the Early Years workforce.	4. Embed physical literacy into young people's lives (0-5s) through parental education, through Early Years settings, and through raising awareness and education for the Early Years workforce.	No amends necessary.
	5. Tackle childhood obesity by helping all children in Manchester enjoy an hour of physical activity every day through a range of interventions.	5. Tackle childhood obesity by creating the conditions for all children in Manchester enjoy an hour of physical activity every day.	Whilst the outcome is broader than obesity the explicit reference remains as it is important to draw the link to other policy areas.

	Current	Proposed	Notes
			<p>The language ‘creating the conditions’ aligns to both UTM and GMM and is sufficiently broad to capture the many actions that would fit under this area recognising this includes policy level interventions right through to the physical provision on the ground.</p>
	<p>6. Create a connected and visible city based talent system ensuring those young people with talent are supported to reach their full potential in sport, either as a participant, volunteer or coach.</p>	<p>6. Create a connected and visible city-based talent system ensuring that young people have equal chance to achieve their potential in sport, either as a participant or member of the workforce.</p>	<p>Tweaked the language to talk more about equality of opportunity as talent might not shine through in the first place without opportunity.</p> <p>Have used ‘workforce’ over ‘coach’ as it captures a broader employability dimension.</p>

Strategic theme 3

	Current	Proposed	Notes
Theme	Sustain and increase adult participation in sport and physical activity.	Active Adults increasing and sustaining activity levels	Originally considered 'active adults' on its own but tagged on the increasing and sustaining part to make the distinction between the work covered in theme 1.
Narrative Description	This theme is about growing participation amongst adults and ensuring that those already participating in sport and physical activity remain doing so. Manchester City Council, Manchester Active together with residents and, local communities and partners will	This theme is about creating the conditions for adults moving in everyday life and helping those who are already active to sustain positive habits throughout their lives. It is about working with Manchester residents, families and communities, in all their diversity to enable everyone to live an active life. Manchester partners together with residents and local communities will:	Sustaining positive habits is the key emphasis recognising the different pressures at different stages of the life course on remaining active. The theme of families feels important in terms of being an area of strategic focus. It wasn't explicit in the document even though it cuts across a number of we will's.
We Wills	7. Support programmes and activities with mass appeal (e.g. Great Manchester Run), work with open data, embrace technology, and different partners who can open new opportunities, in order to help sport and physical activity become part of everyday life.	7. Support programmes and activities with mass appeal and reach . This includes working with open data, embracing technology, and different partners who can open new opportunities, to help sport and physical activity become part of everyday life.	Very minor tweaks. The emphasis remains on areas of mass appeal and reach.
	8. Develop a new suite of sports specific plans, which help to grow and sustain high quality sports clubs and results in additional resources leveraged.	8. Develop and implement sports specific development plans , which help to grow high quality, sustainable and inclusive sports clubs, addressing inequalities and supporting a whole population approach to moving more.	Clubs are clearly important but they need to <u>inclusive</u> , sustainable and aligned to the broader agenda. Acknowledge that there are cross overs with we will 5 which focusses on young people being active.

	Current	Proposed	Notes
	<p>9. Encourage self-sufficient physical activity habits by working to increase the amount of family friendly sessions and local, free / low cost, regular, volunteer led programmes and activities in local facilities such as parks and community venues.</p>	<p>9. Create the conditions for adults moving in everyday life and throughout their lives. We will design movement into everyday habits, routines, activities and spaces and enabling movement to become normal. We will understand the barriers at different life stages including supporting an active life in older age.</p>	<p>As written, we will 9 was very similar to 3 in that they were both focussing on the formal/informal offer. To avoid confusion it has needed to change quite a lot from the original focus. The reword is informed by GMM and tries to capture the essence of what 9 is about but in a broader way.</p> <p>The specific reference to older age is important as it links to an important strand of work in the city supporting aging well. It is also highlighted within GMM. There are some cross overs to We Will's 1 and 3 but given none of the We Wills were being explicit to any particular group the wording here has been broadened to capture this. We Will 4 makes reference to a particular age group in the context of young people. The alternative would have been to create a new We Will but it was decided against this because the work on active aging it happening, it is now just being drawn out more specifically.</p>

Strategic theme 4

	Current	Proposed	Notes
Theme	The home of world-class sport that inspires people	World-class sport that inspires positive change	Slight tweak in language re 'positive change'. This aligns to UK Sport' new Strategic Plan as one of its 3 strategic ambitions.
Narrative Description	This theme is about actively supporting high performance sporting success in the city, ensuring the maximum sporting, social and economic benefits in return. Manchester partners City Council, Manchester Active together with residents and , local communities and partners will	This theme is about actively supporting high performance sporting success in the city, ensuring the maximum sporting, social and economic benefits in return. This theme will use the power and platform of sport to contribute to a happier, prouder and more connected society. Manchester partners together with residents and local communities will:	Small tweaks in language to elaborate a little more on what that positive change can be.
We Wills	10. Position the Etihad Campus as a global leading sports and innovation zone that becomes home to an increasing number of sports organisations resulting in a global sporting knowledge capital and economic driver for continued regeneration in East Manchester and the City more generally	10. Position the Etihad Campus as a global leading sports and innovation zone that becomes home to an increasing number of sports organisations resulting in a global sporting knowledge capital and economic driver for continued regeneration in East Manchester and the City more generally.	No change needed. The Etihad Campus remains a key strategic priority for the city.
	11. Position Manchester to be known as a global sporting headquarters through improving our world class facilities, continuing to host major sports events, becoming the home of more GB / National Squads, supporting more	11. Position Manchester to be known as a global sporting city through improving our world class facilities and continuing to host major sports events which generate positive social and economic impacts for the city.	There was some potential overlap 10 as it was also talking of hosting sports organisations. This is therefore focussed in on facilities and events and the positive impacts they will have.

	Current	Proposed	Notes
	<p>performance sports clubs, and supporting world class coaching, which connects and creates opportunities for residents, contributing to the continued economic growth of the city.- Potentially look to split the we will up into two: 1 to focus on sporting head quarters and major events and 2: to focus on performance squads and teams and the inspirational role for our residents and performance clubs.</p>		
		<p>12. Position Manchester as the home of more GB / National Squads, supporting more performance sports clubs, and world class coaching, and creating opportunities for residents.</p>	<p>New 'we will' as suggested feedback. The original 11 was very broad and wordy so is now split into 2 separate statements.</p>

Strategic theme 5

	Current	Proposed	Notes
Theme	Creating great places to be active	Active Places and Neighbourhoods	Added <i>neighbourhoods</i> ' to be more explicit to the language and focus given to neighbourhood working in other strategic documents.
Narrative Description	This theme is about developing more active and sustainable environments and communities. Manchester City Council, Manchester Active together with residents and , local communities and partners will:	This theme is about developing more active and sustainable environments creating the opportunities for all residents to lead an active life. Manchester partners together with residents and local communities will:	
We Wills	12. Continue to invest significant resources to develop and sustain a world class facilities infrastructure over the next 10 years as identified within the suite of facility strategies for indoor and outdoor facilities	13. Continue to invest significant resources to sustain, develop and enhance the facility asset base over the next 10 years. This includes the provision of multi-sport hub sites and new active environments at a neighbourhood level to encourage and provide new opportunities for more people to get active.	Minor reword in line with the forward focus of the facility work.
	13. Widen access to and activate all of the existing 803 sport and leisure facilities, including local parks, community assets, local sport and leisure centres and work to open up more school facilities beyond the school day. This includes the use of faith centres, community centres, and GP surgeries and exploring the timing of sessions (including increased opening	14. Widen access to and activate facilities and spaces, grow local assets, and address spatial inequalities. This includes sport and leisure facilities, green spaces, local parks, workplaces, community centres, faith centres, GP surgeries and schools.	The focus of the work remains broad, but the wording has been made more concise. It is acknowledged that there is cross over to active design and active travel within this 'we will.' This has been highlighted specifically under strategic theme 8.

	Current	Proposed	Notes
	times), whilst building on the success of the existing approach to community asset transfers.		

Strategic theme 6

	Current	Proposed	Notes
Theme	How we communicate and engage with residents	Communicating with and Connecting Communities	<p>This theme has been more challenging as the two 'we will's' are quite distinct.</p> <p>'Connecting Communities' is one of the big issues within UTM and at its heart it is about a bottom-up approach to working with communities.</p> <p>It is important to have communication explicitly referenced given the existing 'we will 15'.</p>
Narrative Description	<p>This theme is about placing residents at the centre of everything we do by ensuring we get the right message to the right person in the right way to make it easy to find out about opportunities. It's also about giving residents and local Councillors a local voice in the way in which local provision is provided and developed. Manchester City Council, Manchester Active together with residents, local communities and partners will:</p>	<p>This theme is about placing residents at the centre of everything we do engaging and involving communities to co-design, co-produce, co-deliver and ultimately own sustainable solutions that enable active lives for all. This includes shaping and sharing a powerful public narrative and communications about the importance of being physically active that will engage and resonate. Manchester partners together with residents and local communities will:</p>	<p>There is a slight shift / broadening in the focus here to bring out the community engagement element beyond just communication.</p> <p>The following are catalysts for system change identified in GMM which have been merged in the description.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Engage and involve communities to co-design, co-coproduce, co-deliver and ultimately own sustainable and realistic solutions that enable active lives for all.</i> • <i>Shape and share powerful public narrative and communications that engage and resonate with systemwide and community audiences through</i>

	Current	Proposed	Notes
			<i>positive messaging, imagery, language and stories.</i>
We Wills	14. Create 12 “locality active networks” encouraging collaboration amongst residents, members and partners to inform communication priorities and provide leadership and coordination to local provision. These networks will be directly connect to ward coordination and to new governance arrangements for city wide sport and physical activity in Manchester.*(see below)	15. Align our resources to embed sport, physical activity and movement in each of the city’s 12 neighbourhoods . We will continue to establish trusted relationships to encourage collaboration and engagement with residents, members, partners, community organisations / clubs, the VCSE sector and local providers to ensure that communities are heard and at the forefront of what we do, engaging with people in ways that work for them.	The wording itself has been slightly edited to ensure it remains current with the language being used.
	15. Build a single communications platform and single user account, enabling one central digital location for sport and physical activity information in Manchester and ensuring local residents can be communicated to in a seamless way and to link participation opportunities to their individual interests	16. Build a single communications platform and single user account, enabling one central digital marketplace for information on sport, physical activity and movement in Manchester, ensuring residents can access opportunities to change their behaviour to live healthier, happier lives.	Minor reword.

Strategic theme 7

	Current	Proposed	Notes
Theme	A skilled, motivated and valued workforce (employees and volunteers).	Realising the potential of the workforce	More engaging language that plays to the contribution the workforce can make but also to the individual value that working in sport and physical activity can provide.
Narrative Description	This theme is about developing a fit for purpose workforce for the future, with the skills to support the least active to get active, to grow and sustain people's interest in sport, and to support elite success. In doing this will provide employability skills, create jobs, and other individual benefits to those engaged. Manchester City Council, Manchester Active together with residents, local communities and partners will	This theme is about harnessing the potential of the people who spend their time helping others to be active. They're the key to adopting and achieving the ambitions in this strategy, whether that be supporting the least active move more, to grow and sustain people's interest in sport, or to support high performance success. In doing this will provide employability skills, create jobs, and other individual benefits to those engaged. Manchester partners together with residents and local communities will:	Minor tweaks. 'Harnessing potential' feels more engaging than 'fit for purpose.'
We Wills	16. Develop a coordinated city-wide Training Hub which provides CPD resources and training to help upskill the sector workforce. The hub will co-ordinate new apprenticeship opportunities, a programme of peer mentoring, work closely with the student sector to link training and work opportunities and create a new coaching framework for Manchester	17. Develop a coordinated city-wide Training Hub which provides CPD resources and training to help upskill the sector workforce . The hub will co-ordinate new apprenticeship opportunities, a programme of peer mentoring, work closely with the student sector to link training and work opportunities and create a new coaching framework for Manchester.	No changes required.

	Current	Proposed	Notes
	17. Grow the volunteer base by working closely with and to the strengths of residents, utilizing platforms such as MCR VIP to identify, recruit, train and deploy more volunteers in sport and physical activity opportunities	18. Grow the volunteer base and improve the experience for volunteers focussing on what is needed to making giving your time easy, meaningful and supported, now and for the future.	Removed the MCR VIP reference as suggested for consistency of not referencing specific initiatives. This has also drawn on some of the language from UTM regarding improving the volunteering experience. This also links to the new Sport England Coaching Plan 2.0.
		19. Champion an unrelenting emphasis on diversity, inclusion, skills and behaviours , to open up and increase volunteering and employment opportunities for people from a broader range of backgrounds and experiences.	The original 'we will's did not appear to sufficiently emphasis the strategic importance of equality, diversity and inclusion in the workforce. This addition links directly to UTM and it needs explicit reference.

Strategic theme 8- Proposed new theme

	Current (original draft)	Proposed	Notes
Theme	N/A	Contributing to a zero-carbon future	Contributing to environmental sustainability is how it is phrased in GMM. 'Zero carbon future' is the language used within the Our Manchester Strategy.
Narrative Description	N/A	This theme is about contributing positively to environmental sustainability and reducing our carbon emissions. A Climate Emergency has been declared by Manchester City Council and this strategy needs to play its part. Sedentary behaviours are carbon intensive so our core mission of enabling more people to move more, will support net zero ambitions. We will also focus on reducing the negative impact leisure facilities have regarding CO ² emissions.	The original narrative was quite inward looking. As a city strategy the aspiration should be to get to net zero carbon for all sports facilities in the city, irrespective of whoever owns/operates. Also cycling has been identified as one of the biggest factors that could support the climate change agenda. Broadening the narrative helps bring this into focus as well.
We Wills	N/A	20. Decarbonise city council owned sport and leisure facilities through a variety of means including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the installation of energy efficient and renewable technologies • the development of a sustainable waste and recycling structure • implementing sustainable procurement approaches. 	Suggest that the target is left to the action plan as that could change over time. The bullet points have been used to be more explicit on the specific elements to the objective.
	N/A	21. Influence, educate and advocate other sporting bodies connected to	Tried to make it a little clearer on 'who' this relates to whilst being broader on

	Current (original draft)	Proposed	Notes
		Manchester to rise to the challenge of climate change.	the 'what'. Ideally it will be more than 'just' carbon reducing hence using 'rise to the challenge'.
		22. Embed good active design principles and best practice into policy, practice and governance, with a particular emphasis on designing active travel into the built and natural environment.	Focussing here more on the 'what' rather than 'why' as that is established in the narrative. This also tries to pitch more at system change vs initiatives.

**Manchester City Council
Report for Information**

Report to: Communities and Equalities 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
- Items for Information
- Work Programme

Recommendation

The Committee is invited to discuss the information provided and agree any changes to the work programme that are necessary.

Wards Affected: All

Contact Officer:

Name: Rachel McKeon

Position: Governance and Scrutiny Support Officer

Telephone: 0161 234 4997

Email: rachel.mckeon@manchester.gov.uk

Background documents (available for public inspection):

None

1. Monitoring Previous Recommendations

This section of the report lists 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.

Date	Item	Recommendation	Action	Contact Officer
8 October 2020	CESC/20/38 Update on Work with the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) Sector During COVID-19	To request information on the financial support that has been given during the pandemic by the Council and external funders, broken down by equality strands, as well as information on any gaps in provision.	A response to this recommendation has been requested and will be circulated to Members.	Keiran Barnes, Programme Lead (Our Manchester Funds)
19 July 2022	CESC/22/28 Community Events	To request that the Executive Member for Skills, Employment and Leisure circulate the criteria and timetable for the Community Events Fund, along with the Equality Impact Assessment and information on sports activities that are currently being funded across the city.	A response to this recommendation has been requested and will be circulated to Members.	Mike Parrott, Events Lead
6 December 2022	CESC/22/50 Public Open Spaces CCTV	To receive the further information that Members have asked for at an appropriate time, including in relation to control room capacity, plans to manage the replacement of other cameras as they reach the end of their lifespan and GMP funding for CCTV cameras.	A response to questions in relation to the location of cameras and GMP funding was circulated to Members on 22 December 2022. Further information will be circulated when it is available.	Sam Stabler, Community Safety Lead
6 December	CESC/22/51 Compliance and	To request that the Committee receive an update on plans for the	A response to this recommendation has been requested and will be	Carol Culley, Deputy Chief

2022	Enforcement Services - Performance in 2021/22	new CRM system.	circulated to Members.	Executive and City Treasurer
6 December 2022	CESC/22/52 Community Safety Update	To request that Members be kept informed of the training taking place regarding Martyn's Law and ACT (Action Counter Terrorism) training.	A response to this recommendation will be circulated to Members of the Committee.	Sam Stabler. Community Safety Lead
10 January 2023	CESC/23/02 An update report on the Homelessness Service	To write to Michael Gove to invite him to visit Manchester.	This is being actioned, in consultation with the Chair.	Rachel McKeon, Governance and Scrutiny Support Officer
10 January 2023	CESC/23/04 Advice Services Update	To request that Ward Councillors be provided with training on signposting residents to advice services.	This is being progressed, in consultation with Councillor Midgley, Deputy Leader.	Rachel McKeon, Governance and Scrutiny Support Officer
10 January 2023	CESC/23/05 Overview Report	To request that Committee Members be provided with a briefing note on the analysis of the information on Bonfire Night 2022, when this is available.	A response to this recommendation will be circulated to Members of the Committee.	Fiona Sharkey, Head of Compliance, Enforcement, and Community Safety

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.

Register of Key Decisions:

Subject / Decision	Decision Maker	Decision Due Date	Consultation	Background documents	Officer Contact
<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>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>The rate for temporary accommodation properties</p>	Strategic Director (Neighbourhoods)	Not before 13th Jan		Commercially Sensitive	Nicola Rea nicola.rea@manchester.gov.uk

Subject / Decision	Decision Maker	Decision Due Date	Consultation	Background documents	Officer Contact
<p>(2022/12/13A) Increase the rate for properties in temporary accommodation due to market conditions.</p>	ods)	2023			
<p>Homelessness Lease Agreement (2023/01/24A) 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
<p>Contract for the provision of support and interventions for Children and Young People affected by Domestic Violence & Abuse (2022/11/29A) The appointment of Provider(s) for support and interventions for Children and Young People affected by Domestic Violence & Abuse.</p>	Strategic Director (Neighbourhoods)	Not before 29th Dec 2022		Report and Recommendation	

**Communities and Equalities Scrutiny Committee
Work Programme – February 2023**

Tuesday 7 February 2023, 10.00 am (Report deadline Friday 27 January 2023)

Item	Purpose	Executive Member	Strategic Director/ Lead Officer	Comments
Culture	To receive an update on Culture including the results of the Cultural Impact Survey and an update on Cultural Grants.	Councillor Rahman	Fiona Worrall/Neil Fairlamb/Neil MacInnes /Louise Lanigan	
Libraries and Archives Report	To receive an update report on Libraries and Archives.	Councillor Hacking	Fiona Worrall Neil MacInnes	
Leisure Annual Report	To receive an annual report on Leisure.	Councillor Hacking	Fiona Worrall Neil Fairlamb	
2023/24 Budget Report	Consideration of the final 2023/24 budget proposals that will go onto February Budget Executive and Scrutiny and March Council. To include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Neighbourhoods Directorate 2023/24 Budget • Homelessness Directorate 2023/24 Budget 	Councillor Akbar Councillor Rahman Councillor Midgley Councillor Hacking Councillor Igbon	Carol Culley/Fiona Worrall/Neil Fairlamb/Dave Ashmore	
Overview Report	The monthly report includes the recommendations monitor, relevant key decisions, the Committee's work programme and any items for information.	-	Rachel McKeon	

Tuesday 7 March 2023, 10.00 am (Report deadline Friday 24 February 2023)

Item	Purpose	Executive Member	Strategic Director/ Lead Officer	Comments
Digital Exclusion	To receive a report on digital exclusion.	Councillor Hacking	Fiona Worrall/Neil Fairlamb/ Neil MacInnes/Angela Harrington	
Immigration and Asylum	To receive a report on immigration and asylum.	Councillor Midgley	Dave Ashmore/Nicola Rea	
Equalities Update	Scope to be confirmed	Councillor Midgley	Fiona Ledden/ Sharmila Kar/Lorna Young	
Our Manchester Voluntary and Community Sector (OMVCS) Fund	To include a list of the organisations who were awarded funding through the OMVCS Fund and how the organisations which were not successful are being supported, including other funding sources which they are being signposted to.	Councillor Midgley	James Binks/Keiran Barnes	
Overview Report		-	Rachel McKeon	

Tuesday 23 May 2023, 2.00 pm (Report deadline Thursday 11 May 2023)

Item	Purpose	Executive Member	Strategic Director/ Lead Officer	Comments
Sex and Gender	To receive a report on sex and gender.	Councillor Midgley	Fiona Ledden/ Sharmila Kar /Lorna Young	To be confirmed
Overview Report		-	Rachel McKeon	

Annual Work Programming Session	The meeting will close for the annual work programming session where members determine the work programme for the forthcoming year. To follow a presentation from the Director/Lead Officers on upcoming issues and challenges within the Committee's remit.	Councillor Rahman/ Councillor Midgley/ Councillor Hacking/ Councillor Igbon	Fiona Ledden/ Fiona Worrall/ Sharmila Kar/ Sam Stabler /Keiran Barnes/Dave Ashmore	
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Tuesday 20 June 2023, 2.00 pm (Report deadline Thursday 8 June 2023)

Item	Purpose	Executive Member	Strategic Director/ Lead Officer	Comments
VCSE Support Review	This report describes the review and assessment process to date with a detailed timeline for further developments.	Councillor Midgley	James Binks/Keiran Barnes	
Homelessness	To receive an update report.	Councillor Midgley	Dave Ashmore/Nicola Rea	See January 2023 minutes
Overview Report		-	Rachel McKeon	

Items To Be Scheduled

Item	Purpose	Executive Member	Strategic Director/ Lead Officer	Comments
Prevent/Radequal	This report sets out our response to the National Prevent Review.	Councillor Rahman	Fiona Worrall/Fiona Sharkey/Sam Stabler	

Support for People Leaving Prison	To include information on changes to probation services, how ex-prisoners are re-integrated into society and links with homelessness.	Councillor Akbar Councillor Rahman	Fiona Worrall/ Sam Stabler/ Dave Ashmore	
Youth Justice	To be scoped.	Councillor Rahman Councillor Bridges	Paul Marshall/ Fiona Worrall/Neil Fairlamb/ Fiona Sharkey/Sam Stabler	Invite Chair of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee
Events	To receive a further report at an appropriate time which includes the Manchester Events Strategy, information on the geographic spread of the funded events and an update on work on the additional areas for development and improvement referred to in the report considered by the Committee on 19 July 2022.	Councillor Hacking	Neil Fairlamb/ Mike Parrott	See minutes of the meeting on 19 July 2022.
Manchester Sport and Physical Activity Strategy	To request a further report including place-based activity across the wards, comparison of different areas of the city, coaching opportunities, the impact of the cost-of-living rise, work to engage people with different protected characteristics, including women, and providing activities to engage young people.	Councillor Hacking	Neil Fairlamb	See minutes of the meeting on 6 September 2022.
Community Safety Strategy 2022-25	To receive a further report at an appropriate time, including the information requested by Members at the meeting on 6 September 2022.	Councillor Rahman	Fiona Worrall/Neil Fairlamb/ Fiona Sharkey/Sam Stabler	See minutes of the meeting on 6 September 2022.
Serious Violence Strategy	To request a further report, including information on measuring the outcomes of the Strategy, work to tackle the increase in youth violence in north Manchester and disparities across different areas of the city.	Councillor Rahman	Fiona Worrall/Neil Fairlamb/ Fiona Sharkey/Sam Stabler	See minutes of the meeting on 6 September 2022.

Crime and Policing	Following the item considered at the November 2022 meeting, to invite the guests from the GMCA and GMP to attend a future Committee meeting, including asking Chief Superintendent Richard Timson to provide an update on the communications work, public confidence and how the journey to improvement is going.	Councillor Rahman	Fiona Worrall/Neil Fairlamb/Sam Stabler	See minutes of the meeting on 8 November 2022.
Community Cohesion Strategy	To receive a report on the Community Cohesion Strategy.	Councillor Midgley	Fiona Worrall/Sam Stabler	
Advice Services Update	To receive an update report.	Councillor Midgley	Fiona Worrall/Neil Fairlamb/Nicola Rea	See minutes of the meeting on 10 January 2023.