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Tuesday, 21 November 2023

Dear Councillor / Honorary Alderman,

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

You are summoned to attend a meeting of the Council which will be held at 10.00 am on Wednesday, 29th November, 2023, in The Council Chamber, Level 2, Town Hall Extension.

1. The Lord Mayor's Announcements and Special Business

2. Interests

To allow members an opportunity to declare any personal, prejudicial or disclosable pecuniary interest they might have in any items which appear on this agenda; and record any items from which they are precluded from voting as a result of Council Tax or Council rent arrears. Members with a personal interest should declare that at the start of the item under consideration. If members also have a prejudicial or disclosable pecuniary interest they must withdraw from the meeting during the consideration of the item

3. Minutes

To submit for approval the minutes of the meeting held on 4 October 2023.

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4. Notice of Motion - Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) Awareness

Manchester is proud to be a trauma-informed city but we cannot support the majority of residents with trauma and break the cycle of adverse childhood experiences unless we are FASD and Neurobehaviourally informed too.

FASD, Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder is a hidden epidemic in Greater Manchester. A Salford University study published in 2021 estimated that up to 4% of the population is likely to have FASD – that's 2.5 times higher than autism. The average life expectancy for individuals with FASD is only 34 years of age because they do not receive the interventions and support they need. FASD is underdiagnosed and little understood by professionals and frontline workers. There is an underserved stigma attached to it and often professionals, including medical,

only learn about it as a very tiny part of their training.

FASD happens when a pregnant woman consumes alcohol. Alcohol crosses the placenta and interferes with the development of the fetus, particularly the developing brain. This has a significant impact on the executive brain function – the part responsible for organisation, self-regulation, working memory and flexible thinking. It also results in some incredible strengths which, if a person with FASD is given support, may be developed and realised, such as creativity.

The mother is blameless and often a victim too – this is vital to note. No mother knowingly damages her developing child – she drinks because she doesn't know she is pregnant, doesn't know the impact of alcohol or has an alcohol abuse disorder and cannot control her drinking. We must remove the stigma.

FASD is a brain and body disability with lifelong impact and up to 400 comorbidities including Attention Deficit Hyperactive Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), sensory issues including Sensory Processing Disorders (SPD), developmental trauma and secondary and tertiary conditions such as depression, anxiety, loneliness, poor academic outcomes, suicide, homelessness and criminality.

Often individuals with FASD are diagnosed with an “alphabet soup” of labels to account for their behaviours but not FASD and internalise their problems leading to the secondary and tertiary conditions. Where they receive support, it is not FASD or neurobehaviourally informed so the support fails or exacerbates their problems.

Any engagement with an individual with FASD must begin with the FASD regardless of their secondary and tertiary conditions including trauma. This means particularly supporting with challenges to executive brain function.

For example, individuals needing treatment for addictions need support to attend each appointment. Those that have fallen into debt can't be helped with a debt repayment plan unless the cause of the debt, the disability that means they need help with maths and organisation is addressed. Schools must work from a brain and nurture-based approach rather than behaviour change (rewards and sanctions).

In 2022, following campaigning by groups such as the FASD Alliance, NICE published Quality Standards on FASD and Greater Manchester CCG have acted on the majority of these to prevent alcohol drinking in pregnancy. However, there is much to do in the areas of follow-up and in diagnosing children and adults.

This Council calls on its Officers to:-

- (1) Explore the ability to ensure trauma informed training includes FASD and Neurobehavior awareness with an understanding that FASD is a brain and body disability and interventions and engagement need to be led by FASD-friendly approaches.
- (2) Explore how services can become more FASD-friendly and aware.
- (3) Work with health services to act on NICE guidelines for early diagnosis and a management plan following diagnosis (NICE Quality Standard 5) “Because FASD has lifelong effects, a staged management plan may be needed to anticipate upcoming problems at planned intervals and revision should be considered at all transition stages in the person’s life.”
- (4) Work with schools and other organisations in providing appropriate training courses.
- (5) Explore possibilities for the provision of further support for children and adults seeking an FASD diagnosis.

Proposed by Councillor Alijah, seconded by Councillor Azra Ali and supported by Councillors Akbar, Doswell, Foley, Hilal and T Robinson.

5. Proceedings of the Executive

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To submit the minutes of the Executive on 4 and 18 October and 15 November 2023 and in particular to consider:

Exe/23/98 Capital Programme Monitoring (P6) and Update

The Executive Recommends that the Council approve the following changes to the Council’s capital programme:-

- Children’s Services - Levenshulme High School for Girls – 2024 Expansion. A budget increase of £2.5m funded by borrowing
- Children’s Services – Chorlton High School (CHS) South – 2024 Expansion. . A budget increase of £4.2m funded by borrowing
- Growth and Development - Carbon Reduction Programme 2024-25. A budget increase of £0.5m funded by borrowing on a invest to save basis.

6. Questions to Executive Members and Others under Procedural Rule 23

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

7. Scrutiny Committees

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To note the minutes of the following committees:

- Economy & Regeneration – 16 October & 7 November 2023
- Communities & Equalities – 10 October & 7 November 2023
- Children & Young People – 13 October & 8 November 2023 (to follow)
- Health – 11 October & 8 November 2023
- Resources & Governance – 12 October & 9 November 2023
- Environment, Climate Change & Neighbourhoods – 12 October & 9 November 2023

8. Proceedings of Committees

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

- Planning and Highways Committee – 19 October and 16 November 2023 (to follow)
- Health and Wellbeing Board – 1 November 2023
- Standards Committee – 2 November 2023, and in particular, to
- consider:

ST/23/17 Member Code of Conduct

To recommend to full Council that the Council retain its current Code of Conduct for Members.

ST/23/21 Review of the Operation and Efficacy including a proposed amendment of the Arrangements for dealing with Code of Conduct complaints against Members

Recommend to full Council the Arrangements as amended.

- Licensing Committee – 23 October and 13 November 2023
- Licensing and Appeals Committee – 23 October 2023
- Licensing Policy Committee – 31 October and 20 November 2023 (to follow), and in particular, to consider:

LPC/23/04 Statement of Licensing Policy 2023 - 2028

To recommend to full Council to approve the Statement of Licensing Policy 2023 - 2028 policy for publication.

A copy of the Statement of Policy 2023-2028 report is attached for information.

9. Statement of Licensing Policy 2023-2028

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The policy is attached for information, in conjunction with the recommendation of the Licensing Policy Committee to approve the policy.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joanne Roney', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right and a small loop at the end.

Joanne Roney OBE
Chief Executive

Information about the Council

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

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

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

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

Members of the Council

Councillors:-

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

Honorary Aldermen of the City of Manchester –

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

Further Information

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

Andrew Woods

Tel: 0161 234 3011

Email: andrew.woods@manchester.gov.uk

This agenda was issued on **Tuesday, 21 November 2023** by the Governance and Scrutiny Support Unit, Manchester City Council, Level 2, Town Hall Extension (Library Walk Elevation), Manchester M60 2LA

Council

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday, 4 October 2023

Present:

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

Councillors:

Andrews, Abdullatif, Akbar, Azra Ali, Ahmed Ali, Shaukat Ali, Amin, Appleby, Bano, Bayunu, Bell, Brickell, Bridges, Butt, Chambers, Chohan, Collins, Connolly, Craig, Curley, Evans, Flanagan, Fletcher, Foley, Gartside, Good, Green, Grimshaw, Hacking, Hassan, Hewitson, Hilal, Hitchen, Holt, Hughes, Hussain, Igbon, Ilyas, Iqbal, Johns, Johnson, T Judge, Kamal, Karney, Kilpatrick, Kirkpatrick, Lanchbury, Leech, J Lovecy, Lynch, Lyons, Marsh, McCaul, McHale, Midgley, Moran, Noor, Northwood, Nunney, Ogunbambo, Rahman, Rawlins, Rawson, Razaq, Reeves, Reid, Riasat, Richards, I Robinson, T Robinson, Sadler, M Sharif Mahamed, Sheikh, Shilton Godwin, Simcock, Stogia, Taylor, Wheeler, Wiest, Whiston, White, Wills, Wilson and Wright

CC/23/65 The Lord Mayors Announcements and Urgent Business Death of Former Councillor Audrey Jones

The Lord Mayor invited all those present to stand for a minute silence in memory of former Councillor Audrey Jones. Audrey Jones had served as a Councillor for Withington Ward 1978 – 2008 and was Lord Mayor 2003-2004 and was made an Honorary Alderman in July 2008.

CC/23/66 The Lord Mayor's Announcements and Special Business - Morocco and Libya earthquakes and flooding

The Lord Mayor invited those present at the meeting to observe a minute's silence in memory of the lives lost following the recent earthquakes and flooding in Morocco and Libya.

CC/23/67 The Lord Mayor's Announcements and Special Business – Constitutional and Nomination Committee minutes

The Lord Mayor informed the Council that she had agreed to the submission of the minutes of the Constitutional and Nomination Committee held on 4 October 2023.

CC/23/68 Minutes

Decision

The Minutes of the meeting held on 12 July 2023 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Lord Mayor.

CC/23/69 Notice of Motion - Call for a General Election now

Councillor Craig submitted the following motion, which was seconded by Councillor Karney: -

Since 2010, Manchester City Council has seen its budget decimated, losing the equivalent of £428 million a year. 13 years of cuts, the most intense and unfair cuts happening to local Government during the Coalition years of 2010-15 have been followed by the Tories mismanagement of the economy. Many local councils across the country are facing the prospect of going bust.

The last 13 years have seen an unprecedented decline in living standards and an increase in the number of children living in poverty. The House of Commons Library cites and increase of over 500,000 children living in poverty between 2011 and 2017/18. This has only got worse through the Cost-of-Living Crisis with the disastrous freezing of LHA and other benefits.

Public Services have been cut to the bone, and schools and hospitals are literally crumbling. The Coalition Government of Conservatives and Liberal Democrats, followed by the Conservative Governments short sighted vision for the education of our children, has now 13 years later, to outdated, dilapidated, crumbling and unsafe schools throughout the country. The recent RAAC scandal is one example of the short-sightedness of the Coalition Government's cancellation of the successful Building Schools for the Future, and the Prime Minister further cutting budgets to rebuild schools when he was Chancellor.

We call on every member of the council to condemn the Lib Dem/Tory coalition government for cutting the Building Schools for the Future programme back in 2010. Therefore, this Council resolves to call on the Conservative Government to end 13 years of pain and chaos by calling for a General Election Now.

The Lord Mayor informed Council that Councillor Craig had accepted the amendment submitted by Councillor Johnson and seconded by Councillor Bayunu prior to the meeting, and that it now formed part of the substantive motion.

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

Resolution

This Council resolves to call on the Conservative Government to end 13 years of pain and chaos by calling for a General Election Now.

CC/23/70 Notice of Motion - Call on the council to become a Co-operative Council

Councillor Hughes submitted the following motion, which was seconded by Councillor Reid: -

The Council notes that there are nearly 7,000 independent cooperative businesses across the UK, each owned and democratically run by their customers, employees, suppliers or members of their local community. Today, the co-operative movement is a significant part of the UK's economy, growing by 21% to £33billion, and outperforming the economy as a whole during the recent recession. The number of people who own and control the UK's cooperatives has grown by to 17.5m - nearly a quarter of the UK's population. From credit unions to community allotments – the rise in co-operative ownership is a significant development for the UK's business sector, meaning that the number of co-op members continues to outstrip the number of shareholders in the UK. This Council believes: -

- That the co-operative model provides a sustainable way of providing local government services that empower residents, service users and employees, giving them a fair share and an equal say.
- Local Councils up and down the country have already put these values into practice in a number of ways, for example developing the co-operative sector, resident and employee-owned companies and co-operative schools and colleges. Our social value and ethical procurement policies for all of our contracts has been the envy of many other local authorities and a clear co-operative policy. Not least this has been put into place in the contracts we have tendered for, not least the construction of the Coop Live where many local apprentices have been employed.
- That the Council has the opportunity to “choose cooperative” when considering the future of local services, giving residents and communities more of a say in their area.

Therefore, we call on the Council to become a Co-operative Council by: -

- (1) Working to incorporate co-operative values and principles when planning services and in its engagement with local residents.
- (2) Ask the Council's scrutiny function to scrutinise the Council's engagement with the co-operative and mutual sector in Manchester and in doing so look to make further recommendations for its potential growth.
- (3) Requesting that Officers consider how to improve engagement with local cooperatives, for example through stakeholder events.
- (4) Requesting Officers to explore the setting up of a community asset transfer fund, so that local communities can own and protect their own assets.
- (5) Auditing our contractors and suppliers on how many meet the FairTax Mark standards, pay the Living Wage and continue with and expand our social value and ethical procurement policies and meet appropriate standards on apprenticeships.
- (6) Protecting residents by always working hard to connect residents to jobs and opportunities, and through support on help to work schemes and on tackling poverty

and the crisis of the cost-of-living increases.

(7) Requesting that Officers explore how the Council can support the possibility of supporting a great number of local Co-operatives, social enterprises and credit unions.

(8) Supporting the announcement that across Greater Manchester £750,000 will be made available to grow the inclusive economy with more co-operatives and social enterprises.

(9) Setting up a working group with the Executive Member to look at what more we can do.

On the motion being put to the vote, the Lord Mayor declared it carried.

Resolution

This Council resolves to become a Co-operative Council by: -

1. Working to incorporate co-operative values and principles when planning services and in its engagement with local residents.
2. Ask the Council's scrutiny function to scrutinise the Council's engagement with the co-operative and mutual sector in Manchester and in doing so look to make further recommendations for its potential growth.
3. Requesting that Officers consider how to improve engagement with local cooperatives, for example through stakeholder events.
4. Requesting Officers to explore the setting up of a community asset transfer fund, so that local communities can own and protect their own assets.
5. Auditing our contractors and suppliers on how many meet the FairTax Mark standards, pay the Living Wage and continue with and expand our social value and ethical procurement policies and meet appropriate standards on apprenticeships.
6. Protecting residents by always working hard to connect residents to jobs and opportunities, and through support on help to work schemes and on tackling poverty and the crisis of the cost-of-living increases.
7. Requesting that Officers explore how the Council can support the possibility of supporting a great number of local Co-operatives, social enterprises and credit unions.
8. Supporting the announcement that across Greater Manchester £750,000 will be made available to grow the inclusive economy with more co-operatives and social enterprises.

9. Setting up a working group with the Executive Member to look at what more we can do.

CC/23/71 Notice of Motion – Significantly Expand the use of Selective Licensing

Councillor Bayunu submitted the following motion, which was seconded by Councillor Wiest: -

This motion asks Manchester City Council to use the full extent of its powers to improve conditions for renters in Manchester.

In 2020, Manchester City Council launched a revised Private Rented Sector Strategy with aim to see “Manchester’s Private Rented Sector provide a high quality, low carbon, affordable and sustainable offer so that Manchester’s residents have a good choice of quality homes in clean, safe and vibrant neighbourhoods.”

We are midway through the delivery of this ambition and yet across the city in wards from north to south, east to west, we continue to see our residents live in appalling conditions. Overcrowded and in poor state of repair.

One of the actions we have taken is to introduce Selective Licencing.

‘Selective licensing’ is a licence scheme which requires all private landlords operating within a designated area to license any privately rented property within that area.

To date, we have introduced Selective Licencing in small sections of a handful of wards.

Currently only small sections of the following wards are being served:

May 2022 – April 2027

- Ben Street: Clayton and Openshaw
- Hyde Road: Gorton and Abbey Hey
- The Ladders: Gorton and Abbey Hey
- Trinity: Harpurhey

August 2023 – August 2028

- Matthews Lane, Levenshulme
- Great Western Street/Claremont Rd, Moss Side and Whalley Range
- Laidon/Dickenson Rd & Birch Lane, Rusholme
- The Royals, Longsight

Yet some of our residents living within the past schemes reported long delays in their requests for support, infrequent inspections, and landlords indifferent to the requirements the licences place upon them.

This Council notes: -

That the areas covered by Selective Licencing in the city represent a tiny proportion of the housing in Manchester that could be under the control of the city's Selective Licencing Team.

And

As ALL the revenue raised by the licences is used to monitor and administrate the scheme, this also represents a tiny proportion of the money that could be available to ensure that this Team has the proper resources to do their job.

This Council is also aware that: -

Liverpool City Council has been able to bring around 80% of its eligible housing into its Selective Licencing Scheme. The money raised means that their Selective Licencing Team is able to offer a robust and effective service to their residents.

This Council therefore resolves to extend the reach of Selective Licencing by:

- (1) Asking national government for permission to extend landlord Licencing city wide.
- (2) Asking the officers responsible for the current and past schemes to provide a report to council of its strengths and weaknesses with a summary of the threats and opportunities for expansion.
- (3) Extending the duration of current schemes and revisiting past schemes should evidence emerge that need has not been or is not being met.
- (4) Committing to reaching the target of 100% of properties eligible to have been involved in a Selective Licencing Scheme by 2030.

Councillor White moved an amendment to the motion, which was seconded by Councillor Appleby, as follows: -

This motion asks Manchester City Council to use the full extent of its powers to improve conditions for renters in Manchester.

In 2020, Manchester City Council launched a revised Private Rented Sector Strategy with aim to see:

“Manchester’s Private Rented Sector provide a high quality, low carbon, affordable and sustainable offer so that Manchester’s residents have a good choice of quality homes in clean, safe and vibrant neighbourhoods.”

This strategy has now been updated by our ambitious Housing Strategy for the City, updated, and agreed in July 2022. ~~We are midway through the delivery of this ambition and yet across.~~

In the city in wards from north to south, east to west, we continue to see our residents live in appalling conditions. Overcrowded and in poor state of repair. The need to

tackle rogue landlords is a key priority and never been more important for the approx. 90,000 households living in the private rented sector.

One of the actions we have taken is to introduce Selective Licensing. 'Selective licensing' is a licence scheme which requires all private landlords operating within a designated area to license any privately rented property within that area. The council also has mandatory HMO licensing across the city, which means that any HMO with 5 or more bedrooms has to have a landlord license – this means an additional 2,209 houses across the city have landlord license – and gives the council additional powers to tackle rogue landlords and improve housing conditions for tenants.

~~To date, we have introduced Selective Licensing in small sections of a handful of wards.~~

In addition to the mandatory HMO licensing, since 2017, the council has introduced 13 selective licensing schemes in 11 different wards all across the city.

1,547 licenses were issued in the first four selective licensing schemes in Moston, Crumpsall, Moss Side and Old Moat.

~~Currently only small sections of the following wards are being served:~~

These schemes are now live in the following wards:

May 2022 – April 2027

- Ben Street: Clayton and Openshaw
- Hyde Road: Gorton and Abbey Hey
- The Ladders: Gorton and Abbey Hey
- Trinity: Harpurhey

1,018 licenses have been issued to date in these 4 areas

August 2023 – August 2028

- Matthews Lane, Levenshulme
- Great Western Street/Claremont Rd, Moss Side and Whalley Range
- Laidon/Dickenson Rd & Birch Lane, Rusholme
- The Royals, Longsight

Although early in the 5- year designation and licensing period, over 200 licenses have already been issued in these 5 new selective licensing areas in these 4 wards.

Therefore, across the 13 selective licensing schemes, and mandatory HMO licensing, we have issued nearly 5,000 licenses to date to help tackle rogue landlords and improve housing conditions for tenants.

~~Yet some of our residents living within the past schemes reported long delays in their requests for support, infrequent inspections, and landlords indifferent to the requirements the licences place upon them.~~

Selective licensing is one tool that the council has to tackle poor landlords and improve housing conditions. All those renting in the private rental sector can get assistance with housing issues from the council, even if their landlord doesn't have a license. Under the Housing Act 2004, the council can enforce against various housing standards in regards to damp, mould, excessive cold, gas and electrical safety and general levels of disrepair in the property. This doesn't require a license.

Selective, and HMO mandatory licensing is another very important way we can raise standards in the private rented sector, by inspecting properties, and getting landlords to comply with their license. During Covid-19, inspections had to be paused, but they are now fully back and operational and we pro-actively inspect 50% of houses with a license and inspect other licensed homes where complaints are raised by tenants.

This Council notes:-

~~That the areas covered by Selective Licensing in the city represent a tiny proportion of the housing in Manchester that could be under the control of the city's Selective Licensing Team.~~

That a motion on landlord licensing was passed by the council in February 2022, and agreed that the council would go further and faster to introduce more areas for selective licensing all over the city.

And

~~As all the revenue raised by the licences is used to monitor and administrate the scheme, this also represents a tiny proportion of the money that could be available to ensure that this Team has the proper resources to do their job.~~

This Council is also aware that: -

Other cities and areas have introduced selected licensing – however, a robust case has to be made to introduce these schemes against a strict criteria set by government. Until recently, secretary of state approval had to be obtained to go beyond licensing 20% of the private rented stock in the city. However, this approval process is now devolved to the Mayor at Greater Manchester level – and Manchester will continue to monitor how we best deliver further selective licensing across the city to ensure that we continue to tackle issues with rogue landlords and tackle issues with the poorest level and quality of private rented housing.

~~Liverpool City Council has been able to bring around 80% of its eligible housing into its Selective Licensing Scheme. The money raised means that their Selective Licensing Team is able to offer a robust and effective service to their residents.~~

Since 2017, the council has issued 1,000s of enforcement and improvement notices, inspected 1,000s of properties, and issued nearly £1 million worth of fines through

Civil Penalty Notices to all private rented sector landlords, including those in our various licensing schemes, both selective and mandatory HMO licenses. We have also pursued prosecution cases through the courts for the very worst offending landlords, and these have been highlighted in the media.

This Council therefore resolves to extend the reach of Selective Licensing by:

~~(1) Request that the Executive ask national government for permission to extend landlord Licensing city wide.~~

- 1) Recommending to the Executive the acceleration of the roll out of further selective licensing schemes all across the city, and liaising further with the Mayor of Greater Manchester about extending our ability to selectively license more than 20% of our private rented stock

~~(2) Request that the Executive ask for a report ask the officers responsible for the current and past schemes to provide a report to council of its strengths and weaknesses with a summary of the threats and opportunities for expansion.~~

- 2) Noting the regular evaluation reports provided by council officers to the Economy and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee in recent years, and look forward to the next evaluation report that is due to be presented to the committee in December 2023. This report will also propose further and new areas for selective licensing across the city.

~~(3) Request that the Executive extend the duration of current schemes and revisiting past schemes should evidence emerge that need has not been or is not being met.~~

- 3) Noting that Selective Licensing Schemes cannot be extended beyond their 5-year designation. If required, a new scheme in the same area can be proposed, subject to another 10-week public consultation and the Executive will consider that in full as part of the evaluation process for all schemes, both previous and current.

~~(4) Request that the Executive commit to reaching the target of 100% of properties eligible to have been involved in a Selective Licensing Scheme by 2030.~~

- 4) Recommending to the Executive that they should continue to use all means possible, with selective and mandatory HMO licensing, and other means provide for in the Housing Act 2004, to tackle rogue landlords and improve housing conditions for all our tenants. All our residents deserve to live in a safe, secure, affordable and sustainable home.

The amendment was put to the Council and the Lord Mayor declared that it was carried.

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

Resolution

This Council resolves to extend the reach of Selective Licensing by:

1. Recommending to the Executive the acceleration of the roll out of further selective licensing schemes all across the city, and liaising further with the Mayor of Greater Manchester about extending our ability to selectively license more than 20% of our private rented stock.
2. Noting the regular evaluation reports provided by council officers to the Economy and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee in recent years and look forward to the next evaluation report that is due to be presented to the committee in December 2023. This report will also propose further and new areas for selective licensing across the city.
3. Noting that Selective Licensing Schemes cannot be extended beyond their 5-year designation. If required, a new scheme in the same area can be proposed, subject to another 10-week public consultation and the Executive will consider that in full as part of the evaluation process for all schemes, both previous and current.
4. Recommending to the Executive that they should continue to use all means possible, with selective and mandatory HMO licensing, and other means provide for in the Housing Act 2004, to tackle rogue landlords and improve housing conditions for all our tenants. All our residents deserve to live in a safe, secure, affordable and sustainable home.

CC/23/72 Notice of Motion - Against the Closure of Staffed Ticket Offices

Councillor Bayunu submitted the following motion, which was seconded by Councillor Nunney: -

- This Tory Government is again taking action to worsen the lives of ordinary working people already facing a cost-of-living crisis, by denying them widespread and easy access to the purchase of rail products and best value fares through the proposed closure of ticket offices.

These proposals also place many working people at risk of redundancy and there are no safeguards in place for future job security on our rail networks.

The announcement to carry out a public consultation within such a short time frame was farcical and clearly demonstrates how little interest this government has in the opinions of the majority of people in this country.

This Council is aware that:-

There are a range of products and services available at the ticket office, which may not be available from Ticket Vending Machines (TVMs). This includes refunds, season ticket changes, ranger and rover tickets, bus connections, park and ride, group save, disabled persons discount, season tickets over one month in length, advance fares, rail card purchases, off-peak tickets before 9.30am, changes to ticket

classes, seat reservations, cycle reservations, photocards for season tickets, scholar tickets, sleeper bookings and car parking.

Using TVMs is a one-sided process, there is no interaction between customer and retailer like there is in the ticket office. In contrast, ticket office staff can ask customers questions about their journey and requirements to ensure they get the right ticket for their journey and can offer a range of routes and classes.

Many TVMs do not take cash, or permit a part cash, part card payment. Given that people on lower incomes and older and disabled people are more likely to use cash, these groups stand to be disproportionately affected by ticket office closures and may find it difficult to travel as a result.

Unlike ticket office staff, TVMs do not automatically offer passengers the cheapest ticket for their journey, or clearly explain restrictions on certain fares, such as operator-specific tickets.

Ticket Office staff also are best placed to sign post and safeguard facilities and other support for passengers with disabilities/accessibility or other equalities related needs.

Ticket office closures would cause a significant worsening of the facilities and support offered to disabled, deaf and older people. Already, disabled people face numerous barriers in accessing the rail network and are three times less likely to travel by rail than non-disabled people. Twenty-two percent of the population had a disability in 2020/2 and since 2002/3 the number of people reporting a disability has increased by 3.8million (+35%).

This Council notes: -

That there has been overwhelming opposition to ticket office closures from disabled people's organisations, including Disability Rights UK, National Federation of the Blind UK, Transport for All, RNIB, RNID, Guide Dogs, Scope, Thomas Pocklington Trust, Winvisible, Greater Manchester Coalition of Disabled People and the MS Society.

That disabled people are much less likely than non-disabled people to have access to the internet, and therefore online ticketing is not accessible for many.

That there is substantial demand for the ticket office. While the Government says that 'only' 12% of tickets are sold at ticket offices, in 2022/23, there were 1.5 billion passenger journeys, which equates to around 180 million journeys being facilitated by ticket offices.

The presence of staff is vital for ensuring the railway is accessible to all.

Staffed ticket offices have an important role in supporting passenger safety and security. Ticket offices provide a place of safety for both staff and passengers.

Ticket office staff are trained and experienced in dealing with difficult incidents and the presence of staff deters abusive and anti-social behaviour.

Ticket office staff provide support and assistance to passengers during times of disruption or in response to emergencies and their role often includes carrying out safety and security checks at the station throughout the day.

We further note that:

Passenger watchdogs give us a consistent theme emerging from research, which is that passengers like and value the presence of staff. Having staffed ticket offices supports passenger perceptions and feelings around safety, and closing ticket offices could lead to passengers no longer feeling safe when travelling.

At the House of Commons debate on 6 July, 2023. Our MP, Afzal Khan for Manchester, Gorton gave this plea for our residents.

"The announced closure of 45 railway ticket offices across Greater Manchester, including at Levenshulme and Gorton stations, will be to the detriment of my constituents who depend on them. Just when we should be encouraging travel by rail to reduce our carbon footprint, this measure will push people away from our great British railways. We should be trying to make train travel easier, cheaper and more accessible, so why are the Government acting against the interests of the public?"

As a Council who declared a climate emergency in 2019 and with a commitment to being Zero Carbon by 2038, this Council expresses gratitude to our local MP for standing up for local people in Parliament and for the climate.

Therefore, this Council commits to: -

- (1) Sending a message of solidarity to the RMT, TSSA, and all unions and other organisations who are coordinating action to oppose these measures.
- (2) Thanking all Manchester Councillors who took action coordinated by the unions and other organisations.
- (3) Using all resources at our disposal to raise awareness amongst our residents about how they can continue take action against these measures, including:
- (4) Sending clear messages about the impact of these measures on our city and residents through direct mail, press statements and billboards
- (5) Signposting people to any further online consultations at Libraries and other council owned facilities.
- (6) Working in partnership with all our Manchester MPs and across Greater Manchester, with the GMCA and our GM Mayor, Andy Burnham to oppose these measures.

Councillor Lyons moved an amendment to the motion, which was seconded by Councillor Hilal, as follows: -

This Tory Government is again taking action to worsen the lives of ordinary working people already facing a cost-of-living crisis, by denying them widespread and easy access to the purchase of rail products and best value fares through the proposed closure of ticket offices.

These proposals also place many working people at risk of redundancy and there are no safeguards in place for future job security on our rail networks.

The announcement to carry out a public consultation within such a short time frame was farcical and clearly demonstrates how little interest this government has in the opinions of the majority of people in this country.

This Council is aware that:-

There are a range of products and services available at the ticket office, which may not be available from Ticket Vending Machines (TVMs). This includes refunds, season ticket changes, ranger and rover tickets, bus connections, park and ride, group save, disabled persons discount, season tickets over one month in length, advance fares, rail card purchases, off-peak tickets before 9.30am, changes to ticket classes, seat reservations, cycle reservations, photocards for season tickets, scholar tickets, sleeper bookings and car parking.

Using TVMs is a one-sided process, there is no interaction between customer and retailer like there is in the ticket office. In contrast, ticket office staff can ask customers questions about their journey and requirements to ensure they get the right ticket for their journey and can offer a range of routes and classes.

Many TVMs do not take cash, or permit a part cash, part card payment. Given that people on lower incomes and older and disabled people are more likely to use cash, these groups stand to be disproportionately affected by ticket office closures and may find it difficult to travel as a result.

Unlike ticket office staff, TVMs do not automatically offer passengers the cheapest ticket for their journey, or clearly explain restrictions on certain fares, such as operator-specific tickets.

Ticket Office staff also are best placed to sign post and safeguard facilities and other support for passengers with disabilities/accessibility or other equalities related needs.

Ticket office closures would cause a significant worsening of the facilities and support offered to disabled, Deaf and older people. Already, disabled people face numerous barriers in accessing the rail network and are three times less likely to travel by rail than non-disabled people. Twenty-two percent of the population had a disability in 2020/2 and since 2002/3 the number of people reporting a disability has increased by 3.8million (+35%).

This Council notes: -

That there has been overwhelming opposition to ticket office closures from disabled people's organisations, including Disability Rights UK, National Federation of the Blind UK, Transport for All, RNIB, RNID, Guide Dogs, Scope, Thomas Pocklington Trust, Winvisible, Greater Manchester Coalition of Disabled People and the MS Society.

That disabled people are much less likely than non-disabled people to have access to the internet, and therefore online ticketing is not accessible for many.

That there is substantial demand for the ticket office. While the Government says that 'only' 12% of tickets are sold at ticket offices, in 2022/23, there were 1.5 billion passenger journeys, which equates to around 180 million journeys being facilitated by ticket offices.

The presence of staff is vital for ensuring the railway is accessible to all.

Staffed ticket offices have an important role in supporting passenger safety and security. Ticket offices provide a place of safety for both staff and passengers.

Ticket office staff are trained and experienced in dealing with difficult incidents and the presence of staff deters abusive and anti-social behaviour.

Ticket office staff provide support and assistance to passengers during times of disruption or in response to emergencies and their role often includes carrying out safety and security checks at the station throughout the day.

We further note that:

Passenger watchdogs give us a consistent theme emerging from research, which is that passengers like and value the presence of staff. Having staffed ticket offices supports passenger perceptions and feelings around safety, and closing ticket offices could lead to passengers no longer feeling safe when travelling.

~~At the House of Commons debate on 6 July, 2023. Our MP, Afzal Khan for Manchester, Gorton gave this plea for our residents.~~

~~"The announced closure of 45 railway ticket offices across Greater Manchester, including at Levenshulme and Gorton stations, will be to the detriment of my constituents who depend on them. Just when we should be encouraging travel by rail to reduce our carbon footprint, this measure will push people away from our great British railways. We should be trying to make train travel easier, cheaper and more accessible, so why are the Government acting against the interests of the public?"~~

Manchester is particularly badly hit, with threats to one of the busiest stations in the country with Manchester Piccadilly ticket office even forced to close. Local Labour Councillors across Gorton, Levenshulme, Withington, Burnage and East Didsbury (with support from Cllr Hilal) have been regularly lobbying to save their stations. Since the announcement of the closure of ticket offices, Manchester's Labour MPs, Greater Manchester's Labour Mayor, Manchester City Council Executive Members,

and Councillors have actively campaigned against closures from presence at local stations to encouraging responses to the consultation and working with community groups to threaten legal action.

~~As a Council who declared a climate emergency in 2019 and with a commitment to being Zero Carbon by 2038, this Council expresses gratitude to our local MP for standing up for local people in Parliament and for the climate.~~

Currently the consultation has closed and the Government must give certainty to staff, passengers and the public.

Therefore this Council commits to:-

- (1) ~~Sending Continuing to send a message of solidarity to the RMT, TSSA, and all unions and other organisations who are coordinating action to oppose these measures~~
- (2) ~~Thanking all Manchester Councillors who took action coordinated by Labour party, the unions and other organisations.~~
- (3) ~~Using all Continue to resources at our disposal to raise awareness amongst our public to our residents about how they can continue take action against these measures, and encourage them to continue lobbying the Government to reverse their plans including~~
- (4) ~~Sending clear messages about the impact of these measures on our city and residents through direct mail, press statements and billboards~~
- (5) ~~Signposting people to any further online consultations at Libraries and other council owned facilities.~~
- (6) ~~Call on the Government to rethink their plans wWorking in partnership with all our Manchester MPs and across Greater Manchester, with the GMCA and our GM Mayor, Andy Burnham to oppose these measures.~~

The amendment was put to the Council and the Lord Mayor declared that it was carried.

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

Resolution

This Council commits to: -

- (1) Continue to send a message of solidarity to the RMT, TSSA, and all unions and other organisations who are coordinating action to oppose these measures.

- (2) Thanking all Manchester Councillors who took action coordinated by Labour party, the unions and other organisations.
- (3) Continue to publicise to our residents about how they can continue take action against these measures and encourage them to continue lobbying the Government to reverse their plans
- (4) Call on the Government to rethink their plans working in partnership with all our Manchester MPs and across Greater Manchester, with the GMCA and our GM Mayor, Andy Burnham to oppose these measures.

(The Lord Mayor adjourned the meeting for ten minutes. The meeting resumed at 11.45am)

CC/23/73 Proceedings of the Executive

The proceedings of the Executive on 26 July and 13 September 2023 were submitted. The Council was asked to give particular consideration to the following recommendations:

Exe/23/70 Our Town Hall Project - Progress Update

The Executive recommend to Council approval of a capital budget increase of £29m for the project, funded by borrowing, to maintain progress with the construction works until the end of December 2023.

Exe/23/77 Capital Programme Monitoring P4 2023/24

The Executive recommends that the Council approve the following changes to the Council's capital programme: -

- Aviva Studios, Home of Factory International - a capital budget increase of £22.2m, funded by borrowing.
- Corporate Services - Our New Finance & HRODT System – a revenue budget increase of £17.4m, to be spread across 4 financial years, and funded from the Capital Fund reserve.
- Neighbourhoods – Manchester Aquatic Centre (MAC) – a capital budget increase of £0.640m, funded by borrowing.
- Growth and Development – Piccadilly Garden Design Phase – a capital budget increase of £0.782m, funded by borrowing.

Decisions

1. To receive the minutes of the Executive held on 26 July and 13 September 2023.
2. To approve a capital budget increase of £29m for the project, funded by borrowing, to maintain progress with the construction works until the end of December 2023.

3. To approve the following changes to the Council's capital programme:
- Aviva Studios, Home of Factory International - a capital budget increase of £22.2m, funded by borrowing.
 - Corporate Services - Our New Finance & HRODT System – a revenue budget increase of £17.4m, to be spread across 4 financial years, and funded from the Capital Fund reserve.
 - Neighbourhoods – Manchester Aquatic Centre (MAC) – a capital budget increase of £0.640m, funded by borrowing.
 - Growth and Development – Piccadilly Garden Design Phase – a capital budget increase of £0.782m, funded by borrowing.

CC/23/74 Questions to Executive Members and Others under Procedural Rule 23

Councillor Tom Robinson responded to a question from Councillor Green regarding the nature of the Council's work with the Greater Manchester Mental Health Trust.

Councillor Tom Robinson responded to a question from Councillor Reid regarding progress to ensure better access for our residents to gain access to NHS dentists across the city.

Councillor Igbon responded to a question from Councillor Nunney regarding plans for the number of new litter bins for the city.

Councillor Igbon responded to a question from Councillor Nunney Igbon regarding a procedure concerning the supervision of work being undertaken by Biffa in suppressing weed growth on footpaths

Councillor Rawlins responded to a question from Councillor Nunney regarding the Council's support to businesses to comply with new laws to ban single use plastics which came into force on 1st October 2023.

Councillor Tom Robinson responded to a question from Councillor Appleby regarding update Council on the Integrated Care Board's preparations for winter.

Councillor White responded to a question from Councillor Leech concerning viability assessments conducted Manchester on affordable homes.

Councillor Craig was not present to respond to a question from Councillor Leech regarding HS2 and responded separately after the meeting.

Councillor Akbar responded to a question from Councillor Leech regarding the provision of Council Tax support.

Councillor Rahman responded to a question from Councillor Leech regarding GMP failing to provide accurate local crime stats on its website.

Councillor White responded to a question from Councillor Wheeler regarding notifying ward councillors of major planning developments in their ward.

Councillor Rawlins responded to a question from Councillor Kilpatrick regarding gully cleaning arrangements.

Councillor Rahman responded to a question from Councillor Bayunu regarding policing arrangements for organised protests.

Councillor Rawlins responded to a question from Councillor Bayunu regarding requested consultation with residents on any proposed removal of trees.

CC/23/75 Scrutiny Committees

The minutes of the following Scrutiny Committee meetings were submitted:

- Economy and Regeneration – 18 July and 5 September 2023
- Communities and Equalities – 18 July and 5 September 2023
- Children and Young People – 19 July and 6 September 2023
- Health – 19 July and 6 September 2023
- Resources and Governance – 20 July and 24 August and 7 September 2023
- Environment, Climate Change and Neighbourhoods – 20 July and 7 September 2023

Decision

To receive those minutes submitted.

CC/23/76 Proceedings of Committees

The minutes of the following meetings were submitted:

- Audit Committee – 25 July and 19 September 2023
- Planning and Highways Committee – 27 July, 31 August and 21 September 2023
- Personnel Committee – 13 September 2023

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

PE/23/9 Recruitment to the role of Director of Population Health and Wellbeing

The Committee request Council agree the recruitment for the role to be at its current substantive grading level of SS4 (£105,566 to £116,346), with the optional inclusion of a market rate supplement up to a fixed maximum of £5,000 to be applied at the discretion of the Director of HROD and Transformation (in discussion with the Chief Executive).

- Health and Wellbeing Board – 20 September 2023
- Constitutional and Nomination Committee – 4 October 2023

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

CN/23/21 Appointments and Changes to Council Committee Membership

1. Recommend Council approve the amendments to committee appointments as follows:-

Committee	Member(s) to be added	Member(s) to be removed
Licensing Committee	Councillor Ludford	
Licensing and Appeals	Councillor Ludford	
Planning and Highways		Councillor Ludford
Audit		Councillor Stogia
Health		Councillor Stogia
Resources and Governance	Councillor Stogia	
Children and Young People	Councillor Marsh	

Decisions

1. To receive those minutes submitted.
2. To approve the recruitment for the role to be at its current substantive grading level of SS4 (£105,566 to £116,346), with the optional inclusion of a market rate supplement up to a fixed maximum of £5,000 to be applied at the discretion of the Director of HROD and Transformation (in discussion with the Chief Executive).
3. To approve the changes in appointments to Committees and panels of the Council, as detailed above.

CC/23/77 Review of Members Allowances - GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Consideration was given to the report of the City Solicitor that provided the Council with the report and recommendations of the Council's Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP) in relation to the remuneration of the members of the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Decisions

That Council:

1. Accept the recommendations of the Council's Independent Remuneration Panel and agree payment of special responsibility allowances to the Manchester City Council Members appointed as Members, substitute Members, Chair and, where appointed, the vice-chair of the GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee as set out in the report, backdated to 1st April 2023.
2. Agrees to the indexation of the special responsibility allowances as recommended by the Council's Independent Remuneration Panel.
3. Instructs the City Solicitor to amend the Council's Members' Allowance Scheme set out in Part 7 of the Council's Constitution to give effect to the decision of Council.

CC/23/78 Appointment of an additional Independent Person for consideration of complaints against Members

Consideration was given to the report of the City Solicitor concerning the appointment of an additional Independent Person to assist the Council's Monitoring Officer in dealing with allegations that members of the Council have acted in breach of the Council's Code of Conduct

Decision

To agree to appoint William Goh as an Independent Person for period of four years starting 4 October 2023.

CC/23/79 Key Decisions Report

The Council considered the report of the City Solicitor on key decisions that have been taken in accordance with the urgency provisions in the Council's Constitution.

Decision

To note the report.

CC/23/80 Date of Council meeting March 2024

Decision

The Council agreed to change the date of the meeting of Council from 27 March 2024 to 20 March 2024.

Executive

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday, 4 October 2023

Present: Councillor Craig (Chair)

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

Also present as Members of the Standing Consultative Panel:

Councillors: Ahmed Ali, Chambers, Foley, Johnson, Leech and Moran

Apologies: Councillor Butt, Douglas and Lynch

Exe/23/83 Minutes

Decision

The Executive approved as a correct record the minutes of the meeting on 13 September 2023.

Exe/23/84 Places for Everyone Plan: A Joint Development Plan Document for 9 Greater Manchester Local Authorities - Proposed Modifications Consultation

The Executive considered a report of the Strategic Director (Growth and Development), which provided an update on the progress of Places for Everyone Plan (a Joint Development Plan Document for nine Greater Manchester Local Authorities (Places for Everyone Plan)) and also sought approval for proposed modifications to the plan.

The report provided contextual detail as to how the proposals had reached their current iteration

The Executive Member for Housing and Development advised that whilst there were a number of proposed modifications, they did not change the overall vision, objectives and spatial strategy of the Plan. Inspectors had considered that the proposed modification to the Plan period were necessary to make the plan sound to ensure that, in line with Government Policy, the PfE strategic policies looked ahead over a minimum 15 year period from adoption and thus provided a sufficient policy framework for the individual local plans which would follow on from the PfE's adoption.

The Plan continued to feature specific policies and an allocation that directly related to Manchester included:-

- Delivery of a minimum of around 60,000 new homes; and over 2 million square metres of office floorspace in Manchester by 2039;
- Policies to deliver growth and regeneration across the City
- Seeking to achieve a carbon neutral city no later than 2038;

- Inclusion of the requirement to deliver biodiversity net gain in line with national policy;
- Policies across a range of other themes including flood risk, water resources, air quality, economic and housing matters, heritage, culture, education and skills, health, and sport and recreation; and
- Specific allocation identified in the plan for Manchester for new jobs at Wythenshawe Hospital.

It was noted that once the Places for Everyone Plan was adopted it would form part of Manchester's development plan. As such Manchester's local Plan would need to be consistent with it and any neighbourhood plans would need to be in general conformity with the strategic policies.

Councillor Leech sought clarification in relation to the proposals for additional office floor space, Brownfield land preference within urban areas and the limited release of GreenBelt for both housing and employment.

Decisions

The Executive:-

- (1) Note progress made in respect of the Places for Everyone Plan (PfE).
- (2) Agree that the PfE modifications (Main, Additional and those relating to the policies map), and associated supporting background documents be subject to a period of representations for a period of 8 weeks commencing no earlier than 9 October 2023.
- (3) Agree the next steps for the production of the PfE Plan (as detailed in section 12 of the report).

Executive

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday, 18 October 2023

Present: Councillor Bev Craig (Chair)

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

Also present as Members of the Standing Consultative Panel:

Councillors: Ahmed Ali, Butt, Chambers, Douglas, Foley, Johnson, Lynch and Moran

Apologies: Councillor Hacking, Rawlins and Leech

Also present: Councillors Connolly (Moston Ward) and Appleby (Moston Ward)

Exe/23/85 Minutes

Decision

The Executive approved as a correct record the minutes of the meeting on 4 October 2023.

Exe/23/86 Our Manchester Progress update

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

The Executive Member for Early Years, Children and Young People reported on the opening of the Crossacres Family Hub, which was the third such one-stop-shop for families to open in the city, following the opening over the summer of similar family hubs in Longsight and Cheetham. The hubs provided a range of advice, support and services, all targeted at parents, children, and young adults. The hubs had been set up to provide access to a wide range of services to help families navigate all aspects of family life - from health issues such as infant feeding, mental health support, and stopping smoking, to building better relationships, accessing school and education support, as well as providing advice on jobs, skills training, and next steps post-18. The family hubs were one element of the broader five-year Making Manchester Fairer action plan which aimed to address inequalities in the city, recognising that these could start early on in life and affect everything from people’s work and housing prospects to their life expectancy. The plan also included work around tackling cost of living pressures and poverty, which are also integral to improving health and wellbeing.

He also reported on Youth and Play commissioning. Since the Covid-19 pandemic there had been a significant uplift in funding for youth and play provision and through a combination of Council and external contributions, investment, in these services

had grown by £4.6m from a base budget of £2.8m since 2020. The current commissioning programme was transferred from Young Manchester to the Council on 1 April 2022. It was scheduled to end on 31 March 2023 but was extended to 31 December 2023 at the request of the sector. Grant awards for the last quarter of 23/24 and 24/25, to commence on 1 January 2024 and subject to due diligence, had been announced. An additional £500,000 had been set aside by the Council in 2023/24 to support commissioning and sector development with organisations receiving up to £7,500 to support volunteer training, accredited training in youth and play work, capacity building and so on.

The Deputy Leader reported that comprehensive plans were being drawn up to provide assistance and emergency accommodation for people rough sleeping during periods of severe cold or other extreme weather this winter. The proposed model for 2023/24 would build on lessons learned during 2022/23 to deliver a comprehensive cold weather offer to people sleeping rough and be activated when temperatures were forecasted to drop below zero for one night or when the Met Office issue a red weather warning. Accommodation would predominantly be provided at Etrop Grange Hotel, which had been developed as an off-street offer for people sleeping rough. It had 74 bedspaces and could accommodate dogs, a key consideration for some people sleeping rough. Additional emergency overnight sit-up provision would also be made available.

The Deputy Executive Member for Housing and Development reported that the procurement process had begun for a joint venture partner to drive the transformative development plan for Wythenshawe town centre over the next 15 years. The appointed partner would take a leading role in the ongoing management of the existing shopping centre whilst also considering the wider Council-owned land for redevelopment.

Councillor Johnson welcomed the progress being made with Wythenshawe town centre and asked a question in relation to the availability of SEND support at the family Hubs to which the Executive Member for Early Years, Children and Young People responded.

Decision

The Executive note the report.

Exe/23/87 High Speed Rail 2, Northern Powerhouse Rail and 'Network North' Update

The Executive considered a report of the Strategic Director (Growth and Development), which informed Members about the recent announcement by the Prime Minister to cancel the new railway infrastructure proposed between Birmingham and Manchester, as included in the High Speed (Crewe – Manchester) Bill (known as 'HS2 Phase 2b'). The report also set out the key projects relevant to Greater Manchester and the city, described by the Prime Minister and included in the recently published Government paper, Network North and outlined the key implications which arose from the announcement of cancelling HS2 Phase 2b, and set out proposed next steps.

The Leader reported that neither the Council nor the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) were consulted on the cancellation of HS2 Phase 2a or Phase 2b or the alternative transport infrastructure investment proposals set out in the Network North paper prior to the Prime Ministers announcement at the Conservative Party Conference which was being held in Manchester.

The full HS2 and NPR schemes would have made essential contributions to the Government's agenda of 'Levelling Up' and the benefits of HS2 to Manchester and the City region had been consistently set out in the Department for Transport and HS2 Ltd's Strategic Case for HS2. In light of the proposed changes, there was now a considerable risk that in the intervening period, before the alternatives to HS2 were delivered, the economic gap would widen and therefore achieving levelling up would become more challenging, more remote and was likely to cost more to achieve.

In addition to economic and levelling up losses, there were also extensive wider impacts as a result of the Government's decision. These impacts included environmental and equality considerations as well as impacts to local regeneration strategies and plans.

It was also noted that the Government had heavily caveated that individual projects, referenced in its Network North paper, would be subject to the approval of businesses cases, and cash prices were based on indicative profiling. Additionally, the cash prices stated throughout the report varied from 2019 and 2023 prices and were subject to delivery timelines. Therefore, prices were likely to change, possibly significantly in some cases, and no evidence to support the robustness of the prices had been presented to date.

In terms of next steps, the Council would work with its key partners, such as GMCA and TfGM to seek further clarity from DfT on the proposals and urgent engagement on delivering the rail capacity and other transport improvements needed in Greater Manchester and the North of England. It would continue to scrutinise the Network North proposals as more detail became available and respond to any consultations put out by Government in relation to the investments set out in the Network North paper.

The Leader confirmed that the Council would maintain the position that the infrastructure needed for Northern Powerhouse Rail should be protected in the hybrid Bill and remain safeguarded. In addition, the Council would seek to produce a Strategic Plan on rail and other public transport infrastructure, working with relevant local partners and key stakeholders, to be brought back to the Executive for further consideration.

Decisions

The Executive:-

- (1) Note the Government announcement to cancel the infrastructure proposed under the High Speed Rail (Crewe – Manchester) 'Phase 2b' hybrid Bill.

- (2) Note the Government announcement to invest 36 billion in road, rail and bus projects across the North, Midlands and South (including Scotland), called the “Network North” project.
- (3) Request Officers to produce a Strategic Plan on rail and other public transport infrastructure asks within the context of Network North for further consideration by the Executive.

Exe/23/88 ID Manchester SRF Update

The Executive considered a report of the Strategic Director (Growth and Development), which sought approval of the draft Strategic Regeneration Framework (SRF) for ID Manchester (formerly the University of Manchester’s North Campus) following the outcome of a public consultation exercise with local residents, businesses and stakeholders.

The Executive Member for Housing and Development advised that as a world-class innovation district, acting as a cornerstone of the UK’s innovation strategy, ID Manchester could help to establish Greater Manchester and the UK as an innovation powerhouse on the world stage, catalysing enterprise across the city region.

The majority of the responses received in response to the consultation were generally supportive of regenerating the ID Manchester SRF area. The engagement undertaken captured a range of specific points which either provided support or highlighted a particular issue with the SRF. These areas were categorised into the following themes:-

- Heritage
- Development Uses, Architecture and Placemaking
- Inclusivity and Amenity
- Public Realm, Green Space and Biodiversity
- Sustainability
- Safety and
- Connectivity, Travel and Transport

A number of minor amendments to the SRF were proposed arising from the outcome of the consultation. The proposals in the updated ID Manchester SRF had the potential to create over 10,000 jobs; encourage new business growth and clustering, linked to the city’s research and development strengths and provide significant new homes, public space and facilities for local people. They would also provide new and improved routes and connections to Piccadilly, the rest of the Oxford Road Corridor, other parts of the city centre and adjacent communities.

All future detailed plans for each of the plots within the framework area would be considered and determined through a detailed and evidence-based design process which in turn would feed in to all planning and listed building consent applications.

Councillor Johnson welcomed the proposals suggested arising from the consultation around the use of green space.

Decisions

The Executive:-

- (1) Note the outcome of the public consultation on the draft Strategic Regeneration Framework for ID Manchester.
- (2) Approve the Strategic Regeneration Framework for ID Manchester and request that Planning and Highways Committee take the Framework into account as a material consideration when considering planning applications for the site.

Exe/23/89 Building Stronger Communities Together Strategy 2023 - 2026

The Executive considered a report of the Strategic Director (Neighbourhoods), which sought approval of the Building Stronger Communities Together Strategy 2023-26 and the key priorities of the strategy for the next three years.

The Deputy Leader advised that over the last three years, the Council had faced several challenges, both locally and nationally that had tested its understanding of and approach to building integrated and cohesive communities. At a time of economic crisis and global instability, there was a need more than ever to invest in strengthening our communities and social relationships particularly across difference.

The Building Stronger Communities Together strategy reflected the things that people had identified as being important to them and set out how the Council planned to strengthen and share the great things that come out of Manchester's shared identity – things that boosted communities, community relations and social relationships.

The findings from the consultation showed that people wanted to:-

- Get to know and help their neighbours more;
- Hold more inter-faith events, celebrating different cultures together;
- Understand where they can find out about volunteering opportunities;
- Get involved in community events and celebrations;
- Feel a sense of pride in their area and tackle littering and fly tipping; and
- Have safe neighbourhoods where people feel confident in letting their children out to play.

Based on the feedback from the consultation, the strategy set out 10 basic behaviours and principles to support the Council and its staff in how they can to play their part in the way that the Council thinks and behaves towards others, the way we live and how we view and interact with others, especially those we do not know or those who might be different from.

Alongside the strategy, a pilot action plan would be established to prioritise and test activities aimed at achieving the three priorities in the first year of the strategy. These activities would be developed and delivered in key neighbourhoods in north, central and south and will be focused on bridging and bonding. A number of workshops were planned over the next couple of weeks, led by the national Belong Network to

bring together key services and partners to help design and develop the pilot action plans and achieve the identified objectives.

It was also reported that the strategy and progress against the pilot action plans would form part of the Communities and Power workstream of Making Manchester Fairer, reporting into the quarterly Communities and Power Forum.

Councillor Johnson welcomed the proposals and ambition of the strategy. The report had been considered by the Communities and Equalities Scrutiny Committee who had endorsed the recommendation that Executive approve the strategy.

Decision

The Executive agree the Building Stronger Communities Together Strategy 2023-26 and the key priorities of the strategy for the next three years.

Exe/23/90 Moston Lane Development Framework (Part A)

The Executive considered a report of the Strategic Director (Growth and Development), which provided update to Members outlining the public consultation process that had guided the proposed Moston Lane Development Framework.

The Executive Member for Housing and Development advised that the Moston Lane Development Framework set out the vision for Moston Lane as a “vibrant centre where families, community and culture mix along rejuvenated streets and new community-focused spaces. Key interventions were identified within the Framework which sought to upgrade and improve the wider environment whilst creating new equitable public spaces. Through careful coordination and placemaking it was envisaged that these spaces were animated and supported by adjacent uses that matched the needs of local people, whether that be specific housing needs, space for local businesses to grow or health and education infrastructure.

An extensive process of consultation and engagement had been undertaken in order to produce the Moston Lane Development Framework. A detailed report on this consultation, setting out in detail who was consulted, how this was done, and the feedback from residents and businesses was provided at Appendix 2 of the report.

Through the public consultation process, opportunities had been identified to unlock investment that would deliver hundreds of mixed tenure new homes that matched local demand.

The report went on to outline the rationale and scope of a property acquisition strategy that was required to enable the significant economic growth and future resilience of the local centre. Approval was sought to implement these private acquisitions as part of the next phase of delivering the regeneration programme.

An update was also provided on the investment to spearhead physical and environmental interventions into Moston Lane using Shared Prosperity (SPF) monies, and the integration of this investment into the wider regeneration plans.

Councillors Appleby and Connolly (Moston Ward Councillors) attended and addressed the Executive. They welcome the proposals within the framework and both thanked the Executive Member and officers for listening to the comments made within the public consultation, which had helped shaped the Framework.

Councillor Johnson queried whether there would be any net gain of green spaces arising from the Plan

Decisions

The Executive:-

- (1) Note the outcome of the public consultation on the Moston Lane Development Framework, as set out in the Consultation Report at Appendix 2 of the report.
- (2) Approve the Moston Lane Development Framework (set out at Appendix 1 of the report) and request that the Planning and Highways Committee take the Development Framework into account as a material consideration when considering planning applications in the Moston Lane area.
- (3) Note the progress on the Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF) projects.
- (4) Approve the acquisition strategy as outlined in Part B of this report and delegate authority to the Director of Development in consultation with the Executive Member for Housing and Development to conclude negotiations and acquire interests required to deliver the Moston Lane Development Framework.
- (5) Authorise the City Solicitor to do all things necessary or incidental to implement the above.

Exe/23/91 Manchester - Major Event Funding Model (Part A)

The Executive considered a report of the Strategic Director (Neighbourhoods), which sought approval for the formation of an Event Commission, which was set out as part of the Manchester Events Strategy that was adopted in 2019.

The Leader reported that the Strategy set out a vision 'To be an Eventful City' with a focus on developing a diverse, balanced and benefits-driven events portfolio driven by partnerships. The Events Strategy identified how the Council would re-purpose its funding to support Events and Festivals, differentiating its investment between events that were aimed principally at supporting community cohesion and animating the city and events aimed at generating significant economic value and profile for the City.

To align Manchester with global best practice in city events planning and strategy, the Manchester Events Strategy identified how the city could establish a collaborative partnership mechanism around events (an Events Commission). This would provide a strengthened platform on which the Council could develop its long term strategic planning and leverage increased resources for events that would enable accelerated

investment to secure, acquire and develop signature sporting and cultural events of national and international significance.

The Council had been in discussions with Greater Manchester partners, the A-BID, CityCo and Marketing Manchester about the formation of an Events Commission for the City. The approach being developed would strengthen collaboration between the public and private sector partners in Manchester and provide a viable mechanism for acquiring, investing, developing and leveraging major events to Manchester from 2024 onward.

The Council currently invested £2.55m per annum from the core mainstream budget to support the baseline annual programme of events, in addition a significant number of other events had been funded on either a rolling basis, as one off opportunities or on a more ad hoc basis. In line with the Event Strategy, it was advised that the Council should differentiate the c.£1.4m budget for small scale, community and civic events and the festive programme. It was proposed that work was undertaken to seek to increase the gross budget from community events through realising new income opportunities from commercial event activities. Separately, it was proposed that existing Council investments which were currently made into Sports Events bidding, Conferencing and Festivals – along with an initial support staff resource - were deployed as part of the Event Commission (circa £1.15m pa). Additional annual funding of £2m deployed from the growth in business rates income was proposed as an increased contribution towards the Event Commission. This would be included as a commitment against the Capital Fund, and the necessary approvals for this budget increase would be sought as part of the overall 2024/25 Council budget approvals

The Event Commission would seek to grow the core funding for major events by between £4.35m - £4.85m pa to provide a 'core' seed funding pot of £5.5m - £6.0m per annum – with the capability to roll-forward underspends in any year to meet event opportunities in future years. Conversations had been held with other public funding bodies regarding them contributing to the Events Commission model for 2024 onward. These conversations had been positive, and officers would further these discussions once the Council had made a commitment to establish an Event Commission. It was anticipated that this would further increase the investment capability of the Events Commission by c.£1m-£2m per annum.

Decisions

The Executive:-

- (1) Note and endorse the intent to form an Event Commission for the City in order to secure major events in Manchester and to bring in contributions from key partners.
- (2) Request that the Strategic Director of Neighbourhoods and the City Solicitor complete the Terms of Reference and governance arrangements for the proposed Event Commission in consultation with key funding partners.
- (3) Note the proposed budget requirement that will be considered as part of the overall 2024/25 budget options.

- (4) Delegate responsibility to the Chief Executive, the Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer and the City Solicitor in consultation with the Leader of the Council to agree and secure major events through the Event Commission model.
- (5) Endorse the establishment of a project team with the Strategic Director of Neighbourhoods as SRO to develop the next phase of the creation of the Event Commission with the key strategic partners and manage the process through the Event Commission for ongoing review and approval.

Exe/23/92 Exclusion of the Public

Decision

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

Exe/23/93 Moston Lane Development Framework - Acquisitions (Part B)

The Executive considered a report of the Strategic Director (Growth and Development), which outlined the rationale and scope of a property acquisition strategy that was required to enable the significant economic growth and future resilience of the local centre. Approval was sought to implement these private acquisitions as part of the next phase of the delivering the regeneration programme

Decisions

The Executive:-

- (1) Approve the acquisition strategy as outlined in this report and delegate authority to the Director of Development in consultation with the Executive Member for Housing and Development to conclude negotiations and acquire interests required to deliver the Moston Lane Development Framework.
- (2) Authorise the City Solicitor to do all things necessary or incidental to implement the above.

Exe/23/94 Manchester - Major Event Funding Model (Part B)

The Leader advised that there were no issues that needed to be raised under this item and consequently the Chief Executive, in consultation with the City Solicitor agreed that the item be withdrawn on the basis there were no issues to discuss and all decisions required in relation to this item had been made under the Part A report.

Executive

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday, 15 November 2023

Present: Councillor Craig (Chair)

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

Also present as Members of the Standing Consultative Panel:

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

Apologies: Councillor Igbon

Exe/23/95 Minutes

Decision

The Executive approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting on 18 October 2023.

Exe/23/96 Our Manchester Progress Update

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

The Executive Member for Housing and Development reported that Manchester had secured more than £3 million to support housing projects across the city which were bringing long-term brownfield land back into use. The funding, through Round 2 of the Government’s Brownfield Land Release Fund, would help build 210 homes in total, 119 of which would be affordable housing at sites across north and east Manchester, and one city centre site. 81 of the affordable homes being supported through the new brownfield funding were part of the Council’s Project 500 initiative which would be capped at the Manchester Living Rent.

The Deputy Leader (statutory) reported that the Council had begun a major conversation with Manchester people to inform the city’s 10 year cultural strategy. It was intended that the decade-long plan would build on the investments in culture which the city had made, building on the existing cultural vibrancy and extending its reach further.

The Deputy Leader reported that Warm Welcome spaces were again being provided for Manchester residents this autumn and winter as part of the Council’s cost-of-living support for residents. The City’s 22 libraries were again operating as warm welcome spaces, providing somewhere people could get out of the cold, especially if they were worried about heating costs and a range of other support was also available for people who needed it. In addition to the libraries, there were dozens of other

community and volunteer-led spaces are joining the offer of support this year. All these spaces were free to access and people could stay as long as they like during opening hours.

The Deputy Leader also reported that a year on from Manchester receiving initial Living Wage City accreditation, the number of employers paying the Real Living Wage has increased to 282, a rise of more than 50% which had exceeded the target set for both 2023 and 2024. Within newly accredited Real Wage employers, the number of jobs uplifted to a real wage had increased by more than 9,000 people – exceeding the 2023 target of 6,056 employees. Citywide, the number of people employed or contacted by Real Living Wage employers had increased by 13.2% since this time last year, with the proportion of jobs employed by accredited Living Wage employers increasing from 16.3% to 18.4%.

The Executive Member for Environment and Transport reported on the Council's emerging Tree and Woodland Action Plan. A council commissioned Growing Manchester's Trees study, had looked at how the city's treescape had evolved and how it could be improved and concluded that there was significant scope to increase the city's tree canopy cover from its current level of almost 19% of tree cover to almost 22%. The draft Tree and Woodland Action Plan envisaged the Council working with organisations and other stakeholders across the city towards that goal, which it was estimated would require 64,000 new trees, equivalent to 320 hectares of extra tree cover or an area the size of 600 football pitches.

The Executive Member for Environment and Transport also reported that the latest data showed that the Oxford Road cycle route was more popular than ever with the millionth journey of the year being recorded on 20 October 2023 – a month earlier than last year. The cycleway was a flagship of the Council's ambition to improve cycling provision throughout the city as part of an effort to encourage active travel for shorter journeys, contributing towards the city's goal of becoming zero carbon by 2038 or earlier. At the same time, the route had improved the experience for pedestrians and created new public realm and green spaces.

Councillor Leech sought clarification as to whether the funding for bringing long-term brownfield land back into use was sufficient to address all brownfield sites and whether those that had been identified so far for remediation works were the most contaminated. He also sought clarification in respect of the Tree and Woodland Action Plan as to whether any consideration would be given to the retention of existing trees not subject to preservation orders as well as the planting of new trees

Councillor Johnson sought clarification as to the overall timescale for the Tree and Woodland Action Plan.

Decision

The Executive note the report.

Exe/23/97 Revenue Budget Monitoring (P6)

The Executive considered a report of the Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer, which outlined the projected revenue outturn position for 2023/24, based on expenditure and income activity as at the end of September 2023 and future projections.

The Executive Member for Finance and Resources advise that the current budget monitoring forecast was an overspend of £3.5m and there were considerable risks to the position relating to the impact of rising demand and increasing costs. The main pressures were being felt in the social care budgets reflecting the national pressures in the health and social care sector and trends being experienced across most social care providing local authorities.

The Children's Directorate was facing an overspend of £4.8m due to increased external residential costs, home to school transport demand, workforce and price pressures and overspends in Localities and Fostering workforce budgets. The biggest pressure related to external residential placements and increased complexity of need of the current cohort with placement costs having increased by 47% in the current financial year.

The Adults Services Directorate was forecasting an overspend of £1.6m, driven by long term care placements and cost pressures which are outpacing demand management interventions. Neighbourhoods Directorate was also forecasting an overspend of £1.6m in relation to shortfalls of income in markets and car parking as income levels had failed to recover since the pandemic and alternative locations for the Christmas markets had not replaced the losses incurred at Albert Square.

These pressures were partly offset by a forecast £2m utilities underspend due to the new contract for electricity, underspends of £1m in Public Health, arising from the confirmation of external funding, £1.2m income in Growth and Development due to increased rental income in the investment estate, revised recruitment assumptions and planning fee income and £0.4m in the Corporate Core, mainly due staffing underspends.

Of the £25.2m of savings agreed as part of the 2023/24 budget process, £15.1m (60%) were on track for delivery, £1.5m (6%) were risk rated medium, and £8.5m (34%) rated high risk in terms of the likelihood of delivery. Officers were working to identify alternative savings where original plans might not be achieved or delayed.

It was also reported that the 2023/24 pay award had been agreed and budget allocations would be reported in the next revenue monitoring update.

In addition, a small number of Additional Revenue Grants had been awarded since the 2023/24 budget was set and were now reflected in the revised budget position.

The Executive Member for Finance and Resources noted although significant progress had been made in bringing the position closer to balanced, continued vigilance was needed, given there were significant uncertainties and risks to the position as demand and inflationary pressures could increase. Any overspend this

year would be a direct call on the General Fund reserve which would need to be reimbursed in future years. In addition, any ongoing impact of the pressures faced this year would need to be addressed in the 2024/25 budget. It was therefore important mitigations continued to be identified to bring forecast spend back in line with the available budget.

Councillor Leech queried if there was any potential for economies of scale across Greater Manchester to address the budget pressures with Children's Services and whether any consideration had been made to looking to provide additional places at appropriate schools to alleviate the budget pressures on the home to school transport service.

In relation to car parking income, Councillor Leech sought clarification as to whether it was ever likely that this income would return to pre-covid levels or if not, whether it would more appropriate to re-adjust the budget income for this service rather than continue to use reserves to make up for the shortfall. He also sought clarification of how likely it was for those proposed savings rated as high risk to be achieved within the current financial year.

Councillor Johnson queried what levers the Council could utilise to help address the challenges that were being faced in recruiting to certain vacant posts across Directorates.

Decisions

The Executive:-

- (1) Note the global forecast outturn position which is showing a £3.5m overspend.
- (2) Approve the use of revenue grant funding as detailed below and outlined in paragraph 2.9 of the report:-
 - Chief Executives – Electoral Integrity Programme - £25k
 - APDS Pilot: Off street car park and kerbside availability project - £200k
 - Purchase of Assheton archive collection - £102k
 - Early years supplementary grant - £1.886m

Exe/23/98 Capital Programme Monitoring (P6) and Update

The Executive considered a report of the Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer, which provided an update on progress against the delivery of the 2023/24 capital programme to the end of September 2023, the latest forecast of capital expenditure and the major variances since the Capital Programme Outturn report submitted in September 2023 and the proposed financing of capital expenditure for 2023/24 and affordability of the Capital Programme.

The Executive Member for Finance and Resources advised that the latest forecast of expenditure for 2023/24 was £401.0m compared to the current approved budget of £496.3m. Spend as of 30 September 2023 was £141.7m. The main variances related to the Asset Management Programme, Back of Ancoats Mobility Hub and Public Realm, Our Town Hall Refurbishment, This City Housing Delivery Vehicle,

Public Sector Housing Programme, Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund and Varley Street SEND Secondary School. These variances mostly related to timing differences meaning reprofiling would be required.

A more focussed look at the top 10 projects was provided in Appendix A. These projects covered 47% of the total programme. The programme also contained some budgets yet to be allocated to specific projects but reserved for a particular purpose. These would be allocated once the specific schemes were progressed and approved, or in the case of inflation the business case showing the impact of inflationary pressures on a scheme completed. They would also then be subject to approval through the Council's capital approval process.

It had previously been reported that many projects in the capital programme had faced an extremely challenging two year period with intense pressures on cost due to extraordinary levels of inflation and unprecedented pressure on the supply chain (labour and materials availability). These pressures continued to be seen and remained a significant risk across the capital programme. Inflation in the UK in the 12 months to September 2023, as measured through CPI, was currently 6.7%, which was static from August 2023, but down from 6.8% in July and from a recent peak of 11.1% in October 2022. Whilst this showed a downward trend which was expected to continue, the figure remained relatively elevated.

The current forecasts showed that the financing costs remained affordable within the revenue budget available including reserves. The capital financing reserves would start to be drawn down to meet the costs associated with the borrowing by 2026/27, however, the model was based on a significant number of assumptions, including the timing of future borrowing and forecast future interest rates and the position was subject to change.

In addition, it was reported that there were schemes that had been developed or had received external funding that were now ready for inclusion in the Capital Programme. The proposals which required Council approval were those which were funded by the use of reserves above a cumulative total of £10 million, where the use of borrowing was required or a virement exceeded £1m. These included the following proposed changes:-

- Children's Services - Levenshulme High School for Girls – 2024 Expansion. A budget increase of £2.5m was requested, funded by borrowing, to deliver an additional 100 places of secondary education for Manchester residents at Levenshulme High School, increasing the total capacity of the school from 1,000 to 1,100 places
- Children's Services – Chorlton High School (CHS) South – 2024 Expansion. . A budget increase of £4.2m was requested, funded by borrowing, to deliver an additional 150 places of secondary education for Manchester residents at CHS South by creating additional classrooms within a new teaching block
- Growth and Development - Carbon Reduction Programme 2024-25. A budget increase of £0.5m was requested, funded by borrowing on a invest to save basis, to allow for further surveys to be commissioned across the Councils corporate estate to allow for the creation of a 15-year fully costed roadmap to zero carbon.

The proposals which only required Executive approval were those which were funded by the use of external resources, use of capital receipts, use of reserves below £10.0m, where the proposal could be funded from existing revenue budgets or where the use of borrowing on a spend to save basis is required. The following proposals required Executive approval for changes to the City Council's capital programme:-

- ICT – Next Generation End User Experience. A revenue budget increase of £0.068m was requested, funded from the Capital Fund reserve, to upgrade all end user devices to windows 11, which was required as windows 10 would be at end of life in 2025.
- Private Sector Housing – Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG). A capital budget increase of £3.166m was requested, funded by £0.740m Government Grant and £2.426m external contribution, to facilitate home adaptations for people with disabilities to enable them to live as independently and safely as possible in their homes.
- Growth and Development - New Smithfield Market. A Capital budget of £0.248m in was requested, funded by £0.124m RCCO from the New Smithfield Market reserve fund and £0.124m Capital Receipts, to contribute to the unidentified ground remediation costs which had been arisen during the demolition process by the incoming tenants.
- Highways Services - Patching Defect Repairs 2023-24 additional funding. A capital budget increase of £1.5m was requested, funded by external contribution, to continue with the delivery of the patching programme to fulfil the Council's legal obligation to maintain the carriageway and footway network by repairing actionable defects identified during safety inspections.

The report also provided an update on delivery of the Manchester Cycleway Construction (Fallowfield Loop and Yellow Brick Road) following a successful bid for £2.52m funding from Tranche 4 of the Department for Transport Active Travel Fund (ATF4).

Councillor Leech welcomed the additional funding for highways patch defect repairs and queried if this would be deliverable within the current financial year. He also sought clarification as to whether officers were confident that the Factory project would be delivered on budget without the need for any further budget increases.

Decisions:-

The Executive:-

- (1) Note the Progress against the delivery of the 2023/24 capital programme to the end of September 2023
- (2) Recommends that the Council approve the following changes to the Council's capital programme:-
 - Children's Services - Levenshulme High School for Girls – 2024 Expansion. A budget increase of £2.5m funded by borrowing

- Children's Services – Chorlton High School (CHS) South – 2024 Expansion. . A budget increase of £4.2m funded by borrowing
- Growth and Development - Carbon Reduction Programme 2024-25. A budget increase of £0.5m funded by borrowing on a invest to save basis

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

- ICT – Next Generation End User Experience. A revenue budget increase of £0.068m funded from the Capital Fund reserve.
- Private Sector Housing – Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG). A capital budget increase of £3.166m funded by £0.740m Government Grant and £2.426m external contribution.
- Growth and Development - New Smithfield Market. A capital budget increase of £0.248m, funded by £0.124m RCCO from the New Smithfield Market reserve fund and £0.124m Capital Receipts.
- Highways Services - Patching Defect Repairs 2023-24 additional funding. A capital budget increase of £1.5m funded by external contribution.

Exe/23/99 Investing in Success: An Economic Strategy for Manchester

The Executive considered a report of the Strategic Director (Growth and Development), which proposed a new Economic Strategy for Manchester, including a description of the economic context and the development process.

The Leader reported that Manchester had an ambition to grow in a fairer and more sustainable way whilst ensuring the city's economy remained competitive, diverse and dynamic. As such, a new Economic Strategy for Manchester had been developed that set out how Manchester would continue to achieve economic growth whilst ensuring that the benefits of growth were felt more evenly across the city.

The proposed strategy was built on a robust evidence base that took into account a range of information and perspectives. It showed that economic growth had been beneficial for Manchester, and that in many ways the city had economically outperformed its UK and international comparators. At the same time it recognised that growth also created new challenges for the city, but that only by becoming a wealthier and more prosperous place could the city resolve some of the most difficult challenges it faced.

The vision for the strategy was to see Manchester's economy function as a net-contributor to UK GDP and provide the best possible opportunities for our residents. In doing so, the strategy aimed to create an economy that:-

- Was thriving and performing as well as the best international comparators;
- Created great opportunities for people who live here;
- Attracted the best of global business and talent;
- Helped increase social mobility for our residents; and
- Was resilient to future shocks and a changing climate and capitalised on the opportunities created by the transition to net-zero

The full strategy and its objectives were detailed in appendix 1 to the report. The objectives were fundamentally structured under five themes:-

- I. Use investment and development to drive inclusive growth;
- II. Nurture thriving, productive and innovative sectors;
- III. Develop world class infrastructure, places and talent;
- IV. Transition to a zero carbon and resilient economy; and
- V. Include more people in economic opportunity

The strategy would ultimately be accountable to the Our Manchester Forum, the group which oversaw delivery of the Our Manchester Strategy, and which was made up of leaders from across the city. It would also report periodically to the Council's Economy and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee. To measure success and track progress, indicators that helped illustrate Manchester's economic performance against national trends had been identified, which would also help judge the extent to which Manchester residents were evenly benefitting from growth.

The full strategy would be designed and published by the end of November 2023 with a launch event taking place towards the end of the month.

Councillor Leech welcomed the strategy and the plans for additional 10,000 affordable homes referenced within it, but noted that this would not address the total number of affordable homes needed for Manchester residents. He also sought clarification as to whether the priorities within the strategy had an equal ranking in relation to their delivery.

Councillor Johnson sought clarification as to what steps could be taken to mitigate the carbon impact on the city's economic growth.

Decision

The Executive agree to adopt the new Economic Strategy for Manchester.

Exe/23/100 ACES European Capital of Cycling

The Executive considered a report of the Strategic Director (Neighbourhoods), which provided an overview of Manchester's bid to become ACES European Capital of Cycling for 2024.

The Executive Member for Skills, Culture and Leisure advised that ACES Europe had identified and invited Manchester to become a candidate for its inaugural European Capital of Cycling 2024 and expressed that Manchester would be a strong candidate. The accolade had not been awarded previously, therefore if Manchester were successful, the city would be the first European city to be awarded the title. The opportunity could also be used as a catalyst to transform and enhance the city's cycling offer, enabling Manchester to expand and grow its cycling provision.

The outcome of Manchester's submission would be announced at the ACES Europe Gala event in Brussels, which would take place in early December. If successful in securing the award, Manchester's Capital of Cycling year would commence in

January 2024 for 12 months and leave a long-lasting legacy for cycling in Manchester and a programme of events was being developed to drive community activation, identifying existing programmes to build on and new interventions which encouraged active travel and widen participation in cycling.

The Executive Member for Skills, Culture and Leisure advised that should the bid be successful, the Council would develop a year-long campaign with the objective of raising the profile of Manchester's world class cycling facilities, driving participation with community groups and facilities, as well as highlighting the investment and delivery of cycling infrastructure.

Councillor Leech sought clarification that if the bid was successful, this would result in potential more external funding becoming available for cycling within the city. He also sought an assurance that there would not be any additional revenue or capital costs to deliver Manchester's ambition to expand and grow its cycling provision.

Decision

The Executive endorse Manchester's bids to become ACES European Capital of Cycling for 2024.

Exe/23/101 Manchester Local Care Organisation Commissioning Plan

The Executive considered a report of the Executive Director (Adult Social Services), which provided an update on the Manchester Local Care Organisation (MLCO) Commissioning Plan and how responsive commissioning had evolved over the past two years as part of Better Outcomes Better Lives Transformation Programme.

The Executive Member for Healthy Manchester and Adult Social Services advised that the Plan was the second iteration following the first publication in October 2021, as part of the Better Outcomes Better Lives transformation programme and the development of the 'Responsive Commissioning' Workstream.

To this effect, the Commissioning Plan was an engagement tool, particularly for the external care marketplace to share the vision, priorities and direction of travel within the commissioning landscape within the spirit of coproduction and working together with partners, stakeholders and providers to deliver high quality, safe and effective care for Manchester residents.

The MLCO Commissioning Board met monthly and ensured oversight of the delivery of the Plan. There were a high number of actions for delivery – 58 in total, and progress was measured on a quarterly basis via the Board.

Decision

The Executive note the report.

Exe/23/102 Hackney Carriage Fare review - outcome of consultation on proposed fare increases

The Executive considered a report of the Strategic Director (Growth and Development), which sought approval to agree increases to Hackney Carriage Fare Tariffs following the outcome of recent consultation on the proposals.

It was noted that seven written objections to the proposed fare changes had been received. The reasons given for not agreeing with the proposed increase were:-

- Private hire companies were cheaper and therefore the increase would mean more lost business;
- Customer feedback to drivers was that they were expensive anyway;
- Upfront flag was too high and could have an adverse effect; and
- The cost of other public transport was getting cheaper so it was believed this will kill the trade

Whilst being mindful of the ongoing cost of living for the public, the proposed fare changes were believed to represent a balance between a reasonable payment for a hackney carriage journey and income for the driver and proprietor. The proposed tariff was also comparable with other core cities.

The Licensing & Appeals Committee had endorsed the proposed increases at its meeting on 23 October 2023

Decisions

The Executive:-

(1) Agree the following increases:-

- An increase in the unit cost per mile on all tariffs by 8%
- An increase in the waiting time fare by 23%
- An increase in the Day flag tariff to £3.40
- An increase in the Night flag tariff to £3.80

(2) Note that Officers will make arrangements with the meter companies to reconfigure Taximeters.

Exe/23/103 Manchester's new ageing strategy, Manchester: a city for life 2023-2028

The Executive considered a report of the Director of Public Health, which sought approval of a details of a new age friendly strategy *Manchester: a city for life 2023-2028*, which was scheduled to be officially launched on 28 November 2023.

The Executive Member for Healthy Manchester and Adult Social Care advised that the new strategy had been produced following extensive engagement with the Age Friendly Manchester (AFM) Older People's Board (the Board), with people aged over 50 at the Age Friendly Assembly (the Assembly) and direct collaboration with key

strategic partners, services, and frontline workers. The strategy was fully aligned to the Making Manchester Fairer Action Plan and Anti-Poverty Strategy (2022-2027).

The new strategy built on previous progress and looked to a vision for Manchester over the next five years, while proposing a series of immediate and preventative responses to address the ongoing impact of the pandemic and the ensuing cost-of-living crisis on the over 50s. It outlined a series of priorities and commitments to drive better outcomes so that more people could age well in place with increased financial security.

Drawing on eight key features which went towards making an age friendly city as identified by the World Health Organization, Manchester had identified the following four key themes that the new strategy would look to address:

- Being Heard and Age Equality
- Age Friendly Neighbourhoods where we can all Age in Place
- Age Friendly Services that support us to Age Well
- Work and Money

The delivery plan to accompany the strategy was being finalised and would be presented to the Communities and Equalities Scrutiny Committee in draft form in December 2023, with the final version issued in January 2024. The delivery plan was essentially the mechanism through which the Making Manchester Fairer ambitions were realised for people aged over 50. The delivery plan would have a specific focus on issues such as social isolation, volunteering, digital inclusion, climate change and have a read across to other key developments such as the work of the Manchester Dementia Steering Group.

Decision

The Executive approve and endorse the strategy.

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Economy and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee

Minutes of meeting held on Monday, 16 October 2023

Present:

Councillor Johns – in the Chair
Councillors Benham, Hussain, Iqbal, Northwood, Richards, I Robinson, Shilton
Godwin and Taylor

Also present:

Councillor White, Executive Member for Housing and Development
Councillor Hughes, Ward Councillor for Gorton and Abbey Hey
Councillor Reid, Ward Councillor for Gorton and Abbey Hey

Apologies:

Councillor Abdullatif

ERSC/23/39 Minute's Silence

The Committee held a minute's silence to mark the tragic events in Israel and Palestine.

ERSC/23/40 Minutes

Decision

That the minutes of the meeting held on 15 September 2023 be approved as a correct record.

ERSC/23/41 Update on the activities and initiatives to support and develop District Centres

The Committee received a report of the Director of Development and Director of Communities which provided information on the activities and initiatives to support and develop District Centres. The report described the progress to date following the findings and recommendations of the District Centres Subgroup, and included an update on the Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF).

Key points and themes within the report included:

- Background information;
- The District Centre programme;
- Other activity relating to District Centres; and
- The Shared Prosperity Fund.

The Executive Member for Housing and Development welcomed that the meeting was being held in Gorton to enable Members to see one of the city's district centres and the investment that was taking place. He highlighted some of the challenges

that district centres had faced and their importance to the city and Manchester residents.

Councillor Hughes, Ward Councillor for Gorton and Abbey Hey, spoke positively about Gorton Hub, which he reported was very well-used and provided a one-stop shop for everything that people needed, commenting that every ward should have one.

Councillor Reid, Ward Councillor for Gorton and Abbey Hey, reported that she was a member of the Hub's Strategic Board. She outlined some of the challenges that had been faced in establishing the Hub, the benefits of having multiple agencies based in the same building and working together and some of work that was still in progress, including the GP surgery moving in, establishing a café in the Hub, getting the top floor of the building fully occupied and sufficiency of car parking. In response to a question from the Chair about what she would like to see next for Gorton district centre, she stated that she would like to see more partners moving into the Hub and for it to be fully utilised and have a buzz about it every day. She highlighted how well used the library within the Hub was and reported that it would be used as a Warm Hub again this winter. Noting the levels of unemployment and lower levels of qualifications in the area, she highlighted that Manchester Adult Education Service (MAES) were based in the building but advised that more courses should be available from this site. The Chair commented that this issue could be discussed further when the Committee considered an item on Work and Skills later in the municipal year.

A Member commented on the challenges of bringing partner agencies together to create something like Gorton Hub, including the challenges relating to NHS Capital Funding, but emphasised that it was important to do this work in order to create something which met the needs of local residents.

The Executive Member for Housing and Development reported that the Council had learnt a lot from this and other projects about working together with partner agencies, emphasising the importance of getting everyone involved from the start of the process. He informed Members that the establishment of Gorton Hub had increased footfall in the district centre. He stated that the Council's role was as an enabler of these kind of projects and that it would try to access funding from a range of sources but that these projects could not be achieved without the involvement of other partners. He reported that more housing was needed in Gorton and other district centres.

The Strategic Director (Growth and Development) highlighted the importance of health provision, education provision and other social infrastructure, noting that the city's population had grown considerably, putting demand on existing services. She advised that an assessment of the broader infrastructure requirements was underway and that, with major projects like Victoria North, the Council was doing what it could to plan this infrastructure from the outset; however, the situation was more complex where there was incremental growth in an area.

The District Centres Programme Manager delivered a presentation which provided an overview of the work on district centres, including specific details of the work in relation to Moston Lane, Wythenshawe, Strangeways and Gorton.

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

- To welcome the progress made on this work, including the depth, breadth and geographical spread of the activity, and that it involved a deep dive understanding of a place;
- The importance of the co-location of public sector partners, the private sector and housing and what levers the Council had to achieve this;
- That footfall data was very useful and could it be shared more widely;
- The importance of getting the basics right, such as street cleaning, repairing uneven pavements and broken signage and people feeling safe;
- The importance of improved public transport, noting the opportunity that bus franchising offered;
- Were predicted demographics taken into account when determining what housing would be built and what facilities an area would need;
- The amount of work being placed on Neighbourhood Teams and the range of different duties they were expected to cover and whether some of the engagement work with and support for traders should be carried out by a different team; and
- Funding risks and challenges.

The Director of Strategic Housing and Development outlined how the establishment of Gorton Hub had helped to break down barriers with public sector partners and reported that a pipeline of locations for investment was now being mapped out, particularly in areas of population growth. He reported that the Council was also able to use surplus buildings and available land as levers to get other organisations on board. The Strategic Director (Growth and Development) highlighted the role of Strategic Regeneration Frameworks, as having a clear vision enabled the Council to align partners behind it and have early-stage discussions. She stated that the private sector would invest where there was certainty about what was being brought forward. She acknowledged the Member's point about sharing the footfall data more widely and stated that officers would look into how this could be done.

The Director of Communities reported that additional investment had been made, including on cleansing in district centres and the city centre, and that Ward Councillors would have influence of how additional spending for their ward was allocated.

The Executive Member for Housing and Development acknowledged a Member's comments about Levelling Up Funding, commenting that Manchester had not had much success in the first two rounds of funding. He reported that the Council had invested in District Centres Programme Managers and that Work and Skills Teams were engaging with businesses across the city, providing support and access to grants and funding. He informed the Committee about the range of data used to inform the Council's plans, including consultation with residents and Ward Councillors. In response to a Member's question about gathering additional data on footfall, such as where people were travelling from and the purpose of their visit, he

advised that more work would be needed to understand this better, while commenting that some data could be gathered from other assets such as Libraries, which undertook surveys and gathered information on people accessing their services. He acknowledged a Member's comments about the importance of having opportunities for smaller independent traders to grow and develop, for example, starting on a market stall, and about campaigns to encourage people to support small local businesses.

The Strategic Director (Growth and Development) reported that at the start of a piece of work on a Neighbourhood Development Framework or Strategic Regeneration Framework, the Council would undertake an analysis of the current socio-demographics of the area and adjacent areas. She recognised Members' comments on transport, highlighting the introduction of the Active Travel Strategy the previous year and reporting that a City Centre Movement Plan was being developed. She stated that transport across and beyond the city would also need to be looked at, commenting that the plan over time was to see a reduction in car usage and the need for car parking but that public transport had to be reliable, efficient and affordable, with bus franchising providing a good opportunity to address this. She acknowledged a Member's comments on the importance of good communication, including during periods when there might not be much visible progress, for example, while the Council was working to identify a development partner, and advised that discussions were taking place with the Communications Team about this. In response to a Member's question, she provided an update on the Shared Prosperity Fund and reported that the Council had been informed that there would be a third round of Levelling Up funding and that the Council would want clarity on the criteria but would do whatever it could to access available funding streams. In response to a question from the Chair, she reported that a Retail and Leisure Study would be undertaken as part of the Local Plan and that this would include a review of how District Centres were defined. In response to further questions, she advised that, while an analysis of need and demand for development-led interventions was undertaken, consideration also had to be given to where the Council had land assets and was in position to deliver the plan.

A Member requested that a future update include a deep dive comparison between a district centre which had a Development Framework and one which was being proactively supported by the Neighbourhood Team.

Decisions:

1. To note the report.
2. To receive an update report in the next municipal year, including a deep dive comparison between a district centre which has a Development Framework and one which is being proactively supported by the Neighbourhood Team.

ERSC/23/42 Strategic Regeneration Frameworks

The Committee received a report of the Director of City Centre Growth and Infrastructure and the Director of Strategic Housing and Development which provided an overview of the role, purpose and process of producing Strategic

Regeneration Frameworks (SRFs) and Neighbourhood Development Frameworks (NDFs) for different areas of the city. It also provided some case studies of SRFs and a list of existing and upcoming SRFs and NDFs.

Key points and themes within the report included:

- Background information;
- SRF/NDF overview;
- Case studies; and
- Summary list of all existing and developing SRF/NDF.

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

- Developer-led and Council-led frameworks, including how particular areas were chosen for Council-led frameworks and whether there were any opportunities to influence these decisions;
- Consultations, including ensuring that these were meaningful in relation to developer-led frameworks, changing residents' perceptions, where they believed that these were just tickbox exercises, and ensuring that all communities were reached, noting the number of people in the city who spoke languages other than English;
- Monitoring progress; and
- Ensuring that development helped to address inequality and child poverty in the city.

In response to a Member's question, the Strategic Director (Growth and Development) reported that SRFs were usually of a larger-scale geographically and delivered over a number of phases, such as Victoria North. She informed Members that Council-led frameworks were usually determined through need and opportunity; however, where frameworks were developer-led, the Council still played an active role in determining what was acceptable in a particular area. She advised that consultations were meaningful but that there were parameters for some sites, for example, if a site was a key strategic employment location, it would not be changed to a different use, for example, a public park, but consultation responses would be taken into account, for example, in terms of public spaces within the area. In response to a further question, she outlined the mechanisms used to consult with residents. She confirmed that progress was monitored, although in some cases frameworks could be refreshed due to changing circumstances, outlining changes in relation to Central Retail Park, which a Member had referenced. She reported that the opportunity to purchase land assets was a key factor in deciding to initiate a Council-led framework in a particular area. She recognised the Member's point about the pressure that multiple developments happening at the same time could put on communities and outlined work that was done to minimise disruption, including the phasing of developments and clear communication to residents. She reported that SRFs and NDFs were useful for attracting funding and that having projects in the pipeline meant that, when funding was announced, the city had projects ready to go. In response to a question from the Chair, she reported that, when a refreshed framework was brought to scrutiny or the Executive, the reasons for the refresh were set out; however, she acknowledged that residents might not see this information and that it was important to maintain good lines of communication with communities

about what was happening in their area and the reasons for any changes. The Chair asked whether people who had previously responded to a consultation could be kept updated. The Strategic Director (Growth and Development) reported that she would look into this.

In response to a Member's comments on consultations and co-design, the Director of Strategic Housing and Development provided an example of how residents' views had informed the plans for Moston Lane.

The Executive Member for Housing and Development advised that, particularly on brownfield sites and where there were a number of planning applications in the pipeline over a number of years, it was useful to have a framework in place so that planning decisions were not made in isolation. He recognised a Member's point about the impact of developments on neighbouring wards and the importance of good communication and consultation with Ward Councillors in those wards, noting that meetings were due to take place in relation to the specific area the Member was referring to. He acknowledged the importance of engaging with all communities across the city through a range of methods, such as providing information in community languages, and engaging with people through community groups. He also supported a Member's comments about addressing inequality and poverty, stating that the Council wanted to use the tools it had to address this, including providing social and affordable housing and local jobs. The Strategic Director (Growth and Development) advised that it was important to have clear social value expectations from the outset, including jobs, supply chains, apprenticeships, work with schools and community facilities and to monitor this closely.

The Chair commented that short, easy-to-read summaries were important when consulting with residents.

In response to a question from the Chair about Section 106 funding, the Executive Member for Housing and Development drew Members' attention to a report on this which had been considered at a meeting of the Resources and Governance Scrutiny Committee the previous week and reported that this was part of the planning process rather than directly part of the SRF but that the Council was committed to getting the most value possible out of this funding.

The Strategic Director (Growth and Development) reported that there was a weekly email to Ward Councillors listing planning applications, that Members could also register to be informed about developments in their ward and that developers were actively encouraged to engage with Ward Councillors prior to submitting their application. She outlined the planning process, including Section 106 funding, highlighting that this funding was to mitigate the impact of the development so there were restrictions on what it could be used for. The Director of Strategic Housing and Development clarified that Section 106 monies compensating for affordable housing were ringfenced to be spent only on affordable housing.

Decisions:

1. To note the report.

2. To request a further report on the evaluation and monitoring of SRFs.

ERSC/23/43 Victoria North - Strategic Business Plan Refresh

The Committee received a report of the Strategic Director (Growth and Development) which provided a high-level summary of the refreshed Victoria North Strategic Business Plan. The report included updates on progress made since the Strategic Business Plan was approved by Executive, and scrutinised by this Committee, in February 2020. This included an update on progress made in delivering the 988 homes covered by the Initial Development Area Business Plan, in addition to a look ahead to the next Development Area Business Plan, together with a summary of the high-level opportunities, challenges and risks associated with the overall programme.

Key points and themes within the report included:

- Governance, decision-making and scrutiny;
- Strategic Business Plan – Joint Venture progress to date;
- Key themes of the refreshed Strategic Business Plan;
- Affordable housing;
- Strategic Investment Plan;
- Infrastructure interventions and Delivery Strategy;
- Delivering social value;
- Social and Community Infrastructure Strategy; and
- Contributing to a Zero Carbon City.

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

- Solutions to address flooding risks;
- Concerns of existing residents, including about the risk of losing their communities;
- How this work would be monitored to ensure that the project was meeting its original goals, noting that this project would take around 15 years to be fully implemented;
- Was dentistry being considered as one of the amenities that would be needed; and
- Social value including whether information could be provided on whether this enabled residents to access jobs across the income distribution.

In response to a question from the Chair, the Executive Member for Housing and Development clarified that the intention was to deliver 5% affordable housing through planning and a further 15% through grant funding from Homes England. He confirmed that the levels of affordable housing were being monitored throughout the project and that this would be reported back to this Committee and through other channels. He acknowledged the point about considering access to dentistry for future Victoria North residents.

The Assistant Director (Major Regeneration) reported that, following geological issues with the original plan to remove a weir in the River Irk, the plan was now to

deliver on-plot flood solutions. He outlined how the Council was working with the Environment Agency on this, finding practical solutions to dissipate the issue without displacing the problem elsewhere, while trying to take as many properties as possible out of a flood zone altogether and take all properties out of flood zone 3.

The Strategic Director (Growth and Development) reported that the Victoria North Board met quarterly and monitored progress and that every phase of the project was subject to a business plan which was refreshed annually and closely monitored. She reported that there was a guarantee that anyone who was going to lose their home due to the regeneration of the area would be found a replacement home which met their needs. She acknowledged the Member's comment about residents' existing communities and outlined how residents in Collyhurst were actively involved in the plans for the area, emphasising the importance of two-way communication. The Executive Member for Housing and Development reported that the Local Lettings Policy would give priority to people with a local connection and that, while plans for Collyhurst could see the number of homes in the area increase from approximately 600 to 3000, he emphasised that the existing communities were at the heart of the scheme and helping to shape plans for their area.

In response to comments from the Chair about new primary schools opening in phases, rather than offering places in all school years from the outset, and the challenges this presented for families moving into the area if they had children of different ages, the Executive Member for Housing and Development stated that he would discuss this with Education colleagues, who they were working closely with in relation to school provision for Victoria North.

The Victoria North Strategy and Coordination Lead reported that the four existing schools in this part of the city, two of which were Roman Catholic, one of which was Church of England and one which was a community school, currently had spare capacity, although they were all one-form entry schools. He reported that work would take place with Education colleagues and existing schools to identify a strategy to provide sufficient school places as the area's population started to grow. In response to the question about social value, he informed Members about the North Manchester Social Benefits Framework, advising that the intention was to have a more outcome-focussed and person-centred approach, although he acknowledged that it would be challenging to find a way to monitor the ongoing progress of a Manchester resident after they had started work. The Chair stated that this could be discussed further when the Committee considered the item on Social Value and the Economy at its December meeting.

Decisions:

1. To note the summarised content of the refreshed Victoria North Strategic Business Plan.
2. To endorse the refreshed Victoria North Strategic Business Plan.
3. To note the general programme update.

[Councillor Richards declared a personal and prejudicial interest in this item due to her involvement in the Joint Venture Board and some of the decision-making on Victoria North during her time as an Executive Member and left the room for this item.]

ERSC/23/44 Overview Report

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

The Chair drew Members' attention to the revised work programme for the rest of the municipal year. He advised that, following a request for a report on the Shared Prosperity Fund, it had been decided that information on this would be incorporated into relevant reports on the Committee's work programme, rather than the Committee receiving a discrete report on this.

Referring to the minutes of the Committee's September meeting, he asked that a Member's request for a figure of the cost of bringing homes in the city up to the required standard be added to the recommendations monitor. He also asked that a report on Fairer Access to Finance be added as an item to be scheduled on the work programme. He thanked officers for facilitating the meeting taking place at Gorton Hub.

Decision:

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

Economy and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee

Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday, 7 November 2023

Present:

Councillor Johns – in the Chair
Councillors Abdullatif, Benham, Hussain, Iqbal, Northwood, Richards, I Robinson, Shilton Godwin and Taylor

Also present:

Councillor Craig, Leader
Councillor Hacking, Executive Member for Skills, Employment and Leisure
Councillor Rawlins, Executive Member for Environment and Transport
Councillor White, Executive Member for Housing and Development
Steven Cochrane, Partnership Director, Oxford Road Corridor
Michael Bullock, arc4

ERSC/23/45 Minutes

Decision

That the minutes of the meeting held on 16 October 2023 be approved as a correct record.

ERSC/23/46 Oxford Road Corridor

The Committee received a report of the Strategic Director (Growth and Development) which provided information on how the Oxford Road Corridor facilitated and promoted innovation, commercialisation and employment growth in Manchester.

Key points and themes within the report included:

- Policy context;
- Planning and delivery;
- Investment, impact and key schemes; and
- Future development and opportunities.

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

- To welcome the contribution of the Oxford Road Corridor to the city's economy and plans for the future, while emphasising the importance of inclusive growth and making the city fairer;
- The impact of the cancellation of the HS2 line to Manchester on this work;
- Engaging with local residents, mitigating negative impacts for residents and ensuring that they could benefit;

- The pathways for local residents to the higher-paying jobs that were being created and ensuring that under-represented communities were not only able to access lower-paid jobs;
- Requesting that future reports included information on engagement with and inclusion of local communities;
- What were the constraints on economic growth and how would they be mitigated; and
- Making the partnership more inclusive including opportunities to collaborate with ethnic minority-led organisations and stakeholders, for example, Curry Mile traders.

The Leader explained that the Oxford Road Corridor was a partnership of organisations and that the individual organisations also had their own programmes of work, which the Committee might be interested in considering at a future meeting. She reported that the decision about HS2 would affect the ability of the UK to have a more balanced economy but that the level of ambition for the Oxford Road Corridor was longstanding and would remain the same, despite the challenges presented in relation to connections and rail capacity, and she highlighted some of the opportunities of the Oxford Road Corridor, in relation to research, innovation and the growth of the science sector. She commented that the points relating to local residents accessing better paid jobs were addressed within the Economic Strategy, which was the next item on the agenda.

Steven Cochrane, Partnership Director, Oxford Road Corridor reported that the Corridor was a great example of setting a strategic vision for an area and remaining committed to it over an extended period of time, during a turbulent period for the UK, which had included the economic crash, Brexit and the pandemic. He highlighted that the types of jobs that had been created included ones which previously people would have had to leave Manchester to pursue. He outlined how partners, including the universities, NHS and private sector had worked together to deliver strategic schemes and attract investment and highlighted the use of evidence-based policy development. He advised Members that the research taking place on the Corridor was bringing economic benefit but also societal benefit, for example, research in life sciences. He recognised comments about the impact of growth on local communities while stating that the universities had tried to use the public realm to make the area more welcoming with recent developments. He stated that the universities and NHS recognised the importance of engaging effectively with local communities. He reported that earlier in the year the partnership had mapped out all the widening participation activity which partners were undertaking, providing a number of examples of this activity and offering to share the report with Members. He recognised a Member's comments about social mobility and moving people from entry level jobs to higher paid roles, stating that this was a challenge but that partners were committed to improving this.

In response to a Member's comments, the Strategic Director (Growth and Development) clarified that the reference to Upper Brook Street within the report related to the wider ambitions for the area as set out in the Strategic Regeneration Framework and that the specific details of any development would be subject to the planning process.

The Executive Member for Skills, Employment and Leisure reported that significant opportunities were being created and that enabling residents to access these opportunities was a key priority for the Council. He highlighted the work taking place in relation to the Work and Skills Strategy and suggested that the Committee receive a more detailed report on the skills and employment programmes which were operating in the city. Steven Cochrane reported that he would be happy to contribute to a future report on this. In response to a Member's comments about working with diverse stakeholders, including traders on the Curry Mile, he offered to speak to the Member outside of the meeting about how to better engage with these groups.

The Director of Inclusive Growth reported that, while there was still more that could be done, there was a lot more engagement between the universities and local residents than there had been when the Corridor started, including university staff on school governing bodies, Manchester Metropolitan University's first generation programme aimed at families which did not have a history of family members attending university and degree apprenticeships, as well as employment-led programmes in each of the big institutions on the Corridor. She also informed Members about the role of the Civic University Partnership across the five Greater Manchester universities.

The Strategic Director (Growth and Development) acknowledged the challenges raised by a Member, including in relation to the electricity grid and the lack of investment in Oxford Road Station. She informed Members that the Corridor enabled the Council to work with partners to bring together a more cohesive plan for the area and reported that there was a longstanding, constructive relationship with Electricity North West to plan for electricity requirements across the city. She also reported that they were working closely with Network Rail to look at investment in Oxford Road Station.

Decisions:

1. To request that the Widening Participation report be circulated to Committee Members.
2. To request that more information on the Work and Skills interventions be submitted to the Committee's March meeting, when it will be considering a report on the Work and Skills Strategy.

[Councillor Johns declared a personal interest as his partner was employed by the Royal Northern College of Music.]

ERSC/23/47 Investing in Success: An Economic Strategy for Manchester

The Committee received a report of the Strategic Director (Growth and Development) which presented the final economic strategy which would be taken to Executive on 15 November and described the development process followed in creating the strategy.

Key points and themes within the report included:

- The development process;
- Resident and worker engagement;
- Business engagement;
- Phase 2 online survey;
- The Council's response to the challenges; and
- Delivery and measuring success.

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

- The impact of the cancellation of the HS2 line to Manchester;
- Electricity North West's capacity to increase supply at the speed and scale required;
- How the Council was engaging with residents, ensuring that the people responding to consultations were representative of the population of the city, including on ethnicity, level of qualifications and employment status;
- Data capture and monitoring measures, including the impact of the pandemic on ways of working, ensuring that equity and inclusive growth were included in the measures and that consideration should be given to including a measure on the proportion of people's income spent on rent;
- The focus on the city centre and the importance of ensuring that deprived neighbourhoods benefited from economic growth; and
- Whether there was an over-reliance on high value growth sectors.

The Leader expressed her frustration and concern about the decision in relation to HS2. She reported that improving connections between the east and west and north and south would enable the city to unleash its full potential and that the city was facing a challenge in addressing this without any meaningful discussion with national Government as yet on alternative transport projects; however, she advised that the Council would continue to pursue this and engage in discussions with the Government. She stated that businesses needed certainty and a coherent plan and that the Council was working to reassure stakeholders. She stated that the Council would be working with Greater Manchester colleagues on what infrastructure investment was needed over the next ten years, including transport, the electricity grid and the decarbonisation of energy. In response to a Member's question about capitalising politically on the launch of the Strategy to lobby the Government and the Opposition frontbench on behalf of the city, she stated that she had been putting forward the case that a future Government could place responsibility for economic development on local authorities, with a duty to collaborate across the combined authority area. She stated that political lobbying would take place regarding the tools that the city needed to achieve the ambitions set out in the Strategy. She reported that the measures set out in appendix 2 were still a work in progress and highlighted the Key Performance Indicators for Making Manchester Fairer which, she advised, when brought together with these measures, would provide a richer picture.

The Strategic Director (Growth and Development) reported that the Council had a strong relationship with Electricity North West and met regularly with them to review requirements, ensuring that forecasted growth in the city and Electricity North West's 5-year investment plans were aligned, adding that there was also scope for flexibility

within their plans, informed by the ongoing discussions. In response to questions relating to data gathering and monitoring, she offered to bring regular updates to the Committee on the Performance Management Framework.

The Chair commented that it would be useful for the Committee to receive updates on the Performance Management Framework and consideration would be given to the timing and frequency of these.

The Strategy and Economic Policy Manager informed Members about the engagement that had taken place in relation to the Strategy, including work to reach different groups, such as face-to-face engagement in different communities and settings. He highlighted the further opportunity to engage with residents on the refresh of the Our Manchester Strategy. He reported on the measures that would be used to monitor progress in relation to the areas that the Strategy was intended to influence, acknowledging that work was still needed on the data gathering process and use of data in relation to a couple of aspects of this work. He informed Members that the information on rent was available and could be included and that the intention was to include measures relating to inclusive growth and equity, with work still taking place on how best to do this. He advised that using measures which could be compared against trends was helpful when there was an event which had a significant economic impact, such as the pandemic, as the Council could see how Manchester was performing against other cities. The Head of City Policy reported that the measures had been split into resident prosperity and economic performance.

The Strategic Director (Growth and Development) reported that the city centre would be the primary driver of growth but that the Council was also looking at the role of other areas and neighbourhoods across the city such as Wythenshawe, Holt Town, Gorton, Moston and Withington and could look again at whether this was reflected strongly enough in the Strategy. She stated that the Strategy reflected the importance of both the high value and the everyday economy and that the Council recognised the importance of employment across and the need to support all sectors but that high value sectors would drive the biggest increases in productivity. She reported that one of the successes of Manchester had been in diversifying its economy.

In response to a Member's question on the Community Health Equity Manchester (CHEM) sounding boards, the Director of Inclusive Economy reported that these had been developed during the pandemic as a way of communicating with different communities and that her service had engaged with them on work relating to the cost-of-living. She advised that she would respond to the Member's question on the structure and make-up of the sounding boards after the meeting. She reported that these sounding boards were one part of a wider system relating to the Communities and Power theme of Making Manchester Fairer.

The Chair noted that the issue of ensuring that consultation responses and engagement reflected the diversity across the city had been raised at a number of the Committee's meetings and advised Members that he would speak to the Chair of the Communities and Equalities Scrutiny Committee about how this was being scrutinised by her Committee.

A Member commented that it was important for the Council to clearly communicate to residents the purpose of consultations and how the responses would be used to improve the lives of Manchester residents.

In response to a Member's request that a measure on the proportion of people's income spent on rent be included in the measures for the Strategy, the Leader confirmed that this would be included in the final version.

Decision:

To commend the Strategy to the Executive for adoption.

ERSC/23/48 Revenue Budget Update 2024/25

The Committee considered the report of Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer which informed Members that the Council was forecasting an estimated budget shortfall of £46m in 2024/25, £86m in 2025/26, and £105m by 2026/27. After the application of approved and planned savings, and the use of c£17m smoothing reserves in each of the three years, this gap reduced to £1.6m in 2024/25, £30m in 2025/26 and £49m by 2026/27. This position assumed that the savings approved as part of the Medium-Term Financial Strategy in February 2023 of £36.2m over three years were delivered.

The report provided a high-level overview of the updated budget position. The Committee was invited to consider the current proposed changes which were within its remit and to make recommendations to the Executive before it agreed to the final budget proposals in February 2024.

Key points and themes within the report included:

- Updates on the refreshed position including progress in reaching a balanced budget, reflecting preliminary savings and investment options;
- The government was expected to announce the Autumn Statement on 22 November 2023, but no major changes were expected;
- Government funding for 2024/25 would be confirmed in the provisional finance settlement, expected late in December 2023;
- The accompanying report set out the priorities and officer proposals for the services within the remit of this committee. This included a reminder of the savings proposals identified as part of last year's budget setting process (£36.2m across three years) and additional savings for consideration (£2.5m from 2024/25). As far as possible these were aimed at protecting the delivery of council priorities and represented the least detrimental options; and
- There remained a forecast shortfall of £1.6m next year. Any further reduction to the underspend this year would reduce the need to top back up General Fund reserve in 2024/25 and help bridge this shortfall. In addition, the Collection Fund position would be finalised in January and the final levy amounts from GMCA confirmed.

The Leader informed the Committee that she had written to the Chancellor of the Exchequer to highlight the precarious financial position that Manchester and other local authorities were in, with sustained funding cuts over a number of years, increasing budget pressures and rising demand for services.

Members expressed concern about the financial position that Manchester had been placed in over a number of years. Members commended officers and the Executive for delivering a balanced budget over these years in the face of so many challenges, commenting that Manchester had been disproportionately affected by funding cuts.

In response to a Member's question about confidence in financial forecasting, the Head of Finance (Corporate Core) reported that there were elements of risk, for example, relating to inflation and increased demand, and the budget would be refreshed every year. He advised Members that the Committee would receive a further budget report in February, following the financial settlement from Government in December. In response to a further question, he drew Members' attention to a more detailed report on the budget, including the risks and assumptions made, which had been submitted to the Resources and Governance Scrutiny Committee.

Decision:

To note the report.

ERSC/23/49 Growth and Development Budget 2024/25

The Committee received a report of the Strategic Director (Growth and Development) which set out the priorities for the services in the remit of the Committee and detailed the initial revenue budget changes proposed by officers. The Committee was invited to consider the current proposed changes which were within its remit and to make recommendations to the Executive before it agreed to the final budget proposals in February 2024.

Key points and themes within the report included:

- Service overview and priorities;
- Service budget and proposed changes;
- Commissioning and procurement priorities;
- Workforce implications;
- Equality and anti-poverty impact; and
- Future opportunities, risks and policy considerations.

A Member reported that Manchester Adult Education Services (MAES) was an excellent service which had suffered considerable cuts since 2010 and she emphasised the importance of protecting the service and, if possible, developing it. The Chair commented that at a time of high inflation, maintaining current funding levels represented a cut in real terms.

A Member noted the proposed efficiency savings within the Growth and Development Directorate, questioning whether it was possible to make any more

efficiency savings and whether these savings would impact on the ability to deliver the 10-year Housing Strategy.

The Strategic Director (Growth and Development) acknowledged the comments relating to MAES and the importance of this provision and reported that she was working with colleagues from MAES and Finance to look at options in relation to this. She also acknowledged the Member's point about whether efficiency savings was the right term for the proposals in relation to the Growth and Development Directorate and clarified that the Directorate was not looking to make any cuts. She reported that this was a relatively small Directorate which generated income for the Council and was undertaking new programmes of work. She informed Members that the Directorate would receive an uplift but would need to be creative, including looking at the use of reserves, grant funding and the management of its commercial estate.

In response to a Member's request for clarification on the proposals relating to parking, the Head of Finance (Corporate Core) reported that, following the pandemic, income from off-street parking had reduced and was now approximately £2.1 million lower than had been forecast and that this gap was currently being funded from car parking reserves while the strategy for parking was reviewed to ensure a balanced budget from 2025/26 onwards.

Decision:

To note the report.

ERSC/23/50 Housing Needs Assessment

The Committee received a report of the Strategic Director (Growth and Development) which provided an update of the Housing Needs Assessment commissioned to inform the development of housing policies in the emerging Local Plan.

Key points and themes within the report included:

- Background information, including national planning policy and guidance and the Housing Needs Assessment methodology;
- Affordable housing;
- Mix of size and type of housing need;
- Housing for older and disabled persons including the need for accessibility standards/housing for people with additional needs;
- Private Rented Sector;
- Self-build and custom housebuilding; and
- Next steps.

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

- To welcome the consideration of the needs of older people, recognising the importance of having the right accommodation for older people in the right areas, while also freeing up family homes;

- Noting the LGBT+ Extra Care Scheme in Whalley Range, were other innovative schemes being considered for how people might want to live as they got older;
- Whether the study on gypsy and traveller communities referenced in the report was being considered by the relevant scrutiny committee;
- People using spare bedrooms as offices, due to the increase in people working from home, and the importance of gathering data on this;
- The importance of affordable housing; and
- Concern about the standard of some private sector housing, including energy efficiency, and tenants' rights in the private sector.

The Director of Planning, Building Control and Licensing informed Members that the work relating to gypsy and traveller communities had already been commissioned, as well as a separate report on travelling show people; however, it was not quite yet at a stage to bring to Scrutiny. In response to a question from the Chair, she reported that the expectation from the Government was that not all of the 10,000 affordable homes target would be delivered through planning policy, with most of it delivered through other means, such as Homes England funding; however, there was a need for more affordable housing in the city so consideration would be given to whether additional affordable housing could be achieved through planning policy.

The Planning and Infrastructure Manager acknowledged that there was a need to better understand the extent to which changes in working from home during the pandemic had led to longer-term changes and how this might need to be taken into account in relation to housing. In relation to a question about owner-occupiers, he advised that these were included in the report in relation to the mix of accommodation in different parts of the city. He advised that this was something which could be discussed further in future reports which would be brought before the Committee. He drew Members' attention to a report which was due to be considered at the next meeting of the Environment, Climate Change and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Committee on energy usage within new residential and commercial developments. In response to a question from the Chair about the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act, he advised that there was still further legislation and regulation to follow and that the Council was currently continuing to follow current legislation and regulations for the delivery of the Local Plan. In response to a further question, he clarified that the Housing Needs Assessment was an evidence-based study which provided recommendations for the Council to consider, alongside other pieces of evidence, to inform the Council's development of the draft Local Plan, which would be brought to the Committee and the Executive.

Michael Bullock from arc4 reported that a detailed Housing Need report would be available in due course. He emphasised the importance of level access accommodation, due to demographic change, and more social rented accommodation and expressed concern about the Private Rented Sector in Manchester, reporting that the Local Housing Allowance was significantly below rent levels. In response to a Member's question, he advised that first homes should be recognised as a potential component of affordable housing, as this included both affordable rented and affordable home ownership, but that as much of this as possible should be social rented housing.

The Executive Member for Housing and Development reported that more homes were needed of all types and tenures across the city and that this report would inform the Council's plans to ensure that the right homes were built in the right places. He reported that the Leader had raised the issue of the growing gap between Local Housing Allowance and rents in her letter to the Chancellor. He stated that he welcomed some elements of the First Homes initiative from the Government but advised that a more coherent, sustainable strategy on new housing was needed. He acknowledged Members' comments about people paying high rents for low quality housing in the Private Rented Sector and stated that the Council would welcome more regulation and was using Selective Licensing and other tools to bring more accountability in this area. He highlighted the Renters Reform Bill, which was going through Parliament, which would provide greater protection to renters. He confirmed the Council's commitment to ensuring that Manchester was a great place to grow older. He reported that 30% of social housing was under-occupied, in particular older people in homes with empty bedrooms which did not meet their needs, including in terms of mobility issues, and that the Council was working innovatively on schemes which met older people's needs and enabled them to continue to live in their local area.

Decision:

To note the report.

ERSC/23/51 Overview Report

A report of the Governance and Scrutiny Support Unit was submitted. The overview report contained key decisions within the Committee's remit, responses to previous recommendations and the Committee's work programme, which the Committee was asked to approve, and the Economy Dashboard for information.

A Member asked that the item on Manchester Airport scheduled for the December meeting include consideration of the impact of the Airport on parking in surrounding residential areas, to which the Chair agreed.

The Chair reminded Committee Members that they had been invited to attend the next meeting of the Environment, Climate Change and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Committee, which would be considering items on Vision Zero and Active Travel.

Decision:

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

Communities and Equalities Scrutiny Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 10 October 2023

Present:

Councillor Hitchen (Chair) – in the Chair
Councillors Appleby, Good, Sheikh and Whiston

Also present:

Councillor Midgley, Deputy Leader
Councillor Karney, Lead Member for City Centre
Aderonke Apata, African Rainbow Family
Adeniyi Balogun, African Rainbow Family
Susie Cuthill, The Proud Trust
Mark Fletcher, Manchester Pride
Lisa Harvey-Nebil, The Proud Trust
Farhana Hemani, Manchester Pride
Darren Knight, George House Trust
Paul Martin, LGBT Foundation
Professor Stephen Whittle, Manchester Law School and Indigo NHS Greater Manchester Gender Service

Apologies: Councillors Azra Ali, Doswell, Ogunbambo, Rawson and Wills

CESC/23/39 Minutes

Decision: That the minutes of the previous meeting, held on 5 September 2023, be approved as a correct record.

CESC/23/40 LGBTQ+ Communities Deep Dive

The committee considered a report of the Joint Director of Equality and Engagement - NHS GM Integrated Care (Manchester locality) and Manchester City Council which explored the inequalities faced by LGBTQ+ communities and the support provided by Council services to improve access, experience, and outcomes.

Key points and themes within the report included:

- The Council's equality commitments through the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED);
- The key strategies and plans that aim to make Manchester a more equitable place to live and work;
- An overview of Manchester's LGBTQ+ population, provided through the 2021 Census;
- The quality of life and feelings of acceptance, comfort, and satisfaction of LGBTQ+ residents;
- The intersectional approach to LGBTQ+ inclusion;
- Education, employment, housing and healthcare;

- Case studies to demonstrate the delivery of the Council's Equality Objectives; and
- Areas for further work to support the Council's workforce to lead high-quality, culturally competent community engagement work.

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

- Thanking guests for their attendance and their work;
- Noting that the Council had passed a motion to 'Make HIV History' but that there remained difficulties for residents in accessing HIV testing kits, and querying why this was;
- How many GPs were yet to register with Pride in Practice;
- If any investigation into a possible causal link between overrepresentation of LGBTQ+ people in the youth homeless population and higher incidences of mental health issues and suicidal ideation in young LGBTQ+ people had been undertaken;
- Whether any up-to-date data was available on the number of Black, Asian and Ethnic Minority (BAME) LGBTQ+ people experiencing racial discrimination from within the LGBTQ+ community, noting that recent figures were from 2018;
- The overall rate of workplace conflicts for LGBTQ+ people, and whether this was improving;
- How the Council was tackling instances of 'gatekeeping' in the Gay Village;
- Requesting more extensive data on the number of LGBTQ+ people experiencing homelessness;
- The lack of information on sexual health services within the report and lack of data around patient satisfaction;
- Noting that anti-trans sentiment is higher amongst cisgender men than amongst cisgender women, despite the transphobic narrative being that trans people pose a threat to cisgender women's safety;
- Noting that the rapid decrease in public support for trans people was the result of a hostile media that platforms transphobic voices;
- How many schools in Manchester had signed up to the Rainbow Flag Award;
- Noting that Neighbourhood Investment Funding had been allocated to support the first-ever Withington Pride, which took place in September 2023 and was attended by a large number of people from across the local community;
- Whether trans inclusion training would be offered to everyone in the Council; and
- What the LGBT organisations would like to see brought forward.

The Deputy Leader stated that this was an important report to identify the inequalities faced by the LGBTQ+ community and expressed that the Council wanted to ensure suitable support was available and that communities felt comfortable, supported and that they could thrive in Manchester.

The Joint Director of Equality and Engagement explained that the report provided an overview of the Council's work to enhance LGBTQI+ inclusion. She stated that

Manchester was a sanctuary for LBGQTQI+ people, with the largest community outside of London, but acknowledged the challenges faced by those in the transgender community. The committee was advised that focus groups had been held during the development of the report and that this dialogue would be continued.

The Lead Member for the City Centre provided an overview of the Council's LBGQTQ+ journey and progress. He highlighted the challenges faced and welcomed the achievements made since the 1980s.

Representatives from African Rainbow Family, The Proud Trust, Manchester Pride, the LGBT Foundation, George House Trust, Manchester Law School and Indigo NHS Greater Manchester Gender Service attended the meeting and shared the work of their organisations and the experiences of their service users in Manchester.

In response to a member's query regarding what was causing gaps in access to HIV testing kits, Darren Knight of George House Trust stated that whilst Manchester was doing well in take-up of HIV testing, more work needed to be done and there needed to be more investment in sexual healthcare to increase access. He stated that there was a myriad of ways for people to access sexual health treatment and that targeted promotion was valuable. He explained that 'opt-out' HIV testing was a gamechanger, but prevention was key and more people needed to be encouraged to use PrEP medicine, which could be taken before sexual intercourse to help reduce the risk of catching HIV. It was noted that there had been a good take-up rate of PrEP amongst gay and bisexual men and there had been a good response to mpox vaccination in 2022.

Paul Martin of the LGBT Foundation conceded with Darren's comment that access to sexual health services was key. He stated that there was a 1 in 10 chance of calls to a sexual health clinic being answered, which was due to lack of investment and staff shortages. He also explained that organisations in Manchester had reestablished the mpox vaccination programme, following a national decision to only offer this in London, but were unable to publicise this service due to concerns that it may overwhelm capacity. He stated that national investment was needed to enable local services to develop further.

The committee was also advised that 75 out of 84 GP surgeries across the city were currently registered with Pride in Practice. Paul Martin of the LGBT Foundation explained that some surgeries felt they did not need to take part in the Pride in Practice scheme and that some would not engage, particularly since involvement was not mandatory. The Joint Director of Equality and Engagement explained that the Primary Care team worked with GP practices to encourage the take-up of this and linked it with standards. She highlighted that Manchester had a higher take-up of Pride in Practice than other Greater Manchester boroughs.

The Joint Director of Equality and Engagement explained that there were a number of reasons as to why there was a higher percentage of young LBGQTQ+ people presenting as homeless but stated that there had not been any specific work

undertaken by the Council or Health Service to link homelessness with mental health, but this was something that could be undertaken. The Deputy Leader highlighted that this topic was included in the next report on the meeting's agenda and that the Council wanted to ensure that services were inclusive and supportive through the new Homelessness Strategy. This was also an area that could be assessed by the Homelessness and Health Taskforce.

The Deputy Leader also recognised the need to address the unique issues facing LGBTQ+ refugees and asylum seekers and the ways that this could be done. She noted the potential impacts of the recent government policy change which would give migrants, refugees and survivors of trafficking a minimum of seven days to find alternative accommodation upon receipt of an eviction notice from Home Office accommodation, and the need to identify ways to support those affected. She also highlighted that the Council was now a Local Authority of Sanctuary.

In response to a member's query regarding queer and trans people experiencing racism, the Joint Director of Equality and Engagement suggested that the statistics on this from 2018 were unlikely to have changed and recognised the issue. She stated that the Census 2021 data had enabled better collection of information and the Council had revised and published its monitoring standards, which would improve the collection of data once embedded.

With regards to the overall rate of workplace conflicts for LGBTQ+ people, the committee was informed that this study was undertaken by the CIPD and it was suggested that these figures were unlikely to have changed, given the current climate.

The Joint Director of Equality and Engagement committed to liaising with the Licensing team to understand what levers the Council had in place to address 'gatekeeping' within the Gay Village. Paul Martin of the LGBT Foundation explained that the Council had commissioned LGBT Foundation to deliver anti-racism training to venues and door staff in the Village and that the study into the future of the Village that was commenced prior to the Covid lockdown would be recommissioned, which he felt would be an opportunity to understand what people wanted in the Village.

Aderonke Apata of the African Rainbow Family highlighted a unique issue facing asylum seekers, which prevented them from entering venues in the Village as they did not hold valid identification.

In response to a member's comment regarding sexual health services and difficulties in accessing tests, the Chair advised that this would be an issue for Health Scrutiny Committee to consider but suggested making a recommendation to request further detail on provisions. The committee was advised that the Health Scrutiny Committee would consider the Public Health Annual Report, with a focus on sexual health and HIV, at its meeting on 6 March 2024.

The Joint Director of Equality and Engagement confirmed that trans inclusion training had been rolled out to senior management and would be provided to specific directorates such as Communications and the Housing and Homelessness Service. The Deputy Leader stated that this would be rolled out more widely in future and this would include members.

In closing the item, the Chair asked the representatives from each organisation what they would like to see brought forward to improve the experiences of LGBTQ+ people in Manchester. Lisa Harvey Nebil of The Proud Trust stated that she would like increased LGBTQ+ training and education for schoolteachers, social workers, and youth workers. Farhana Hemani of Manchester Pride suggested it would be useful to adopt the Pioneer Creative Health Strategy and to consider how creativity can help to tackle inequalities as a key part of queer culture. Darren Knight of George House Trust emphasised the need to shift from co-design to co-ownership to ensure that everyone feels involved in plans and changes in the city. Aderonke Apata of the African Rainbow Family championed appropriate accommodation and better access to justice for LGBTQ+ refugees and asylum seekers. Paul Knight of the LGBT Foundation stated the need to continue working collaboratively and to recognise the economic benefits that this would bring. Professor Stephen Whittle of Manchester Law School and Chair of Indigo NHS Greater Manchester Gender Service encouraged the wider rollout of the trans inclusion training to all Council staff.

The Deputy Leader thanked guests for their attendance and committed to continuing to work collaboratively.

Decision:

That the committee

1. thanks the representatives of African Rainbow Family; The Proud Trust; Manchester Pride; George House Trust; LGBT Foundation; and Manchester Law School and Indigo NHS Greater Manchester Gender Service for attending the meeting and commends the work they do for the LGBTQ+ community in Manchester;
2. notes the progress made to date on delivering the Equality Objectives;
3. expresses their support of the approaches to working with communities and areas for further development outlined in the report;
4. recommends that the Council works closely with African Rainbow Family to identify how issues affecting LGBTQ+ refugees and asylum seekers, particularly in accessing housing, can be addressed;
5. requests that officers liaise with the Licensing team to identify what levers the Council had in place to address 'gatekeeping' within the Gay Village; and
6. recommends that the trans inclusion training be rolled out across the whole Council at the earliest opportunity.

CESC/23/41 Review of the Homelessness Strategy, Information on Winter Provision and Equalities Data for the Homelessness Service

The committee considered a report of the Director of Housing Services which detailed the Homeless Review and Strategy, provided an update on last year's cold weather provision, and plans for this winter, and included data on equalities which had been previously requested by the committee.

Key points and themes within the report included:

- The development and aims of the Homeless and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2024-27;
- When severe weather was activated in 2022/23;
- The winter accommodation offer in 2022/23;
- The proposed model for winter 2023/24, including communications;
- Data around households presenting as homeless due to domestic abuse, broken down by ethnicity;
- Factors influencing why more people with a minority ethnic background than those who are white British are in homeless accommodation;
- Homelessness amongst young people; older people; those with a physical disability; those with mental health concerns, acquired brain injury, learning disabilities and autism; and the LGBTQIA+ community;
- Staffing equalities within the Homelessness Service;
- Information on the Housing Register and demand for social housing; and
- Information on wait times for properties.

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

- How the Council had achieved the elimination of bed and breakfast accommodation use for families;
- Whether the Housing Solutions telephone helpline was available 5 days a week;
- How many call handlers were employed in the service, and whether this would increase;
- When the service could expect to be fully staffed;
- Whether there was any particular reason for the rise in the number of Black people presenting as homeless;
- Noting the issues caused by wait times for those using Pay-As-You-Go mobile phones;
- Suggesting that the new Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy included ways to support those at risk of becoming homeless;
- What prevention methods would be included in the new Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy, particularly for those with mental health issues and complex needs;

- Noting that the Housing Solutions Service was trialling case panels with Manchester Communication Academy to discuss a number of households who have indicated to the school that they have a housing issue and that this would be rolled out to schools in Moss Side and Wythenshawe, and expressing hope that this would be successful and could be rolled out in primary schools;
- What work was being done with landlords to encourage participation in the Sanctuary Scheme; and
- Noting that Local Housing Allowance rates had not increased and calling on the government to provide fair funding for housing.

The Deputy Leader explained that the report included information on a number of areas which the committee had requested during the previous Homelessness Update report, and she noted that it was also World Homelessness Day. She acknowledged that the Council continued to face challenges with homelessness despite the brilliant work undertaken by staff.

The Assistant Director for Homelessness explained that the Council had a legal duty to develop a Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy and the current Strategy would expire at the end of 2023. He stated that the Strategy would be framed around three principles – that homelessness would be rare; brief; and ended as quickly as possible – and would be based around the Place Called Home programme which aimed to increase prevention, reduce rough sleeping, secure more affordable and suitable accommodation and better outcomes, better lives. Work with key partners across the city would be required in the development and delivery of the new Strategy, and it was hoped that this would be approved by the end of the year.

The Strategic Lead for Homelessness acknowledged that the population of Manchester was continuing to change and become more diverse. She highlighted that the number of those identifying as homeless from an ethnic minority background was increasing and explained that this was due to several reasons, such as those who have their asylum claim approved or refugees who do not have a support network in the UK. She advised the committee that a review into the data around domestic abuse had been undertaken and this demonstrated a significant increase in the number of Black people presenting as homeless as a result of domestic abuse. This was of significant concern and work was being undertaken across the Council to understand if this was reflective in the wider population.

The Strategic Lead for Homelessness also highlighted a significant number of young people identifying as homeless, which was a direct result of the changes in welfare benefits and the Shared Room Rate. She explained that mitigation measures were in place, such as mediation with families and providing specific, suitable accommodation for young people. There were also increasing numbers of people with physical disabilities becoming homeless and often remained in homeless accommodation for longer due to difficulties in encouraging private sector landlords to make adaptations on properties and the small number of social housing properties available. Members were advised that work was ongoing with Registered Providers

to improve this and that this was being reviewed through the Local Plan but there were mitigation measures in place currently, such as the hospital discharge site.

It was clarified that those with physical disabilities were housed in temporary accommodation which was suitable for their needs.

The committee was advised that work was ongoing to support LGBTQ+ homeless people, through Greater Manchester Combined Authority's 'A Bed Every Night' scheme and the Council's commissioning of the LGBT Foundation and the Albert Kennedy Trust. It was hoped that the new Homelessness Strategy would present an inclusive and open approach to LGBTQ+ people experiencing homelessness to encourage more people to use the service.

In response to members' queries, the Assistant Director for Homelessness explained that some children remained in hotel accommodation in Manchester, for example asylum seekers who were under the responsibility of the Home Office. He stated that from February 2023, the number of families in bed and breakfast accommodation in Manchester who were owed a homeless duty decreased from 227 to 0. He noted that this was a precarious situation with significant demand for accommodation and stated that the number of families in bed and breakfast accommodation was increasing in almost every other local authority area nationwide. He explained that this decrease was achieved through changes to the Allocations Policy, which allowed those on the Housing Register to maintain their place if they took a private rented tenancy; by leasing more self-contained properties; managers undertaking case checks to ensure effective progress; and holding move-on panels.

The committee was informed that between 125 and 130 homelessness applications were received every week, which was more than any other local authority in the country.

The Assistant Director for Homelessness explained that there were currently 10 call handlers within the service. There was also 55 FTE Housing Support Officers, although some were undergoing the induction process and these officers performed a range of homeless assessment functions such as face-to-face interviews and in-depth telephone assessments.

The Assistant Director for Homelessness also offered to share current data on call handler capacity and call waiting times, which the committee welcomed.

The Strategic Lead for Homelessness explained that there was a triage process for telephone enquiries prior to a housing assessment taking place and that the service was looking to progress case panels to gather information earlier in the assessment process. Further information on these changes could be reported back to a future meeting.

In response to concerns regarding wait times for those using Pay-As-You-Go mobile phones, the Strategic Lead for Homelessness explained that the Council had a

callback option which enabled the caller to maintain their place in the queue without needing to stay on the phone, and she encouraged people to use this.

It was also confirmed that the Homelessness Service operates 24/7 with an out-of-hours telephone number.

The Strategic Lead for Homelessness recognised the increase in the number of BAME people presenting as homeless due to domestic violence and stated that the service was looking to delve into this more deeply with partners from domestic abuse charities and organisations. It was not known whether this increase was as a result of more domestic violence cases being reported or because of a concerning increase in cases overall.

The Assistant Director of Homelessness acknowledged that there was a greater focus on helping those experiencing domestic abuse and at risk of homelessness in other cities to stay in their own homes. He stated that there was a need to provide realistic expectations on the time taken to get a social housing tenancy and that further investment in sanctuary measures was needed, noting that this was cheaper than providing temporary accommodation. He explained that the Sanctuary Scheme currently focused on lock changes and other basic security measures and that further investment would enable more families to remain in their homes, areas and schools. He stated that this was a major focus for the service.

In response to the Chair's query regarding rolling out case panels to primary schools, the Strategic Lead for Homelessness advised that the work being undertaken with Manchester Communications Academy would help to devise the package and ensure its success. She stated that once this package was well-developed, it would be rolled out across the city and would include primary and secondary schools.

The Strategic Lead for Homelessness also confirmed that significant work was being undertaken with the Homelessness and Health Task Group to identify how the Council could work better with mental health services. She also informed the committee that additional funding had been provided to the Homeless Mental Health team who undertook assessments of those with mental health issues presenting as homeless. There was also significant work being undertaken to ensure that those with mental health issues were also placed in appropriate accommodation.

In closing the item, the Chair thanked officers for their work.

Decision:

That the committee

1. notes the report;
2. welcomes the Assistant Director of Homelessness' offer to provide data on call handler and Housing Support Officer capacity and call waiting times within the Homelessness Service;

3. requests a further report on the Sanctuary Scheme and the work undertaken to address the increase in the number of BAME people presenting as homeless due to domestic violence.

CESC/23/42 Building Stronger Communities Together Strategy 2023-2026

The committee considered a report of the Strategic Director (Neighbourhoods) which introduced the Building Stronger Communities Together Strategy 2023-26 and highlighted the key priorities for the next three years.

Key points and themes within the report included:

- Providing an introduction and background to the Council's social cohesion work;
- The consultation carried out as part of the development of the Strategy and the findings of this;
- The strategic priorities of the Strategy
 - Relationships;
 - Participation; and
 - Belonging
- How progress would be measured; and
- Pilot activities to be tested and delivered in the north, central and south of the city in the next 12 months.

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

- Noting the need for a Community Cohesion Strategy, and welcoming this work;
- Noting that the Strategy would be a great starting point to deliver and measure progress;
- The need to identify what works well in communities and what could be improved on; and
- The importance of monitoring the progress delivered through the Strategy.

The Director of Communities explained that the reset of the Our Manchester Strategy provided an opportunity to review the approach to social and community cohesion and how this was embedded in terms of delivery. She stated that the changing nature of Manchester provided a strong background to develop the Council's first Community Cohesion Strategy and explained that a 12-week online and face-to-face consultation had been undertaken, with around 700 responses received.

The three priority areas of the Strategy were highlighted and focused on relationships and building trust within communities; participation; and belonging. The Director of Communities explained that place-based action plans would be developed with the Belong Network and would contribute to the key themes of the Strategy, with this due to formally launch in December 2023.

The Deputy Leader highlighted the fantastic communities within Manchester and the importance of residents having a sense of belonging. She noted that the action plans would be key in the delivery of progress and against the themes and priorities of the Strategy.

The Director of Communities explained in response to members' points that the Strategy would be a live document that would evolve over time.

The committee also wished to place on record their thanks to the Prevent and Community Cohesion Coordinator, who could not attend the meeting, and the wider Community Cohesion team for their work on this.

Decision:

That the committee

1. endorses the Building Stronger Communities Together Strategy 2023-26 for approval by the Executive;
2. requests further information of the wards where the pilot activities will be tested and delivered;
3. requests a further report on the development and key priorities of action plans for the Building Stronger Communities Together Strategy 2023-26 in 6 months' time; and
4. requests a further report on the progress of the Building Stronger Communities Together Strategy 2023-26 in 12 months' time.

CESC/23/43 Overview Report

The committee considered a report of the Governance and Scrutiny Support Unit which 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.

In response to a query regarding a previous recommendation requesting further information on the Council's new CRM system, the Governance and Scrutiny Team Leader endeavoured to get a response to this for the next meeting.

A further query was raised regarding the recommendations made under the Domestic Abuse and Safety of Women and Girls report at the meeting on 5 September 2023. The Governance and Scrutiny Team Leader confirmed that officers were making enquiries on these recommendations and that the information would be shared with members once available.

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

Communities and Equalities Scrutiny Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 7 November 2023

Present:

Councillor Hitchen (Chair) – in the Chair

Councillors Azra Ali, Good, Ogunbambo, Rawson, Sheikh and Wills

Also present:

Councillor Rahman, Statutory Deputy Leader

Councillor Midgley, Deputy Leader

Councillor Rawlins, Executive Member for Environment and Transport

Councillor Shilton Godwin, Lead Member for Active Travel

Superintendent Chris Downey, Greater Manchester Police

Sarah Paul, Homelessness Prevention Lead and Strategic Lead for Community

Accommodation Service Tier 3 (CAS 3), GM Probation Service

Stuart Tasker, Assistant Chief Officer, GM Probation Service

Apologies: Councillors Appleby, Doswell and Whiston

CESC/23/44 Interests

Councillor Azra Ali declared a personal and non-prejudicial interest in item 6 – Community Safety Partnership Overview.

CESC/23/45 Minutes

Decision: That the minutes of the previous meeting, held on 10 October 2023, be approved as a correct record.

CESC/23/46 ACES European Capital of Cycling 2024

The committee considered a report of the Strategic Director (Neighbourhoods) which provided an overview and sought the committee's endorsement to the Executive of Manchester's bid to become ACES European Capital of Cycling for 2024.

Key points and themes within the report included:

- Providing an introduction and background;
- The content of Manchester's bid, which was joint between Manchester City Council, MCRactive, TfGM, British Cycling, Marketing Manchester and GLL;
- The commitments made by partners for 2024, should Manchester's bid be successful;
- The communications plan, including a bespoke campaign brand; and
- The outcomes and legacy should Manchester's bid be successful.

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

- Noting the great facilities for cycling within Manchester, including the National Cycling Centre and indoor BMX track;
- Whether any activities would be undertaken to widen access to cycling to certain communities such as LGBTQ+ and ethnic minorities;
- The stigma around young people on bicycles and antisocial behaviour;
- The impact of illegal parking and flooding on cycling infrastructure, and how this would be addressed;
- Whether the proposed commitments would still be achieved if Manchester's bid was unsuccessful;
- The activities and events that would be held in 2024 should Manchester be successful in its bid;
- Whether new walking and cycling routes were part of scheduled works already or if these were dependent on a successful bid;
- Current issues with the Bee Bike cycle hire scheme; and
- Expressing hope that Manchester's bid to become European Capital of Cycling 2024 was successful.

The Executive Member for Environment and Transport explained that the Council had been approached by ACES Europe to submit a bid to become European Capital of Cycling for 2024 as a result of the Council's investment in cycling with partners. She explained that Manchester was home to the British Cycling and the Great Britain Cycling team at the recently refurbished National Cycling Centre. She stated that the Council had received investment of £70 million in recent years to deliver high-quality cycling infrastructure on highways and there was a strong network of volunteers, partners and local groups which worked to expand cycling participation through Bikeability courses, cycling coaching in schools and inclusive cycling programmes and events. She highlighted that Manchester's bid aligned closely with the Manchester Active Travel Strategy and investment plan, Making Manchester Fairer and the Manchester Sport and Physical Activity Strategy. She explained that, if successful in its bid, the Council aimed to achieve a long-lasting legacy for cycling in Manchester and to transform and enhance the city's cycling offer.

The Director of Neighbourhood Delivery explained that all members had received a copy of the bid document which was submitted to ACES Europe in August 2023 and that a follow-up delegation had visited Manchester in September to look at different examples of cycling within the city. He stated that the bid consortium included representatives from the Council, British Cycling, Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM), MCR Active, Marketing Manchester, GLL and Cycling UK and community and voluntary organisations had also been involved in the bid process. He explained the benefits that being accredited would bring, such as cycling development, raising the profile of Manchester, community engagement and wellbeing, business opportunities and potential access to new funding, opportunity to share best practice with other European cities and extensive media and PR opportunities. He stated that the Council hoped to learn the outcome of the bid in December and that, if successful, a detailed programme of actions would be developed with partners.

The Chair invited the Lead Member for Active Travel to make representations on this item. She emphasised the health benefits of cycling and stated that this bid would be a great opportunity for residents to recognise the growing network of cycling infrastructure in the city and to be inspired to take up cycling.

In response to members' queries, the Director of Neighbourhood Delivery recognised that there were some barriers to cycling within certain communities and that there was a stigma around young people on bicycles engaging in antisocial behaviour. He highlighted the significant investment into cycling infrastructure and explained that the Council would work with partners to expand community-focused initiatives in 2024, including making cycling an integral part of the Holiday Activities and Food Programme. Members were advised that there were links with LGBTQ+ and ethnic minority communities already and that this could be explored further in the delivery plan.

The Active Travel Lead (Infrastructure and Environment) acknowledged issues with the Bee Bikes GM cycle hire scheme and advised the committee that a recovery plan had been developed with TfGM and was having a positive effect with an increase in the number of bikes available. He stated that there would also be changes to the cycle docking stations and locking mechanisms to reduce the risk of theft and damage.

The Director of Neighbourhood Delivery also noted that issues regarding traffic enforcement in cycle lanes had been raised by members. He stated that the Council would continue to monitor hotspot areas and that this would form part of a long-term plan to change behaviour. The Council would continue to undertake enforcement against lane contraventions and keep lanes clean.

The Interim Lead for Leisure, Events and Specialist Markets stated that the key areas of focus for activity in 2024 were highlighted in the bid document and explained that the Council had a strong collaborative engagement with cycling stakeholders on both a community and a professional basis which would continue should the bid be unsuccessful. She stated that targeted work would be undertaken with key priority areas and recognised that the bid would be utilised as a catalyst to undertake further work. The Council continued to invest in cycling infrastructure, including a dedicated sweeper for cycle lanes.

Emphasis would also be placed on lifestyle changes during 2024 with a range of schemes and campaigns, including New Years resolutions, bike maintenance and building confidence on bicycles. The committee was also assured that there would be a citywide campaign and that all wards would have a programme of activities.

In response to a query regarding whether new walking and cycling routes were part of scheduled works already or if these were dependent on a successful bid, the Active Travel Lead (Infrastructure and Environment) stated that the major highways scheme in Ancoats and New Cross were part of the Victoria North Eastern Gateway development. It was further clarified that no additional capital funding would be

received with the accolade of European Capital of Cycling but that it would enhance the Council's ability to promote highways schemes and the opportunities they could provide.

In closing the item, the Chair thanked officers for their work wished them luck with the bid.

Decision:

That the committee endorses the recommendation to the Executive for Manchester's bid to become ACES European Capital of Cycling for 2024.

CESC/23/47 Community Safety Partnership Overview

The committee considered a report of the Strategic Director (Neighbourhoods) and Chair of the Community Safety Partnership which provided an update on the implementation of the Community Safety Strategy 2022-25.

Key points and themes within the report included:

- Providing an introduction and background to Community Safety Partnerships and the Community Safety Strategy 2022-25;
- Tackling neighbourhood crime and antisocial behaviour, particularly in student neighbourhoods;
- Safety of women and girls;
- Keeping children and young people safe;
- Early intervention and prevention, including trauma responsive interventions;
- Tackling serious harm and violence, including modern slavery and the RADEQUAL community campaign;
- The initiatives funded for 2023/24;
- Tackling drug and alcohol driven crime;
- Work to change offender behaviour; and
- The work and aims of the Community Safety Partnership's Achieving Race Equality Task and Finish Group.

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

- What work was being undertaken to strengthen cohesion in communities where tensions may be rising as a result of conflict in the Middle East;
- Noting the work of RADEQUAL and the influence that disinformation (false information deliberately spread to deceive people) could have on young people;
- Expressing disappointment in the way that changes to Greater Manchester Police's (GMP) Student Safe operation were communicated to members;
- Expressing concern over staff turnover within GMP's Neighbourhood Policing teams;

- The membership of the Safety of Women and Girls Steering Group and how members were appointed;
- What work was being done, beside nighttime patrols in the city centre, to ensure the safety of women in the nighttime economy and to implement Unite the Union's 'Get Me Home Safely' campaign;
- What work the Council's Youth, Play and Participation service were undertaking in south Manchester to dissuade young people from engaging in violence;
- Noting that 90% of people managed by Probation in Manchester were in settled accommodation following release from prison between January and March 2023, and querying what happened to the remaining 10%;
- How Greater Manchester's performance in placing prison-leavers in settled accommodation after their release compared to other areas in England;
- Requesting further clarification on the unmet need within CAS3;
- Noting the seriousness of modern slavery and exploitation through international sponsorship schemes;
- The capacity to house all prison-leavers in Manchester;
- Whether accommodation for prison-leavers was in one locality or spread across the city;
- What was being done to address reoffending amongst young people; and
- Whether earlier intervention was required to address youth crime.

The Strategic Lead (Community Safety) explained the key priorities of the Community Safety Partnership, including keeping children and young people safe, early intervention and prevention, addressing drug- and alcohol-related harms and cross-cutting themes such as addressing disproportionality in services.

The Assistant Chief Officer of GM Probation Service provided an overview of the service and reiterated the benefits of working closely with Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA), as part of unification between the National Probation Service and Community Rehabilitation Companies in 2021, in establishing a local service and enabling local commissioning. He acknowledged that three probationary units within Greater Manchester had been assessed as 'requiring improvement' by HM Inspectorate but advised members that the service's level of integration had been highlighted as an example of good practice.

The Strategic Lead for CAS3, GM Probation Service, explained that this accommodation was funded by the Ministry of Justice and was available to prison leavers. This was undertaken through commissioning with GMCA and there were 159 beds across Greater Manchester, with 54 beds in Manchester. She explained that the service worked closely with the Council, who had identified a provider for accommodation and support services. Members were informed that there was a process involved to approve addresses and locations of this accommodation and that the individuals placed in accommodation also required approval by the Probation Service, GMCA and GMP.

She further stated that 513 prison leavers had been accommodated in Manchester since June 2021. The accommodation was transitional and available for 84 nights, during which the Probation Service worked to identify move-on accommodation in collaboration with the Council and support providers, On the Out.

In response to members' queries, the Strategic Lead (Community Safety) acknowledged that the conflict in the Middle East was concerning for some communities and explained that Operation Wildflower was underway through the Community Safety Partnership to work with GMP to understand tensions and identify areas for response. She stated that there was also a significant amount of work underway to raise awareness of and address hate crime.

The committee was also advised that work was ongoing in schools to safeguard children and young people who may be troubled by conflict in the Middle East.

The Strategic Lead (Community Safety) recognised that changes to GMP's Student Safe operation were not communicated in the best way, and this had been fed back to GMP. She advised that the Council's Neighbourhood teams were working closely with GMP to understand the changes and the rationale behind them, to continue the partnership work of this operation within Neighbourhood teams and to ensure that any future changes to safety operations were communicated more appropriately.

The Superintendent, GMP, confirmed that he would relay this feedback to colleagues and stated that Student Safe was an expensive operation. He advised that GMP was enhancing its Neighbourhood Policing teams across North, Central and South Manchester to continue delivering these services at a lower cost.

In response to a member's concern over staff turnover in Neighbourhood Policing teams, the Statutory Deputy Leader advised that this would be best directed to senior officers within GMP.

The Strategic Lead (Community Safety) explained that the Safety of Women and Girls Steering Group included a range of partners and was chaired by the Deputy Leader of the Council, Councillor Joanna Midgley.

With regards to the work being done to ensure the safety of women in the nighttime economy, members were informed of the Good Night Out Guide, premises being accredited in the safety of women and girls and a range of other options were being discussed by the Safety of Women and Girls Steering Group.

The Parks Lead explained that Leeds City Council had recently undertaken research into the safety of women and girls in parks with their partners and highlighted three key areas for green and open space providers to focus on to improve senses of safety and security within these spaces. This included the availability and visibility of staff and clear entrance points and inclusion of women and girls in decision-making. She stated that a brief audit had been undertaken as a result of this research which found that many of these findings were already in place in Manchester's parks.

She also highlighted the work taking place on intersectionality around women and girls, including supporting partners to host the Black Girls Hike nature festival in Platt Fields and the Adventure Festivals, which gave women and girls the opportunity to participate in events that they were typically underrepresented in.

In response to a question regarding work in South Manchester to discourage young people from engaging in serious violence, the Strategic Lead (Community Safety) explained that support was targeted to challenging areas where crime and antisocial behaviour was high. She stated that work to develop an early intervention and prevention offer across North, South and Central Manchester was underway and expertise from STEER had recently been implemented in the south of the city. Funding for the wider youth offer was also available.

The Strategic Lead for CAS3, GM Probation Service, explained that the national target for people managed by Probation to be in settled accommodation following release from prison was 90% and that a trigger plan would be implemented where this figure reduced to 80%. She explained that Greater Manchester was high performing in national figures, although there was evidence of a decline which she attributed to the current climate. She stated that the Probation Service met with 'negatives' – those not placed in settled accommodation upon release – on a monthly basis and further explained that those deemed 'neutral' could be being housed in other establishments such as Home Office accommodation.

In response to queries from the Chair, the Strategic Lead for CAS3, GM Probation Service, clarified that there were currently 54 bedspaces in Manchester which were spread across the city. She reiterated that this accommodation was only available for 84 nights and that work to identify move-on accommodation would be undertaken during this time. This could include trying to reintegrate a prison-leaver with family or identifying priority need for housing through the Council. She further stated that funding was available to the Council through the government's accommodation for ex-offenders' scheme which linked to the development of CAS3 and provided rent, a deposit and incentive to landlords to agree a tenancy with someone who had left prison in the previous 12 months.

The Strategic Lead (Community Safety) explained that there were many youth providers in Manchester which provided a range of support and safeguarding measures for children. It was acknowledged that by engaging with youth services and participating in the activities they organise, children and young people would be less likely to take part in antisocial behaviour and crime as they would not be on the streets. She also acknowledged that support and trust took time to develop between young people and providers including the Council and where necessary, information was shared between partners to ensure appropriate support was provided.

In response to a query regarding whether earlier intervention was required to address children becoming involved in crime at a younger age, the Strategic Lead (Community Safety) endorsed this and explained that pre-natal support was already

in place in some circumstances to ensure that families had the support in place for children to grow up happily and healthily.

In closing the item, the Chair thanked officers and guests for their attendance and commended the many organisations working together in Manchester to tackle the most challenging issues and to achieve better outcomes for residents.

Decision:

That the committee

1. notes the report;
2. expresses concern over staff turnover within GMP's Neighbourhood Policing teams and asks that this is addressed in the Crime and Policing item at January's meeting;
3. requests further information on where accommodation for prison-leavers is located in Manchester;
4. requests that the next update on the Community Safety Partnership include detail on outcomes, deliverability of priorities and objectives and how this could be monitored going forward.

CESC/23/48 Serious Violence Update

The committee considered a report of the Strategic Director (Neighbourhoods) which provided an overview of progress made in developing Manchester's approach to tackling serious violence.

Key points and themes within the report included:

- Providing an introduction and background to the Serious Violence Strategy 2022-2023;
- The Greater Manchester Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) Strategic Needs Assessment 2023;
- An overview of serious violence in Manchester;
- Hotspot areas;
- Links between serious violence and deprivation;
- Serious violence amongst and against young people;
- Interventions and early indications of impact and outcomes; and
- An overview of the Joint Targeted Area Inspection on serious youth violence, which was undertaken between September and October.

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

- Requesting clarification on which protected characteristics as listed under the Equality Act 2010 were likely to be disproportionately affected by serious violence, with figures and statistics;

- Requesting further information on the work of the Peace Together Alliance and SAFE taskforce;
- Noting the importance of early intervention and querying what work was being undertaken with those already involved in serious violence;
- Whether data on homicides within the city was based on a month-by-month comparison;
- Highlighting the important early intervention and prevention work being undertaken by voluntary groups in local communities;
- Responses to crime and serious violence in communities and in the media;
- Whether a communications plan was in place to reduce fear and to highlight work to reduce instances of serious violence;
- How GMP positively communicated updates on serious violence incidents;
- What early intervention and prevention work was being undertaken specifically with young people; and
- The importance of the role of housing providers in early intervention and prevention.

The Statutory Deputy Leader acknowledged some serious incidents of violence in Manchester in recent months, particularly involving young people as both victims and perpetrators, and he emphasised that one instance of serious violence was one too many. He stated that it was important to intervene early and to provide hope, aspiration, and positive activities for young people. He also noted that the vast majority of young people in Manchester did not engage in violence and that the Serious Violence Strategy and the Community Safety Partnership would work to reduce violence in the city.

The Strategic Lead (Community Safety) explained that the report provided an update on progress with the delivery of the Serious Violence Strategy, including current performance and key statistics on serious violence in Manchester and detailed the significant investment which had been given to the work of the Community Safety Partnership and the Violence Reduction Unit from a range of funding sources. She also informed the committee that the Partnership's response to serious youth violence was recently subject to a Joint Targeted Area Inspection (JTAI) and the outcome of this would be published on 30 November 2023 with a report to this committee in January 2024.

In response to members' queries, the Strategic Lead (Community Safety) confirmed that she would share the additional information requested. Regarding ongoing work to support those already involved in serious violence, she explained that support and protection was a key element in the Serious Violence Strategy and that a range of interventions were available. Early intervention and prevention were a key focus as a result of feedback from communities, but it was important to work with those already in the criminal justice system or engaging in criminal activity. The Strategic Lead (Community Safety) stated that the Council worked closely with Youth Justice to enable support and collaborative working and there had been investment for the Another Chance and Shift schemes to continue offering avenues for support to young people involved in or influenced by crime.

In response to a query regarding data on homicides, the committee was informed that the data within the report referred to homicides, attempted murder, and section 18 offences (wounding or causing grievous bodily harm with intent), which were the offences that the term 'serious violence' covered. It was confirmed that there had been an annual reduction of 12%, which was welcomed.

The Statutory Deputy Leader acknowledged that the media did not always relay positive news stories of the work being undertaken to address serious violence. He stated that the Council communicated success with local community and voluntary groups and partners and helped to reassure residents.

In response to a query from the Chair, Supt Chris Downey of GMP acknowledged that fear of crime was often a driver of crime. He explained that the police used certain phrases, such as 'isolated incident' or 'targeted attack', in their communication to provide reassurance and clarity. He also informed the committee that meetings were convened between the police, other emergency services and partners including the Council which aimed to identify where communication should be directed and what actions needed to be taken following an incident. GMP would also email the Council's Community Safety team to provide an overview of any incidents, which could then be shared with members and staff.

The Strategic Lead (Community Safety) reiterated feedback from residents which placed great importance on early intervention and prevention to reduce serious violence. The Serious Violence Manager advised the committee that there were designated officers within the GMP locality teams – North, South, and Central – who were responsible for identifying children and young people named as suspects in criminal acts which may not go through the full criminal justice process. These children and young people would then be screened with safeguarding, early help and children's social care teams to understand if any additional support was required. It was also confirmed that housing providers were involved in this.

In closing the item, the Chair welcomed the work of the Council and local and voluntary organisations to make communities in Manchester safer.

Decision:

That the committee

1. notes the report;
2. requests clarification on which protected characteristics as listed under the Equality Act 2010 were likely to be disproportionately affected by serious violence, with figures and statistics;
3. requests further information on the work of the Peace Together Alliance and SAFE taskforce; and
4. requests further detail on 'hotspot areas' of serious violence in the city.

CESC/23/49 2024/25 Budget Proposals

In opening the item, the Chair advised the committee that items 8 and 8a would be considered together and the committee considered a report of the Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer which provided an overview of the Council's updated budget position for 2024/25 and a report of the Strategic Director (Neighbourhoods) which outlined the priorities for the services in the remit of this committee and detailed the initial revenue budget changes proposed by officers.

Key points and themes within the reports included:

- An estimated budget shortfall of £46m was expected in 2024/25, £86m in 2025/26, and £105m by 2026/27;
- This gap would reduce to £1.6m in 2024/25, £30m in 2025/26 and £49m by 2026/27 after the application of approved and planned savings and the use of c£17m smoothing reserves in each of the three years;
- The indicative medium-term financial position;
- A review of emerging pressures and budget assumption had been completed and provision made to address these where unavoidable, including inflation and pay awards;
- The planned public consultation on proposed council tax levels and savings and cuts measures;
- Next steps in the budget process;
- Providing an overview and information on the priorities of the Neighbourhoods directorate;
- The services under the remit of this committee;
- The base budgets for each service area for 2023/24;
- Current financial pressures and ongoing high inflation rates meant it was necessary to revisit the initial assumptions and identify further savings options for consideration whilst protecting service delivery;
- Noting that a temporary reduction in the annual £40k contribution to the security measures for the Christmas Markets whilst Albert Square is unavailable would be re-introduced once the markets return to Albert Square;
- A proposal to reduce libraries' book fund budget by £30k to £0.65m per annum;
- Government grants and the income they provide;
- Workforce implications, including reviews of vacant posts;
- Future opportunities;
- The indicative medium-term budgets by service area; and
- The indicative medium-term budgets by type of spend/income.

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

- Acknowledging the 13-year period of austerity and the Local Government Association's warning that local authorities were facing a £4bn funding shortfall;
- Noting ongoing inflationary pressures and the advantage that a Fair Funding Settlement would provide;
- Expressing concern with the proposed £30k cut to the book fund budget;
- The impact of inflation on the Council's income stream;
- Highlighting the additional burden placed on the Homelessness service as a result of the government's plan to provide 7 days' eviction notice to asylum seekers in temporary accommodation;
- The impact of the cost-of-living crisis increasing demand for Council services and support whilst the Council's budget was being cut at the same time;
- The financial implications of cuts to homelessness grants, such as the Afghan Resettlement Funding; and
- Requesting further breakdown of the budget allocated to tackle crime and disorder.

The Strategic Director (Neighbourhoods) provided an overview of the key points within the reports and explained that the Neighbourhoods directorate had a net budget of £66m with 1364 full-time equivalent (FTE) posts. The Head of Finance reiterated the process for approving the budget and advised the committee that a report on the government's Autumn Statement would be considered at Resources and Governance Scrutiny Committee in December 2023 and final proposals following public consultation would be provided to each Scrutiny Committee in February 2024 for final approval by Full Council in early March.

The Statutory Deputy Leader emphasised that the report included officer proposals for the 2024/25 budget and that Executive Members would lead on these proposals once considered by the relevant Scrutiny Committees.

The Deputy Leader reiterated the comments of the Statutory Deputy Leader and stated that local authorities across the country had lost 27% of their spending power as a direct result of cuts to local government funding imposed by central government. She explained that Manchester had been disproportionately affected due to levels of need and deprivation and what she stated as the unfairness of cuts and the ideological choices of government. The committee was informed that, had the Council received the average cut in funding, there would be an additional £70m to spend on residents and services. She highlighted that some local authorities in England were facing bankruptcy and stated that Manchester was not in such a position due to the careful financial management of officers, who she commended, but acknowledged the precarious financial situation that the Council found itself in as result of inflationary pressures and the cost-of-living crisis.

In response to concerns raised regarding the proposal to reduce the book fund budget, the Strategic Director (Neighbourhoods) recognised the impact of this and that the book fund had been reduced in previous budgets. He explained that making budget cuts was not an easy decision and that reducing the book fund budget

seemed to be the least impactful in comparison to closing libraries or reducing staff numbers. The Director of Neighbourhood Delivery explained that the book fund budget was used to purchase both physical copies, e-books and online subscriptions. He advised that if the proposed cut was approved, officers would look to cut less-used subscriptions in the first instance.

The Head of Finance stated that there had been implications on a range of services as a result of rising inflation rates, which were not anticipated. Examples of this included commissioning costs in social care and in housing. He explained that the report included forecasts on inflation rates and this would be reviewed throughout the year.

In closing the item, the Chair acknowledged that the Council had lost 27% of its budget since 2010 and stated her belief that the government systematically ensured that cities like Manchester were disproportionately targeted for their political allegiance. She also placed on record her thanks to Council officers for their work in making and implementing difficult financial decisions.

Decision:

That the committee

1. notes the report;
2. expresses concern with the proposed £30k cut to the book fund budget and requests detail on how the impact of this cut might be mitigated for service users and what the year-on-year cuts to this budget have been;
3. requests that the Neighbourhoods directorate 2024/25 budget report in February 2024 includes information on any plans to mitigate the financial implications of cuts to homelessness grants, such as the Afghan Resettlement Funding; and
4. requests that the Neighbourhoods directorate 2024/25 budget report in February 2024 provides further breakdown of the budget allocated to tackle crime and disorder.

CESC/23/50 Overview Report

The committee considered a report of the Governance and Scrutiny Support Unit which 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.

Members noted that there was only one substantive item listed on the committee's work programme for December. The Governance and Scrutiny Team Leader endeavoured to identify any additional reports which could be brought forward to that meeting.

The Overview Report also included a briefing note for information on the RBDxP programme, in response to a recommendation made previously by the committee for further information on this. Several comments were made on this, which would be passed onto the relevant officers.

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

Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on 13 October 2023

Present:

Councillor Reid – in the Chair
Councillors Alijah, Bell, Fletcher, Hewitson, Lovecy, Marsh, Muse, Nunney, Sadler and Sharif Mahamed

Co-opted Voting Members:

Mr G Cleworth, Parent Governor Representative
Canon S Mapledoram, Representative of the Diocese of Manchester

Co-opted Non-Voting Members:

Miss S Iltaf, Secondary Sector Teacher Representative

Also present:

Councillor Bridges, Executive Member for Early Years, Children and Young People
Councillor T Robinson, Executive Member for Healthy Manchester and Adult Social Care
Nicky Boothroyd, MCRactive
Jeff Seneviratne, Chair of Manchester Outdoor Education Trust (MOET)

Apologies:

Councillors N Ali, Amin, Bano, Gartside, Judge, Ludford and McHale
Ms L Smith, Primary Sector Teacher Representative

CYP/23/40 Minutes

The Chair welcomed the new Committee Member, Councillor Marsh.

The Representative of the Diocese of Manchester informed the Committee of the issues that her Diocese was responding to in relation to Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC) within school buildings that it was responsible for.

Decision

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 6 September 2023.

CYP/23/41 Urgent Business – Joint targeted area inspection (JTAI) of the multi-agency response to serious youth violence

At the request of the Chair, the Strategic Director of Children and Education Services provided the Committee with an overview of the JTAI taking place in Manchester. The inspection started on 25 September 2023 and was due to conclude with five days fieldwork activity and feedback to senior leaders on 13 October 2023. The inspection was led by Ofsted and involved a total of 12 inspectors from the CQC (Care Quality Commission), Ofsted (schools and social care), HMPI (HM Inspectorate of Probation) and HMICFRS (HM Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire

& Rescue Services). In addition, the Violence Reduction Unit would be within scope as a key partner. Each inspectorate was engaged directly with their usual regulatory area, for example, the CQC reviewed NHS activity, data and records.

The scope of the inspection considered three broad areas.

- Strategic Partnership responses to serious youth violence (how well did we work together, understand and respond to issues in Manchester)
- Intervention with individual and groups of children affected by serious youth violence and criminal exploitation (how did we provide timely, purposeful and impact positively into children and their family's lives)
- Intervention in places and spaces (contextual safeguarding and how we used intelligence to inform activity and disrupt)

Ofsted was due to publish the letter on 30th November 2023 in respect of their findings, to which an action plan would be required in due course.

The Chair advised that the findings would be submitted to either the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee or the Communities and Equalities Scrutiny Committee.

Decision

That the findings of the JTAI will be considered by the relevant scrutiny committee.

CYP/23/42 Sufficiency

The Committee considered a report and two presentations of the Strategic Director of Children and Education Services which provided an update on the Our Children Sufficiency Strategy 2022 – 27 and outlined Children's Services' response to the Supported Accommodation Regulations (March 2023) and the requirement to register all supported accommodation with Ofsted.

Key points and themes in the Sufficiency presentation included:

- Commissioning provision;
- Implementation timeline, including the launch of Mockingbird; and
- Internal service provision.

Key points and themes in the Supported Accommodation report and presentation included:

- Background information;
- Categories of registration;
- Demographics;
- Framework for inspection;
- Our provision; and
- Challenge/risk and service response.

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

- To welcome the positive work the Council was doing with its partners;
- To welcome work to ensure that Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children were in touch with local support networks;
- To welcome that young people had been involved in the decision-making in relation to this work;
- Identifying and supporting young people with Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) or a neuro-behavioural problem;
- Young people waiting for a place in supported accommodation; and
- Support for unaccompanied asylum-seeking young people with no immigration status when they reached 18.

The Strategic Director of Children and Education Services reported that FASD and other conditions could be identified through the Annual Health Assessment and he informed Members about work to increase the number of review health assessments and plans to develop a Health Profile, which could include the number of children with FASD. He also informed Members about the transition process, which included an assessment of young people's needs, and highlighted the use of dual registration accommodation, which was registered with both Ofsted and the CQC, and the focus on providing a stable home. In response to a Member's question, he advised that the aim was for children to grow up within their local community and that the Council had a performance measure for placing children within 20 miles of their home address, which the vast majority were.

In response to a Member's question about the outstanding activities on the project plan, the Assistant Director (Children in Care and Care Leavers) reported that a lot of work had been completed since the report had been published, while highlighting some of the activity which remained outstanding and the reasons for this, including some work which could not be completed until the Inspection Framework was published. She reported that young people who were waiting for a place in supported accommodation would remain in their current placement until a place became available for them. In response to a Member's question, she outlined how the Council worked with other local authorities through the Greater Manchester Care Leaver Board with the aim of ensuring that young people across Greater Manchester had the same experience, regardless of their home local authority, and that reciprocal arrangements were used to best support young people. In relation to unaccompanied asylum-seeking children, she reported that the number of young people over the age of 18 without an immigration status had significantly reduced but there were concerns about the impact of the Illegal Migration Bill on this group and work was taking place to prepare for this.

The Chair welcomed the progress made since 2014 when Manchester's Children's Services was judged to be inadequate. She expressed concern that the Council and providers were having to prepare for the new regulations on supported accommodation when the full details had not yet published, advising that this was unfair and should be raised with Ofsted. She also expressed concern that the new regulations would place additional pressure on staff and could deter some people

from providing supported accommodation, particularly people providing supported accommodation in their own home.

The Executive Member for Early Years, Children and Young People recognised the Chair's points about the risks and difficulties involved, including having to prepare for a new inspection regime without the full information, while advising that the Council was in a much stronger position to respond to these challenges than it had been previously. In response to a question from the Chair in relation to a specific case, he suggested that they discuss this further outside of the meeting. He highlighted that the Council had increased the allowance to young people by £20 to help them with the cost-of-living crisis.

The Strategic Director of Children and Education Services reported that the National Association of Directors of Children's Services had raised some of the concerns discussed at the meeting in relation to the impact of the new regulations. He reported that guidance had been issued and that this was unlikely to change significantly so the Council was planning ahead on this basis. He advised that the capacity issues would fall mainly on the providers but that the inspections were likely to focus on the provider, rather than the provision, so would not necessarily involve visiting individual homes. In response to a question from the Chair, he informed Members about work to build capacity for Regulation 44 visitors, recognising the much more detailed reports which were now required.

Decision

To note the report.

CYP/23/43 Ghyll Head Outdoor Education and Activity Centre Update

The Committee considered the report of the Strategic Director (Neighbourhoods) which provided an update on the capital works undertaken on site, set out the progress made since Greenwich Leisure Limited (GLL) stepped in with the operational management of Ghyll Head and provided context for the current operating environment.

Key points and themes in the report included:

- Background information;
- Capital business case and implementation;
- Trading position and challenges; and
- Next steps.

The Committee was shown a video about the provision at Ghyll Head and the benefits for Manchester young people.

The Executive Member for Early Years, Children and Young People highlighted the investment which had been made into Ghyll Head to make it sustainable for the future.

The Executive Member for Healthy Manchester and Adult Social Care, addressed the Committee as the Council's Elected Member Representative on the Strategic Advisory Group. He spoke positively about his own experiences at Ghyll Head. He informed Members about the work that had taken place over recent years, including the development of the Outdoor Education Strategy, and he thanked those involved. He highlighted the improvements in the infrastructure and the use of the space. He reported that workforce recruitment was still a challenge but that GLL, MCRactive and Council officers were working to find innovative solutions and that this was continuing to be closely monitored. He highlighted the financial challenges that schools were facing and the importance of working to source funding to help children from deprived wards to access Ghyll Head. He praised the work of the Heads of the Centre, MCRactive, Council officers and Manchester Outdoor Education Trust (MOET) and the positive partnership with GLL.

Jeff Seneviratne, Chair of MOET, reported that, when he had last attended the Committee four years ago, the future of Ghyll Head had looked uncertain but that, while there remained challenges, the decisions made to invest in the centre had secured its future. He welcomed the decision to involve MOET in the future of Ghyll Head and he highlighted the importance of ensuring that, rather than young people having a one-off trip to Ghyll Head, this should be part of a wider outdoor education. He outlined some of the work taking place to achieve this including developing resources in and near the city, including accessible facilities, and workforce development for teachers and youth workers to help them to build on what young people learnt at Ghyll Head.

Nicky Boothroyd from MCRactive informed the Committee that a research team at Sheffield Hallam University had been engaged to help develop a strategy focusing on participation and that work was also taking place to identify facilities within the city.

Members welcomed that Ghyll Head was a fantastic asset for the city and shared positive experiences of Ghyll Head and the benefits for children and young people.

In response to a Member's comments about leisure centres and digital exclusion, the Interim Lead for Leisure, Events and Specialist Markets offered to discuss this with the Member outside of the meeting.

In response to a Member's comments, the Executive Member for Early Years, Children and Young People reported that the partnership with GLL on Ghyll Head had worked well, with priority being given to Manchester children, while attracting other users to make it sustainable, and with the Strategic Board having oversight.

A Member who was a Teacher Representative commented on the financial pressures on schools, the challenge of finding funding to take pupils to Ghyll Head and whether some of the funding provided to schools could be specifically designated for this purpose. The Chair advised that individual schools had discretion over how they spent their own money and suggested the Member speak to senior leaders at the school. The Interim Lead for Leisure, Events and Specialist Markets reported that she wanted to work with schools to get more groups to Ghyll Head. She reported that funds such as Our Year Legacy Fund and the Our Year Social Fund had been used to help some groups to visit the centre and that discussions were taking place

about other funding which could be used in future to help subsidise visits to Ghyll Head, as well as looking at ways to reduce other associated costs, such as transport to the Lake District.

The Executive Member for Early Years, Children and Young People reported that a Strategic Education Plan was being developed for the city and that the Council wanted to include a pledge in this that all Manchester children would have the opportunity to attend a residential.

A Member welcomed that energy consumption at Ghyll Head had reduced by 14%, while use of the site had increased. In response to a question about other measures to reduce energy consumption, the Interim Lead for Leisure, Events and Specialist Markets reported that further improvements to energy efficiency would be part of the next phase of the development of Ghyll Head. Nicky Boothroyd from MCRactive reported that solar panels had been considered as part of the refurbishment but, because Ghyll Head was within a national park, there were planning restrictions in place which would have made this difficult. She reported that the refurbishment had included additional insulation, LED lights and light sensors, that the centre now used gas and electricity rather than oil and that GLL used an energy monitoring system. She reported that, despite not being in Manchester, Ghyll Head was included in the Council's zero carbon target.

In response to a Member's questions about children with Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND), Nicky Boothroyd from MCRactive reported that they worked closely with the Local Offer Board and highlighted some of the groups which used Ghyll Head. She advised that the club at Debdale was accessible, that a group of SEND children from the Youth Zone in Harpurhey also accessed the provision every month and that a new accessible boat had just been delivered.

The Chair highlighted how Ghyll Head was now very accessible. She reported that the centre was now used by families for edge of care provision, as well as by schools and was also available for commercial use. She spoke of the benefits of visiting Ghyll Head for children who had never been outside their area of Manchester.

Jeff Seneviratne, Chair of MOET encouraged all Councillors to join MOET. The Executive Member for Healthy Manchester and Adult Social Care agreed to circulate information on this.

Decision

To note the report.

CYP/23/44 Youth, Play & Participation Service (YPPS) Commissioning Grants, Holiday Activities & Food (HAF) Programme and Youth Investment Fund (YIF)

The Committee considered the report of the Strategic Director (Neighbourhoods) which provided an update on the outcome of the youth and play commissioning process. It also provided an update on the highlights from the HAF Programme, an

overview of the Department of Culture, Media & Sport's (DCMS) YIF Programme and an update on Manchester's YIF capital programme.

Key points and themes in the report included:

- Policy context;
- Decision-making processes for youth and play commissioning;
- Applications, funding awards and development;
- Quality assurance;
- Holiday Activities Fund (HAF); and
- Youth Investment Fund (Capital) Programme.

The Head of Libraries, Galleries, Culture and Youth, Play and Participation Services thanked officers for all their hard work in relation to these areas of work.

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

- The challenges in deciding who would be awarded funding because of the volume of applications and the limited funding available;
- Support for organisations which had not been successful in obtaining funding or had not been awarded the full amount of funding that they had asked for; and
- Issues with territory and young people not wanting to travel to different areas.

The Commissioning and Engagement Manager reported that positive meetings had taken place with organisations who had not been successful in obtaining funding and that these organisations had been offered support, including training opportunities, feedback on their application and, in some cases, smaller amounts of funding. He reported that the Council had offered help with finding alternative sources of funding and help with writing their applications, if needed. He acknowledged that there had been difficult decisions on awarding funding and that the vast majority of organisations had not received what they had asked for; however, he reported that there was a robust process in place for making the decisions, with decisions made based on the merit of the application and assessed against the agreed criteria, considering whether they were meeting the needs of local communities and in line with national and local strategies. In response to a further question, he advised Members that the additional £500,000 referred to in the report was to support groups and build their capacity, including training and development for their staff, such as youth work qualifications.

In response to a question from the Chair about coverage across different wards, the Executive Member for Early Years, Children and Young People reported that the Council always wanted to improve in terms of having more provision and a more equitable coverage across the city; however, having brought the commissioning programme back in-house, the Council now had better knowledge of current provision, was monitoring it and would ensure that organisations were delivering to the areas they had said they would. In response to a Member's question about grassroots organisations, he reported that the Council could provide help and support

to these groups and suggested that they could apply to the HAF Fund. He thanked those in the youth and play sector for their work.

The Commissioning and Engagement Manager reported that, while territory was still an issue, more young people were now willing to travel, and providers were being asked to work with young people to address this issue. He informed Members that the successful applicants had indicated that they would be working with young people across different wards and that monitoring would take place to ensure that this was happening. He informed the Committee about the quality assurance and monitoring processes, including the use of Young Ambassadors and Peer Reviewers. In response to a question from the Chair, he reported that most of the organisations which had been funded were providing both youth and play activities. In response to a question about outreach work, he confirmed that some organisations had been funded to provide outreach work, including work to address territorial issues and issues within specific areas.

The Chair emphasised the importance of monitoring that work was taking place, including at a ward level. She highlighted that some wards in north Manchester had a high number of homeless families placed in them and the need to address any gaps in provision.

Decision

To note the report.

[Councillor Lovecy declared a personal interest as a trustee of Trinity House Community Resource Centre.]

[Councillor Alijah declared a personal interest as the Chair of the Hideaway Youth Project.]

CYP/23/45 Overview Report

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

Decision

To note the report and agree the work programme.

Health Scrutiny Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on 11 October 2023

Present:

Councillor Green – in the Chair
Councillors Curley, Hilal, Karney, Muse, Riasat and Wilson

Apologies: Councillors Bayunu and Reeves

Also present:

Councillor T. Robinson, Executive Member for Healthy Manchester and Adult Social Care
Councillor Chambers, Deputy Executive Member for Healthy Manchester and Adult Social Care
Councillor Midgley, Deputy Leader and Making Manchester Fairer Programme Board Co-Chair
Councillor Bridges, Executive Member for Early Years, Children and Young People
Professor Sir Michael Marmot (Virtually)
Adil Mohammed Javed, Making Manchester Fairer Programme Board member
Abi Brown, Making Manchester Fairer Programme Board member
Sinead O'Connor, Making Manchester Fairer Programme Board member
Sue Spiteri, Executive Headteacher, Haveley Hey Community School
Claire Buxton, Deputy Head, Haveley Hey Community School

HSC/23/42 Minutes

Decision

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 6 September 2023.

HSC/23/43 Making Manchester Fairer: Tackling Health Inequalities in Manchester 2022-2027

The Committee considered the report of the Deputy Director of Public Health that provided an overview of progress made from October 2022 to October 2023 on the Making Manchester Fairer Action Plan.

Key points and themes in the report included:

- Providing an introduction and background, noting that Making Manchester Fairer (MMF) is Manchester City Council's five-year action plan to address health inequalities in the city focussing on the social determinants of health;
- Information on the MMF Programme Workstreams;
- Information on the structure and purpose of the MMF Governance and Programme Board;
- The approach to general communications and engagement;
- An update on workforce development;
- Consideration of resident and community engagement and involvement;
- Information on Kickstarters and the Investment Fund;

- The approach to engaging with anchor institutions, recognising that Manchester institutions and businesses had a key role in addressing health inequalities and it was recognised what impact their collective actions could have on health outcomes by changing their operations, investments and services;
- Describing the approach to monitoring and evaluation with a summary of progress across all the MMF workstreams;
- A deep dive on the theme of Homes and Housing, noting that there were six themes within this workstream of the Making Manchester Fairer programme which would be delivered through the Council's Housing Strategy 2022-2032; and
- Next Steps for MMF Action Plan.

The Committee heard from members of the Making Manchester Fairer Programme Board. Abi Brown stated that she wished to bring her lived and professional experience as a young black female working in Public Health to the conversation and to advocate for positive change. Adil Mohammed Javed described that he had a background in the arts and culture sector and had joined the Board to provide insight and to articulate the voice of local communities with the ambition to empower and educate to tackle health inequalities. Sinead O'Connor described her lived experience of accessing services and reiterated the importance of hearing and acknowledging the unique voice of lived experience, as this would inform the solutions to address inequalities.

The Deputy Leader and Making Manchester Fairer Programme Board Co-Chair paid tribute to the three Board Members for attending the meeting and articulating their experience. She stated that the breadth of knowledge and experience that the members brought to the discussion stimulated positive and important conversations to drive the work of the Board and provide the appropriate governance.

The Committee heard from Professor Sir Michael Marmot who spoke of the need for both national and local actions to address health inequalities. He stated that Manchester had demonstrated positive progress in this area of activity and that other authorities across Greater Manchester could learn a lot from the Manchester model and experience. He further paid tribute to Manchester for taking the initiative in developing and adopting an Anti-Poverty Strategy. He said that all Marmot recommendations were important to address health inequalities, however it was important that local people and decision makers determined which ones they prioritised to reflect local need, and this should be informed by people with lived experience, recognising that Manchester had done this. He discussed national government policy and mindful of a potential election he commented that health equity should be at the heart of all national government policy decision making, adding that the positive outcomes of this approach was evidenced based. He stated that the experience in Manchester was a positive example of what could be achieved, and he called for the country to become a Marmot country. He further made reference to the Health Equity Network and commented that there was a tangible buzz and excitement generated through this network and it offered a forum for support and learning across all partners to progress this work. In response to the Member's discussion regarding health prevention initiatives he reiterated that whilst these were important it was the social determinants that had the biggest impact on health outcomes. He commented upon the importance of addressing poverty to achieve the establishment of a fairer society.

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

- Noting the detrimental impact austerity had had on public services across Manchester and supporting the call for a Marmot country;
- Recognising the significant amount and range of work that had been undertaken in the previous year to deliver the MMF programme;
- Discussion of how the impact of this work would be evaluated, commenting that residents in wards were largely unaware of this work;
- Calling for additional resources to support the work force development that was described;
- Was there a correlation between the reduction of Sure Start Centres and the increased number of SEND children (Special educational needs and disabilities);
- What provision was available for young people who were not in education or training;
- Recognising that residents often had complex health and social needs;
- Calling for further regulation of the tobacco and alcohol industry, noting the proliferation of online 24/7 access to home delivery services;
- Welcoming the approach to addressing mould and damp in properties, noting that Social Landlords were more responsive to residents on this issue, however challenges for tenants within the Private Rented Sector remained;
- Calling for all existing powers to be used to improve housing conditions within the Private Rented Sector;
- Welcoming the reduction in the number of families housed in temporary accommodation, adding that families with children needed to be accommodated close to the school they were attending wherever possible;
- All Council departments should work together to coordinate activities and policies to promote and deliver MMF; and
- Recognising the good practice described at Haveley Hey Community School and stating that good practice needed to be shared across all schools.

The Deputy Director of Public Health discussed the methodology of evaluation of MMF and stated that this would be undertaken and reported at the appropriate time. She stated that MMF was a five-year plan and the success would be demonstrated by improving health outcomes and narrowing the gaps across the city. She commented that the evaluation of the Kickstarter programmes would be undertaken next year. She informed the Committee that a bid for additional grant funding to support this evaluation work had been submitted. She stated that areas of greatest need would require greater attention and this approach was recognised and understood. In response to the discussion regarding alcohol and tobacco she stated that whilst the Making Manchester Fairer correctly focused on the social determinants of health, Public Health also commissioned alcohol and tobacco services. The Director of Public Health supported the call from the Committee for increased regulation of the tobacco and alcohol industry.

A Member recommended that a briefing note be circulated following the meeting that described the methodology used to identify those areas with the highest need. Further, that officers provide a briefing note that details the location of temporary accommodation across the city and how that related to the MMF methodology to identify those areas with the highest need.

The Strategic Lead for Making Manchester Fairer addressed the issue raised by the Member in relation to complex needs and made reference to the work of the Changing Future Programme. The Changing Futures programme was led by the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) and was working in partnership with the ten GM authorities, and other organisations across the VCSE and statutory sector, to improve the way that local systems and services worked for adults experiencing multiple disadvantages, including homelessness, drug and alcohol problems, mental ill health, domestic abuse and contact with the criminal justice system.

The Director of Housing Services informed the Committee that Manchester's existing homelessness strategy covered the period 2018-2023 and expired at the end of December 2023. He described that there was a consultation exercise currently underway, and this had been reported to the Communities and Equalities Scrutiny Committee at their meeting of 10 October 2023. He commented that the discussions regarding families and children were fully acknowledged and would be reflected in the refreshed strategy.

The Head of Strategic Housing stated that social landlords were very responsive to the issue of damp and mould following the tragic death of Awaab Ishak, adding that there was a great deal of national scrutiny on social landlords surrounding this issue. In terms of the Private Rented Sector, he advised that they worked with landlords to improve conditions using all available levers, however if required enforcement action could be taken. He commented that there were commissioned advice services that private tenants could access for a range of tenancy advice, including in relation to disrepair.

The Deputy Leader paid tribute to all of the staff working within the Homeless Service, recognising that they worked in a very challenging environment.

The Executive Member for Early Years, Children and Young People stated that the importance of MMF was recognised and understood within Children's Services. He stated that Covid had significantly contributed to the increased number of SEND children, more so than the reduction of Sure Start Centres. He commented that the national response to children and the pandemic had been very lacking, however Manchester had taken the initiative to implement strategies to improve the outcomes for young people.

The Committee then heard from Sue Spiteri, Executive Headteacher, Haveley Hey Community School and Claire Buxton, Deputy Head, Haveley Hey Community School. The Executive Headteacher described the context and levels of social deprivation in which the school operated. She further commented that she had worked closely with local Members and ward coordination to support the Kickstart programme at the school. She suggested that all Ward Plans should be framed and structured using the key themes of MMF.

The Deputy Head described the initiatives that had been implemented at the school to support pupils. She described that the school had been an early adopter of the Kickstarter programme and an Intensive Support Teaching Assistant had been employed, supported by an Education Psychologist and Speech and Language

Therapist. This had resulted in a programme of bespoke activities and initiatives that had been developed and delivered. She described that the benefits of this approach would be formally assessed and reported however positive outcomes were already being realised, in terms of reading, writing, maths and pupil attendance.

In response to specific questions the Assistant Director for Education, Schools QA and SEND stated that Manchester had a comprehensive offer in relation to education and training, and the number of young people not in education and training was relatively low when compared to other core cities. She reiterated the previous comments regarding the impact that Covid had on young people, particularly in regard to social and language skills and that work was underway to address this. In addition, she made reference to the Family Hubs that had been established. She described that the three hubs in Longsight, Cheetham and Wythenshawe would provide a range of advice and services, all targeted at parents, children, and young adults. The Hubs supported MMF as they would provide access to a wide range of services to help families, from health issues such as infant feeding, mental health support, stopping smoking, to building better relationships, accessing school and education support, as well as providing advice on jobs, skills training, and next steps post-18.

The Executive Member for Healthy Manchester and Adult Social Care reiterated the commitment to ensure that addressing health inequalities was central to all Council decision making. He commented that it was the intention to mainstream the Kickstarter programmes. He stated that he was very proud of the work that had been delivered over the previous year, noting that there had been a significant cultural change in the approach and discussions that were now undertaken around the issue of health in Manchester as a result of the adoption of the Making Manchester Fairer approach and principles. He informed the Committee that he would provide all Members with a regular update on the progress of MMF.

The Chair commented that there were a number of strategies and policies across the Council and reflected on the earlier discussion on resident awareness of MMF. She recommended that all strategies and policies be framed and prominently articulated with the Marmot Themes and MMF.

Decisions

The Committee recommend;

1. All Council strategies and policies are to be framed and prominently articulated with the Marmot Themes and Making Manchester Fairer.
2. All Ward Plans should be framed and structured using the key themes of Making Manchester Fairer.
3. That officers provide a briefing note that described the methodology used to identify those areas with the highest need.

4. That officers provide a briefing note that details the location of temporary accommodation across the city and how that relates to the MMF methodology set out in (3) above.

HSC/23/44 Overview Report

The report of the Governance and Scrutiny Support Unit which contained key decisions within the Committee's remit and responses to previous recommendations was submitted for comment. Members were also invited to agree the Committee's future work programme.

Decision

The Committee notes the report and agrees the work programme.

Health Scrutiny Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on 8 November 2023

Present:

Councillor Green – in the Chair
Councillors Curley, Hilal, Karney, Muse and Riasat

Apologies: Councillors Bayunu, Cooley, Reeves and Wilson

Also present:

Councillor T. Robinson, Executive Member for Healthy Manchester and Adult Social Care
Councillor Chambers, Deputy Executive Member for Healthy Manchester and Adult Social Care
Councillor Akbar, Executive Member for Finance and Resources
Councillor White, Executive Member for Housing and Development
Charlie Norman, Chief Executive of Mosscafe St. Vincents
Steve Campbell, Extra Care Scheme Manager
Mary Moylan, resident of Elmswood Extra Care Scheme
Dr Scott Mather, Consultant Geriatrician, Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust
Dr Sarah Follon, Ancoats Urban Village Medical Practice
Andy Needle, Manchester People First
Richard Hughes, Manchester People First
Joanne Oakes, Greater Manchester Lead Nurse
Laura Foster, Director of Finance, Manchester Local Care Organisation
Sally Ferris, Dementia Together Support
Hazel Savage, The Alzheimer's Society
Jeff Seneviratne, Dementia United Expert Carer Reference Group
Ann Booth, Dementia United Expert Carer Reference Group

HSC/23/45 Minutes

Decision

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 11 October 2023.

HSC/23/46 Revenue Budget Update 2024/25

The Committee considered the report of Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer that described that the Council was forecasting an estimated budget shortfall of £46m in 2024/25, £86m in 2025/26, and £105m by 2026/27. After the application of approved and planned savings, and the use of c£17m smoothing reserves in each of the three years, this gap reduced to £1.6m in 2024/25, £30m in 2025/26 and £49m by 2026/27. This position assumed that the savings approved as part of the Medium-Term Financial Strategy in February 2023 of £36.2m over three years were delivered.

This report provided a high-level overview of the updated budget position. Each scrutiny committee was invited to consider the current proposed changes which were

within its remit and to make recommendations to the Executive before it agreed to the final budget proposals in February 2024.

Key points and themes in the report included:

- Updates on the refreshed position including progress in reaching a balanced budget, reflecting preliminary savings and investment options;
- The government was expected to announce the Autumn Statement on 22 November 2023, but no major changes were expected;
- Government funding for 2024/25 would be confirmed in the provisional finance settlement, expected late in December 2023;
- The accompanying report set out the priorities and officer proposals for the services within the remit of this committee. This included a reminder of the savings proposals identified as part of last year's budget setting process (£36.2m across three years) and additional savings for consideration (£2.5m from 2024/25). As far as possible these were aimed at protecting the delivery of council priorities and represented the least detrimental options; and
- There remained a forecast shortfall of £1.6m next year. Any further reduction to the underspend this year would reduce the need to top back up General Fund reserve in 2024/25 and help bridge this shortfall. In addition, the Collection Fund position would be finalised in January and the final levy amounts from GMCA confirmed.

The Executive Member for Finance and Resources stated that Manchester had been subject to unfair budget cuts over the previous fourteen years. He stated that the decision to reduce budgets to cities like Manchester had been an ideological decision taken by the government. He described that the financial situation of local authorities across the UK was very precarious, stating that it had been estimated by the Local Government Association that there would be a £4billion shortfall in total next year. He stated that he endorsed the ask of the Leader in her recent letter to the Chancellor of the Exchequer ahead of the Autumn Statement. He called for an end to last minute provisional settlements, but rather long term, fair and stable funding arrangements for all local authorities.

The Executive Member for Healthy Manchester and Adult Social Care stated that the government had shown nothing but contempt for Manchester, however despite this Manchester had continued to ensure that the residents of the city were at the heart of all decisions taken. He said that despite the challenges presented by government, Manchester continued to be innovative in how it worked for all residents.

The Deputy Executive Member for Healthy Manchester and Adult Social Care referred to the recent visit undertaken by members of the Committee to the Control Room. The Control Room was the integrated hub for supporting flow out of hospital into the community. The Control Room was responsible for ensuring the safe and timely discharge of citizens across hospitals and to support the system to work together to achieve the best outcomes for people. She stated that this was one positive example of the many innovations developed in Manchester to support residents despite the cuts imposed on the city. The Committee expressed their appreciation to the staff at the Control Room for facilitating the visit from Members.

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

- Paying tribute to all workers across the Council and the NHS for the work they undertook on behalf of the citizens of the city;
- Thanking the Executive Members and the Directors for their continued dedication in supporting residents, recognising the difficult financial landscape they had to navigate;
- Condemning the government's policy of austerity and the impact this had on all Mancunians;
- Welcoming that residents were central to all decisions taken; and
- The Committee expressed the opinion that they retained their confidence in the Executive Member, the Director of Public Health and the Executive Director of Adult Social Services.

Decision

To note the report.

HSC/23/47 Public Health Budget 2024-27

The Committee considered the report of the Director of Public Health that set out the proposals for the Public Health budget for 2024/25 to 2026/27.

Key points and themes in the report included:

- An overview of Public Health services and key priorities;
- A detailed overview of the budget;
- An update on Making Manchester Fairer;
- The gross 2023/24 budget was £50.471m and the net budget of £43.211m;
- Income of £7.260m included use of reserves £3.753m, Better Care Fund £0.960m, contributions from NHS partners £0.805m and from other local authorities £0.853m and government grant £0.889m;
- The latest 2023/24 global monitoring report to the Executive outlined a £0.8m underspend. Savings of £0.730m had been achieved in full. There were underspends across the staffing budgets due to vacant posts and the maximisation of external funding, and underspends on other indirect staffing costs;
- There were no additional savings for 2024/25; and
- Planned non recurrent use of reserves in 2023/24 of £0.330m was replaced in 2024/25 with the planned use of headroom in the budget set aside for contract uplifts as detailed in the report to Health Scrutiny February 2023. The approved savings schedule for 2024-26 were detailed in appendix 1.

A Member discussed the proliferation of 24/7 alcohol delivery services and the detrimental impact alcohol had on the health outcomes of residents. The Director of Public Health stated that a report on the Drugs and Alcohol Services was scheduled to be submitted to the January 2024 meeting and consideration of this would be included in that report.

Decision

To note the report.

HSC/23/48 Adults Social Care Budget 2024-27

The Committee considered the report of the Executive Director of Adult Social Services that set out the proposals for the Adults Social Care budget for 2024/25 to 2026/27.

Key points and themes in the report included:

- An overview of Adult Social Care services and key priorities and positioning within the Manchester Local Care Organisation; and
- A detailed overview of the budget, including:
 - The significant financial challenges on the 2023/24 budget and requirement to resolve them ahead of incorporating the 2024/25 budget proposals;
 - The update to budget growth assumptions for the service as set out in the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan;
 - Confirmation of an unchanged savings plan 2024-26 at this stage pending further work underway;
 - Future risks and opportunities including significant budget considerations in 2025/26;
 - The gross 2023/24 budget was £280.764m and the net budget of £215.260m;
 - Income of £65.504m included client fees £30.416m, Better Care Fund £17.787m, contributions from NHS partners of £10.428m and other income of £6.873m which includes grants and use of reserves. This included the integration reserve, which was drawn down in accordance with the plan agreed for the year with NHS Greater Manchester – Manchester locality;
 - The base budget for 2023/24 was £211.947 and the key change to the budget in the year was the addition of the Market Sustainability and Improvement Fund (MSIF) workforce grant of £4.055m. This was also reduced by a pensions budget adjustment of £-0.602m and Directorate transfers of £-0.140m;
 - The latest global monitoring report to the Executive outlined a £3m ASC 2023/24 overspend and that the underlying recurrent pressure in the long term care budget were significantly more challenging at c£9m. This was being offset non-recurrently in 2023/24 through the approved use of reserves, employee underspends and applying Better Care Fund (BCF), Adult Discharge Fund (ADF) and Market Sustainability and Improvement Fund (MSIF) against eligible costs. In summary, new demand were running at a higher run rate than demographics and preventative programmes. This was compounded by significant price pressure in the care market, and the complexity of need for clients discharged through hospital;
 - A recovery plan had been initiated to fully mitigate the budget pressure without further need for a new savings programme and from the additional resources proposed as part of this budget process; and
 - Savings of £4.4m were approved for 2024-26 and were detailed in Appendix 1. Implementation plans were being developed and at this stage, there were no proposed amendments to this programme.

Decision

To note the report.

HSC/23/49 Update on Dementia Developments

The Committee considered the report of the Director of Public Health and Executive Director of Adult Social Services that described the progress made in the last six months around key developments of the Dementia Action Plan, with specific focus on the early commission of the Manchester Dementia Alliance, led by Alzheimer's Society, with Manchester Carers Forum and Together Dementia Support. Noting that at the Health Scrutiny Committee meeting of 8 March 2023, the first progress report on the developments across the Dementia pathway had been presented. (See minute ref. HSC/23/19 Dementia Developments in Manchester).

Key points and themes in the report included:

- The development of the Manchester Dementia Alliance and early work and achievements to date;
- An update on Delirium work in Manchester, noting that as part of the Greater Manchester Dementia United work, delirium had been a particular focus and Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust (MFT) had been at the forefront of this work, led by Dr Scott Mather, Consultant Geriatrician;
- An update on the forward plan on the next 6 months priorities, aligned to the Dementia Action Plan; and
- Reference to a new Extra Care Scheme in the development pipeline specifically focused on Dementia Care with our partners, Irwell Valley Homes.

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

- Were the number of patient admissions in Manchester with delirium comparable with other regions;
- Was delirium only experienced by older citizens;
- Were some groups of residents more susceptible to experiencing delirium; and
- Supporting the next step to have this comprehensive approach to delirium in all settings and supporting the discussions with Manchester Local Care Organisation and clinical leads at the GM Integrated Care Board about rolling it out to care homes.

Dr Scott Mather, Consultant Geriatrician, Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust stated that the improved coding of patients had helped correctly diagnose incidents of delirium, adding that rates in Manchester were comparable with other regions. He advised that delirium could affect all ages, however, it was more prevalent in older citizens as they became more vulnerable to this condition. He stated that this was also exacerbated by infections, constipation and/or dehydration. He also commented that a change in settings could also contribute to incidents of delirium. He also stated that some patient cohorts, including those for whom English was not their first language or had an existing condition such as Korsakoff syndrome were also more susceptible to experiencing delirium, adding that this demonstrated the importance of correct early diagnosis and care.

Hazel Savage, The Alzheimer's Society, informed the Committee that the Dementia Changemakers had held another meeting since the report had been published. She advised that they planned to meet again in January 2024 and the focus of that meeting would be Home Care. She stated that the Professionals Workshop had met in October. The aim of that workshop was to collate feedback of current Dementia services within Manchester, from the professionals' point of view; to map out current service offers; and to see if the service offers aligned with the views/needs of service users. She commented that this had been a very positive and empowering experience. She stated that the feedback from this event would be collected and evaluated. Jeff Seneviratne, Dementia United, commented that this had been important as it represented the first steps to developing a holistic model of dementia care that reflected upon the recommendations of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Dementia.

The Director of Public Health stated that Manchester benefited from an established clinical network who were committed to the issue of dementia, and this foundation would strengthen and inform the local strategy. He further paid tribute to the Manchester Dementia Steering Group, adding that it was an example of genuine partnership working. He further commented that diagnosis rates of dementia were higher than the national average. The Assistant Director Commissioning MLCO added that a person-centred, strength-based approach was taken to assess an individual's needs and this would be reviewed by social workers to ensure that they were receiving the correct care in the correct setting.

The Executive Member for Healthy Manchester and Adult Social Care stated that he had welcomed the frank and open discussions he regularly had with Dementia Together Support. He commented that he had reservations about national policy in relation to dementia and he would continue to lobby on this issue. He reassured the Committee that discussions were ongoing locally with the Greater Manchester Integrated Care Partnership with the view to replicating the good practice witnessed in Manchester across Greater Manchester.

The Chair commented that the Committee would be considering a report on End of Life Care at the February 2024 meeting and themes that had been discussed in the report and at the meeting today would be included in that report.

The Chair further requested that when the Manchester Dementia Alliance Newsletter was available this should be circulated to all Councillors.

The Committee expressed their gratitude to all guests for attending the meeting and contributing to the meeting.

Decision

To note the report.

HSC/23/50 Update on Extra Care Housing Developments

The Committee considered the report of the Executive Director of Adult Social Services that described the latest developments around Extra Care Housing.

Key points and themes in the report included:

- Information on the completion of the housing needs analysis providing an indicative increase in the number of additional units/schemes required by 2043;
- An update on the recent survey by Healthwatch with people currently in Extra Care Housing;
- Information on the Enabling Independence Accommodation Strategy (EIAS) and how this would impact on the further growth of Extra Care Housing in the city; and
- The recently published Housing Learning and Improvement Network (HLIN) case study on Neighbourhood Apartments.

The Committee heard from Charlie Norman, Chief Executive of Mosscafe St. Vincents who discussed the importance of the Extra Care Housing Strategy and how they worked collaboratively with both Strategic Housing and Adult Social Care. She spoke of the many benefits of the Elmswood Extra Care Scheme that had opened in 2020, including reducing social isolation and supporting independent living in a safe, inclusive and vibrant environment. She stated that she was proud to be working on behalf of the residents of the city, at a neighbourhood level that reflected the Our Manchester strategy. She commented that scheme offered 72 high quality one and two bedroom, low carbon apartments that were all offered at 100% social rent.

Steve Campbell, Extra Care Scheme Manager reiterated the many benefits of Extra Care Housing that had been articulated by the Chief Executive of Mosscafe St. Vincents. He added that this model of housing also reduced the need for residents to go into costly residential care. He added that care could be stepped up or stepped down as appropriate in a safe setting.

The Committee heard from Mary Moylan resident of Elmswood Extra Care Scheme who spoke of their experience of living in Extra Care Housing. She described her home as lovely, and said she felt safe and secure. She added that the environment was very supportive and there were many opportunities to socialise and take part in activities. The Committee expressed their gratitude to Mary for attending the meeting and contributing to the meeting.

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

- Welcoming the delivery of 100% social rent accommodation at the Elmswood Extra Care Scheme; and
- Welcoming Extra Care Schemes and recognising the benefits these had for residents.

The Assistant Director – Commissioning commented that the Housing Needs Analysis that was described in the report used a variety of data sets to inform future planning. She commented that the findings indicated that an additional 15 Extra Care Home Schemes would be required, a doubling of the existing offer. She added that 11 of the 12 current schemes were all offered at 100% social rent, with the remaining one being mixed tenure. The Commissioning Manager, Strategic Housing added that

providing Extra Care Schemes supported people to safely right-size and this released larger family homes into the market.

The Assistant Director – Commissioning responded to a comment from a Member regarding the possibility of delivering Extra Care Housing for a mixture of citizens, such as Learning Disabled citizens and an intergenerational offer by stating that consideration could be given to this and building upon the positive model that Extra Care offered.

The Executive Member for Healthy Manchester and Adult Social Care commented that Health partners were working collaboratively with colleagues in Strategic Housing and the ambition was to increase the number of Extra Care Schemes across the city.

The Committee expressed their gratitude to all guests for attending the meeting and contributing to the meeting.

Decision

To note the report.

HSC/23/51 Adult Learning Disability Services

The Committee considered the report of the Executive Director of Adult Social Services that described the key developments across Health and Social Care in Manchester relating to Adult Learning Disability services.

Key points and themes in the report included:

- Policy and Strategy, namely developments surrounding the recently approved Manchester Local Care Organisation (MLCO) Commissioning Strategy for Adult's with a Learning Disability (2023 – 2028), and Housing Needs Analysis for Adults with a Learning Disability and Autism (2023 – 2033);
- Recommissioning and Transformational activity including the developments surrounding the 'My Way, My Life' programme;
- Health Care, including local developments surrounding the NHS Greater Manchester and Manchester University Hospitals Foundation Trust Transforming Care agenda and NHS Learning Disabilities oversight group; and
- Preparation for Adulthood, also known as Transition.

The report was accompanied by a video presentation that highlighted key developments over the last 12-18 months across a range of areas including housing, social care, and health. This video was recently presented at the recent Greater Manchester Learning Disability conference and captured a range of views from citizens with lived experience.

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

- Recognising and welcoming the work undertaken by Manchester People First;

- Noting the theme of the importance of staff being caring and kind had been identified during engagement events with Learning Disabled citizens as part of the process of drawing up a new Learning Disability strategy; and
- What was being done to ensure that vulnerable citizens with a learning disability and/or autism did not remain in hospital under the care of the Mental Health Act for any longer than they need to be.

The Head of Strategic Commissioning (Adult Learning Disability & Autism) stated that the Housing Needs Assessment had been used to plan for future Learning Disability housing need. He advised that findings of this Assessment were described at section 3.2.5 of the report. In summary, approximately 430 additional places of supported accommodation, general needs accommodation and shared lives services would be needed in the city over the next 10 years. There would need to be a structured programme of work to deliver the housing requirements of adults with a Learning Disability, working with strategic partners including Strategic Housing, Registered Landlords and the Adult Social Care Market Providers.

The Head of Strategic Commissioning (Learning Disability and Autism) advised 90 of those places would be needed to provide new accommodation for citizens within the current Manchester City Council in-house provision, to ensure existing citizens had access to better quality and efficient accommodation types. He also advised there was a significant programme of work underway over the next 3 years or so to review the range of in-house services, and to ensure that the in-house service accommodated citizens with more complex needs, which may mean that some citizens with lower level needs may need a more independent offer.

The Head of Strategic Commissioning (Adult Learning Disability and Autism) also commented that he was proud to inform the committee of the launch of the new Manchester Local Care Organisation Adult Learning Disability and Autism Commissioning Strategy (Plan), which had been produced with people who had lived experience. This set out the Council's commissioning strategy (plan) for Adults with a Learning Disability over the next five years.

The Adult Social Care Assistant Director, Complex Needs informed the Committee that an oversight group had been established to regularly review citizens with a learning disability who were admitted to hospital to ensure they were in the correct care setting and to plan for their appropriate transfer of care. She stated that the integration of Health and Social Care supported this partnership approach to ensure the best outcomes for the citizen. She stated that the individual would be supported once discharged from a hospital setting to prevent them from being readmitted.

The Adult Social Care Assistant Director, Complex Needs described that a value-based approach to staff recruitment had been developed, adding that this involved asking questions that explored the values of candidates and explored their lived experiences. She stated that people with lived experience contributed to interview panels, and this had been a very positive development.

The Committee heard from Andy Needle and Richard Hughes from Manchester People First, a self-advocacy group for adults with a learning disability. Mr Needle commented that the inclusion of people with lived experience being involved with the

recruitment of staff to ensure the correct values were demonstrated was a very important and welcome development. He further acknowledged the importance of the publication of the easy read version of the Action Plan.

The Executive Member for Healthy Manchester and Adult Social Care paid tribute to all the staff working within the Learning Disability Team.

The Committee expressed their gratitude to all guests for attending the meeting and contributing to the meeting.

Decision

To note the report.

HSC/23/52 Overview Report

The report of the Governance and Scrutiny Support Unit which contained key decisions within the Committee's remit and responses to previous recommendations was submitted for comment. Members were also invited to agree the Committee's future work programme.

Decision

The Committee notes the report and agrees the work programme.

Resources and Governance Scrutiny Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, 12 October 2023

Present:

Councillor Simcock (Chair) – in the Chair

Councillors Andrews, Connolly, Davies, Evans, Kilpatrick, Kirkpatrick, Lanchbury and Stogia

Also present:

Councillor Akbar, Executive Member for Finance and Resources

Apologies: Councillors Brickell and Wheeler

RGSC/23/55 Minutes

In moving the minutes, the Chair informed the committee that he had recently attended a meeting with officers and ACORN representatives to discuss the wording used in the Council's communications regarding council tax. He explained that these communications would be revised and that, if successful in improving collection rates, every 1% increase in the collection rate could produce an additional £1.5m-£2m in revenue.

The Chair also advised that the committee's recommendation for officers to undertake a feasibility study, in consultation with the Executive Member for Finance and Resources, into ending the use of Enforcement Agents had been accepted and was being undertaken.

Decision:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 7 September 2023 be approved as a correct record.

RGSC/23/56 Workforce Equalities Update

The committee considered a report of the Director of Human Resources, Organisation Development and Transformation which provided an update on progress to date to deliver the Workforce Equality Strategy and the Council's journey to becoming a diverse and inclusive employer.

Key points and themes within the report included:

- An introduction to the Workforce Equality Strategy;
- Progress in delivering on the Strategy's 47 actions, with 38 completed; 6 in progress; and 3 outstanding;

- Data around the number of Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) employees and those with a disability or long-term health condition;
- How progress has been made with the Council's leadership and management;
- The work of staff network groups;
- Communication and engagement;
- Policies, processes and systems to strengthen diversity and inclusion;
- How the Talent & Diversity team works with local communities to attract local diverse talent;
- The Council workforce's diversity profile;
- Updates from each directorate on how they have supported the Council to build a diverse and inclusive workplace; and
- An upcoming refresh of the Strategy in late 2023.

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

- Welcoming the Workforce Profile, and seeking clarification as to whether the average age included students and children under the age of 16;
- Seeking clarification on the percentage of people in Manchester who identify as transgender;
- Seeking clarification on the percentage of BAME residents in Manchester;
- Noting that BAME employees were more likely to have a complaint made against them but that the outcome of a disciplinary process was typically the same as a White employee;
- What work was being undertaken to increase take-up of the 'Let's Talk About Race' training;
- The age breakdown of staff undergoing 'Let's Talk About Race' training;
- Whether flexible working options would be considered in the Age Friendly Action Plan to support the Council to become an Age Friendly Employer;
- Querying why non-completion rates of SAP Equality Data was highest in Children's Services; and
- Why there was no recognition of deafness or hearing impairment as a disability under the Diversity Data Subcategories in the Workforce Profile.

The Director of Human Resources, Organisation Development and Transformation explained that the report highlighted the significant work undertaken over the previous two years and how the Council had achieved against its ambitions to build a diverse and inclusive workforce and he acknowledged that there was more to be done.

The Head of Workforce Strategy reiterated that great progress had been made in delivering against the Workforce Equality Strategy since its launch in 2021, with most actions delivered. He stated that there continued to be a positive impact and explained that there had been an increase in Black, Asian and Ethnic Minority (BAME) representation at all levels in the Council and particularly at a senior level. There had also been an increase in representation of disabled employees at all

levels. He also stated that feedback from the staff survey indicated that the workforce recognised improvements to equality, diversity and inclusion and that there was a strong sense of belonging.

The Head of Workforce Strategy stated that this work was a long-term priority for the Council and that a refresh of the Strategy would accelerate the journey to become a diverse workforce.

Directorate Equalities Leads were also present at the meeting.

The Chair relayed a written representation from Councillor Zahid Hussain, Lead Member for Race, who was unable to attend the meeting. He welcomed the HRODT department's works and highlighted areas for increased focus. The Director of Human Resources, Organisation Development and Transformation welcomed the Lead Member for Race's comments.

In response to the Chair's queries regarding the Manchester population average data referenced in the Workforce Profile, the Head of Workforce Strategy confirmed that this included the whole population within Manchester as it was based on data from the 2021 Census. He endeavoured to clarify statistics around the transgender population and would provide clarification on this outside of the meeting.

The Director of Human Resources, Organisation Development and Transformation stated that an increase in Employee Dispute Resolution cases could be interpreted positively as it suggested that the workforce felt confident to raise issues with HR and that these issues would be responded to. The Head of Workforce Strategy informed the committee that the number of BAME employees who experienced disciplinary proceedings had decreased.

The Head of Workforce Strategy recognised the low take-up rate of 'Let's Talk About Race' training and explained that each directorate had an action plan to deliver this over the next 6-12 months and confirmed that the age breakdown of employees accessing this training could be shared. The Strategic Head of Organisation Development stated that there was a breakdown of age and race for training such as 'Let's Talk About Race', Inclusive Leadership and other key corporate training such as zero carbon and this data is helpful to identify areas to focus on. She recognised that training was easier to access for certain services and employees in the Council.

In response to a query regarding whether flexible working options would be considered in the Age Friendly Manchester action plan, the Director of Human Resources, Organisation Development and Transformation stated that the Council already had a number of flexible working options available, but that staff may not be fully aware of these. He noted that there would not be a one-size-fits-all approach and that this subject had been discussed by the Strategic Equalities Group. The Director of Human Resources, Organisation Development and Transformation was

also due to meet with the Chair of the Older Peoples Staff Network to explore this area further and how flexible working options could be promoted.

With regards to training non-completion rates, particularly in Children's Services, the Head of Workforce Strategy explained that this was a frontline service which engaged less with corporate communications and systems. The Directorate Equalities Lead for Children and Education Services explained that they had been advised to only ask employees for their equalities data once per year so as not to discourage them, noting that it was a personal choice to disclose such information. She explained that there was an increased confidence in and number of conversations to discuss race and trans inclusion and it was hoped that the equalities plan and communications resulted in an increased response. The Directorate Equalities Lead for Neighbourhoods echoed these comments and emphasised the importance of increasing confidence to share equalities data.

The committee was also advised that the equality data categories were being reviewed to ensure that staff can identify any disability or impairment they may have, and that staff networks were engaged with this work.

The Executive Member for Finance and Resources stated that wanting to build a diverse and talented workforce was important for all public and private sector organisations but that there was not a template for success and every organisation was unique. He emphasised the need to build sound foundations and thanked the HRODT team for their work. He also stated that a diverse, inclusive and talented workforce would be good for the city.

Decision:

That the committee

1. notes the progress made by the Council to deliver the Workforce Equality Strategy;
2. notes the progress made by each directorate to deliver workforce equality, diversity, and inclusion;
3. notes the plan to refresh the Workforce Equality Strategy;
4. requests further clarification on the percentage of people in Manchester who identify as transgender;
5. requests that the age breakdown of staff undergoing 'Let's Talk About Race' training be shared with members; and
6. requests that the Workforce Profile be updated in line with members' comments regarding deafness and hearing impairment.

RGSC/23/57 Workforce Strategy

The committee considered a report of the Director of Human Resources, Organisation Development and Transformation which provided an overview of the Council's Workforce Strategy and the priorities being delivered against to ensure that

the Council is in the best position to deliver the Corporate Plan, Our Manchester Strategy and to continue to deliver excellent services to residents.

Key points and themes within the report included:

- The priorities and strategies of the Workforce Strategy;
- How these priorities were delivered; and
- How success was measured;

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

- Noting the emphasis on mental health in the priorities of the Strategy, and querying the challenges relating to this;
- If apprenticeships were linked to career pathways;
- How talent pools would be developed and how these would work; and
- Whether there were any peer networking groups for apprentices with other local authorities.

The Director of Human Resources, Organisation Development and Transformation explained that the Workforce Strategy enabled the Council to define its ambition and how this would be achieved.

In response to the Chair's query regarding challenges around mental health, the Director of Human Resources, Organisation Development and Transformation acknowledged that this was becoming one of the biggest challenges for organisations across the country. He noted that the ways to respond to this were complicated and there would not be a one-size-fits-all solution to this. He stated that there was a specific focus on health and wellbeing within the Strategy with a range of interventions to help address some issues. It was also stated that statistics showed keeping those facing mental health issues in work led to the best outcomes, although this was acknowledged as not always being possible.

The Head of Workforce Strategy recognised that mental health was the biggest cause of staff absence. He stated that engagement had been undertaken with staff as part of the Workforce Strategy refresh to understand experiences and more work was needed on this. He explained that the Strategy focused on prevention and early intervention and targeted support would be provided to areas with higher levels of absence, such as frontline services. Managers would also be trained with knowledge and skills needed to provide effective support to those experiencing mental health challenges. The Employee Assistance Programme and occupational health service would also be publicised more widely. The committee was advised that these challenges were not unique to the Council and were indicative of challenges across local government.

In response to comments around apprenticeships, the Head of Workforce Strategy stated that apprenticeships were an important part of internal development and

would be aligned to career pathways. Apprenticeships were also key in attracting young people and people from across Manchester to work for the Council. The Head of Workforce Strategy stated that each directorate would have a set target for the number of apprentices recruited each year.

The committee was informed that talent pools were in the process of being developed and would provide access to coaching, mentoring and leadership development programmes to enable progression. Further detail on this could be shared once available.

The Director of Human Resources, Organisation Development and Transformation stated that young people were more likely to want to move across a Council and into different services, as opposed to staying in one role, and talent pools could help with this.

The Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer advised that the workforce budget had been assessed to enable greater flexibility around apprenticeships and vacant posts. She also highlighted that the priorities in the Strategy were interlinked.

In response to a query regarding peer networking groups with other local authorities, the Head of Workforce Strategy explained that this had not been considered but he welcomed the idea. He stated that the Council had a strong offer of apprenticeships, professional programmes through universities and externally commissioned training. The Directorate Equalities Lead for Children and Education Services advised that there were several groups and networks for Education Services staff across Greater Manchester and the wider North West.

Decision:

That the committee notes the report.

RGSC/23/58 Future Shape – Our Internal Digital Transformation Programme

The committee considered a report of the Director of Human Resources, Organisation Development and Transformation which provided an update on progress to date with the Future Shape of the Council programme to evolve the Council's ways of working in order to meet current challenges.

Key points and themes within the report included:

- Providing an introduction and background to the Future Shape programme;
- The achievements and progress made since 2020;
- The current programme;
- The different workstreams of the programme;
- The impact of artificial intelligence (AI) on Future Shape;

- Communication and engagement; and
- Future Shape is internally focused, but improved council services will lead to better outcomes for the residents and businesses of Manchester.

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

- Noting the varying degrees of digital exclusion;
- How difficult it was to detect use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in job applications, and whether the Council would need technology to identify this;
- How products created as part of digital transformation could be cross-sold to other local authorities;
- How it would be ensured that those with visual or hearing impairments were not excluded by the work of Future Shape; and
- The need for an Ethical Framework for the use of AI.

The Director of Human Resources, Organisation Development and Transformation stated that there had been a shift towards Future Shape being the vehicle to implement digital transformation within the Council. He stated that it was important to ensure that suitable conditions were created for systems to be used effectively and that the workforce was equipped with the skills required.

The Director of Human Resources, Organisation Development and Transformation explained that the Council undertook significant engagement with staff and residents when implementing any changes to systems. The Strategic Head of Organisation Development recognised the needs for systems and processes to be insight-driven and based on the experiences of users.

In response to queries regarding the use of AI in job applications, the Director of Human Resources, Organisation Development and Transformation acknowledged that this did occur, but the Council did not have any tools currently in place to identify this. He noted, however, that applying for a role was the first stage of the recruitment process and that AI could not be utilised in all stages. The Strategic Head of Organisation Development stated that there had been improvements in the development offer for recruiting managers and panel members and this would include how to identify AI within applications.

The Director of Human Resources, Organisation Development and Transformation recognised the opportunities afforded by AI but stated that there was a need to identify how it could be used and where there were opportunities to do things differently.

The Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer provided assurances that new major ICT systems would not be bespoke, given the risk involved in this. She stated, however, that front-facing forms and layout of systems could be edited to improve user experience.

With regards to digital accessibility, the Strategic Head of Organisation Development explained that there was a workstream, which focused on 5 key areas for digital skills. This sought to ensure that all users could access systems and had a positive experience. She noted that there was lots of different aspects to consider in order to inform how systems and processes work. The Head of Workforce Strategy also advised that a Disability Action Plan had been co-produced with the Disabled Staff Network and employees across the organisation. This sought to ensure that all communication and engagement methods and workspaces were accessible.

The Executive Member for Finance and Resources stated that Future Shape was an enormous piece of work which would provide better ways of working to deliver better outcomes for residents and businesses.

Decision:

That the report be noted.

RGSC/23/59 Annual S106 Monitoring Report

The committee considered a report of the Strategic Director (Growth and Development) which provided an update on the Council's Section 106 (s106) activity for 2022/23 and to date.

Key points and themes within the report included:

- Providing an introduction and background to s106 and s278 agreements,
- Activity in 2022/23 and 2023/24 to date, noting that there had been an increase in planning applications so far in 2023;
- A comprehensive list of agreements completed during 2022/23 and 2023/24 to date;
- Contributions received and spend;
- Affordable housing and projects through the Council's Housing Affordability Fund (HAF);
- Benchmarking information received from Sheffield City Council and Liverpool City Council;
- The work of the officer working group;
- Tree planting and landscaping;
- Proposed planning reforms; and
- An update on the Local Plan.

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

- The definition of 'trigger not met' and 'viability appraisal' on the Obligations Schedule, with particular reference to Miles Platting and Newton Heath;
- How the clawback process worked in reality, how many times this had been used and the outcome of this;
- Transparency around viability assessments;

- If the proposed Community Infrastructure Levy would replace Section 106 agreements in relation to affordable housing, and whether this would increase the number of affordable homes;
- How members could be involved in deciding where s106 monies were allocated and spent;
- Suggesting that the Weekly List email be amended to highlight the wards which have received applications so that members do not have to open the document to see what wards are included;
- Whether the Obligations Schedule was an evolving list of agreements;
- The usefulness of benchmarking Section 106 policies with other cities;
- Whether the current financial climate and inflation rate had impacted on the amount of s106 contributions;
- How members could be advised of applications in their ward in advance; and
- Recommending that delegated authority be given to the Chair, in consultation with the Executive Member for Housing and Development and the Strategic Director (Growth and Development), to request a report should progress be made on the proposed planning reforms.

The Executive Member for Housing and Development stated that Section 106 agreements were a vital part of the planning process to ensure that any harm or loss of amenity can be mitigated in communities where developments happen through the provision of affordable housing, investment in green spaces, new schools and surgeries.

In response to the Chair's query regarding what was meant by 'trigger not met' and 'viability appraisal', the Section Planning Manager explained that 'trigger not met' referred to when the payment was due to the Council as a result of development reaching a certain point i.e., a certain number of houses being built or commencement of development. He clarified that a viability appraisal was provided to demonstrate that a developer could afford to include affordable housing in the scheme. Where this was financially viable, a legal agreement would be drafted to ensure either receipt of a specific sum of money or the delivery of a number of affordable homes on site.

The Executive Member for Housing and Development stated that s106 agreements were just one mechanism to achieve affordable housing and that Homes England grant funding could not be used as s106 money but could still be used to develop affordable homes. He further stated that viability assessments were public and accessible through the Planning Portal and there was a lot of independent scrutiny of these. He explained that the Council was bound by the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) which viability assessments had to comply with. He stated that he would like the NPPF to be changed to award the Council more levers to deliver affordable housing through the viability process.

The Director of Planning, Licensing and Building Control emphasised that all viability assessments were publicly accessible and that all assessments were reviewed robustly and independently. In-house advisors would then verify the findings of the independent assessors.

The Director of Planning, Licensing and Building Control advised that triggers would be met at varying points in the development process and that the Council had its first two applications which met the trigger, one of which had been assessed further and no additional contribution could be provided.

In response to a query regarding the proposed Community Infrastructure Levy, the Director of Planning, Licensing and Building Control explained that further guidance was still awaited from central government. She stated that the Council had been waiting for further information on planning reforms for 18 months and it was understood that the levy was likely to replace s106, although it was suggested that there could be exceptional circumstances where an s106 agreement could still be used to deliver affordable homes.

The committee was advised that the officer working group met once a decision on a planning application had been made. It was stated that a chart was available which demonstrated where members could be involved in the decision-making process for s106 monies. The Director of Planning, Licensing and Building Control advised that the department encouraged developers to engage with members at pre-application stage and explained that the Weekly List informed members of applications received for each ward. She also encouraged members to contact Planning Officers if they had any queries on an application or development.

It was noted, however, that the Council could not mandate developers to undertake pre-application engagement or how long for.

The suggestion that the Weekly List email be amended to highlight the wards which have received applications so that members did not have to open the document to see what wards are included was noted. The committee was also advised that members and residents could sign up to email alerts for individual wards of interest to them.

The Section Planning Manager clarified that agreements signed within the last 12 months were included in the main body of the report, but these would be included in the Obligations Schedule for future reports.

With regards to benchmarking exercises, the Director of Planning, Licensing and Building Control explained that this had been challenging as authorities had different policies which made it difficult to compare. The Assistant Director of Planning and Building Control concurred with this and suggested that asking what s106 monies were collected for could be a more suitable measure to benchmark against.

The Director of Planning, Licensing and Building Control stated that the state of the market had an impact on financial viability with supply chain and material costs being incorporated into the process. She advised, however, that the Council had been able to withstand these pressures but there had been some delays in development. She confirmed that the development industry remained engaged with the Council and aware of its priorities regarding affordable housing and zero carbon.

In response to the Chair's query as to how members could be advised of applications in their ward in advance, the Director of Planning, Licensing and

Building Control endeavoured to consider this further but noted that there were issues around when this engagement would take place and what information could be shared given the confidential nature of some applications.

The Executive Member for Housing and Development stated that the Council used the planning process to deliver its ambitious targets as set out in the Housing Strategy. He explained that developers were increasingly working with Registered Providers to create mixed-use developments across the city. He noted challenges with inflation but explained that there continued to be high demand for housing and employment space in Manchester.

Decision:

That

1. the report be noted;
2. the Committee asks officers to undertake a benchmarking exercise with other core cities to understand what they collect Section 106 monies for; and
3. delegated authority be given to the Chair, in consultation with the Executive Member for Housing and Development and the Strategic Director (Growth and Development), to request a report should progress be made on the proposed planning reforms.

RGSC/23/54 Overview Report

The committee received a report of the Governance and Scrutiny Support Unit which provided details of key decisions that fell within the Committee's remit and items for information previously requested by the Committee. The report also included the Committee's work programme, which the Committee was asked to amend as appropriate and agree.

The Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer advised that the Autumn Statement would be announced on 23 November 2023 and that this item would need to be deferred to December's meeting as a result.

Decision:

That the report be noted and the work programme agreed, with the amendment to the Autumn Statement report as noted above.

Resources and Governance Scrutiny Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, 9 November 2023

Present:

Councillor Simcock (Chair) – in the Chair

Councillors Andrews, Brickell, Connolly, Evans, Kilpatrick, Kirkpatrick, Lanchbury and Stogia

Also present:

Councillor Akbar, Executive Member for Finance and Resources

Councillor Moran, Deputy Executive Member for Finance and Resources

Apologies: Councillors Davies and Wheeler

RGSC/23/61 Minutes

Decision:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 12 October 2023 be approved as a correct record.

RGSC/23/62 Update on New Procurement Regulations

The committee considered a report of the Head of Integrated Commissioning and Procurement which provided an update on new procurement regulations and advised the committee of the implications for the Council's future procurement activity.

Key points and themes within the report included:

- Providing an introduction and background to the Procurement Bill 2022;
- Details of changes to procurement processes; supplier exclusion; resolving disputes over tenders; and social value;
- The likely impact of these changes;
- Opportunities for contracting authorities under the new regulations;
- New regulations on transparency and publication of data relating to procurement, including the implementation of a Transparency Platform;
- The establishment of the Procurement Review Unit and its purposes;
- Regulations for the Provider Selection Regime, which would come into effect on 1 January 2024; and
- Training on the new regulations.

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

- Whether the new regulations would make the procurement process more difficult;
- If the Procurement team were working with IT to ensure the correct systems were in place;
- Whether there would be any delay to the Council implementing the new regulations as a result of the establishment of central government's new Procurement Review Unit;
- If the new regulations would help to enable the Council to use local suppliers;
- The solution for the Council, given the national delay in implementing the National Procurement Policy Statement due to technical legal issues;
- The impact on resources arising from the new requirement to publish notices throughout the procurement lifecycle;
- Whether suppliers could be excluded at shortlisting stage;
- How value-for-money would be considered in the procurement process as a result of the new regulations;
- What kind of contracts would be subject to the 'light-touch approach' and why the government did not want to retain this;
- The grounds on which a supplier could legitimately challenge a contract award; and
- What information had been provided by the Cabinet Office on sharing best practice.

In introducing the item, the Head of Integrated Commissioning and Procurement emphasised the opportunities for the Council that arose from the new procurement regulations, such as taking a more commercial approach and increased transparency. He informed the committee that the new regulations would come into effect in 11 months and that communication and training would be undertaken during this period. He also advised that the Procurement service was fully staffed following recent recruitment.

The committee was advised that the Council had previously engaged with local suppliers to the greatest possible extent and that the new regulations did not reference dividing contracts into lots. The new regulations would allow the Council to take local priorities into greater account when awarding contracts, although the detail on this remained unclear. The Head of Integrated Commissioning and Procurement also advised that the Local Government Act 198,8 which stipulated that local authorities could not take non-commercial matters into consideration when awarding contracts, would be reworded to allow greater freedom.

In response to a query from the Chair, the Head of Integrated Commissioning and Procurement stated that the previous regulations were considered difficult and cumbersome and that the new regulations were less prescriptive and allowed authorities greater freedom. He noted that the Council could continue to take similar approaches to contracts as done previously. It was also stated that one aspect of the regulations remained unclear because the details of the regulations would be

released over time but there was mention of the Council being able to take local priorities into greater consideration when awarding contracts.

The committee was advised that the Council had previously engaged with local suppliers to the greatest possible extent and that the new regulations did not reference dividing contracts into lots. The new regulations would allow the Council to take local priorities into greater account when awarding contracts, although the detail on this remained unclear. The Head of Integrated Commissioning and Procurement also advised that the Local Government Act 1988 which stipulated that local authorities could not take non-commercial matters into consideration when awarding contracts, would be reworded to allow greater freedom.

Regarding central government's new Procurement Review Unit, members were informed that this was an enhancement of the current Public Procurement Review Service and would have significantly greater powers. The effect on this for the Council was expected to be miniscule, although the Head of Integrated Commissioning and Procurement noted that the Unit may be busy from the outset given that publicity of the new regulations was resulting in many SMEs and companies anticipating more contracts from local authorities at a time when local authorities will have tighter budgets.

In response to a query regarding the technical legal issues relating to the National Procurement Policy Statement, the Head of Integrated Commissioning and Procurement explained that it was proposed to amend wording within the new regulations to allow contract awards to be restricted in certain circumstances to companies within a county or London borough boundary. It was noted that some contracts, such as those with the NHS, could overlap county boundaries and the technicalities of this were still being agreed.

The Head of Integrated Commissioning and Procurement confirmed that there would be an implication on resourcing as a result of the new requirement to publish notices throughout the procurement lifecycle but reiterated that there had been significant investment into improving contract management and a tool which would flag expiry dates of contracts. The Commissioning Lead explained that the Council was already required to publish summary details of contracts over a value of £30k on a government website, to which the Council's procurement portal linked directly, and monthly spend over £500. The new regulations would require publication of performance monitoring for contracts worth over £5m.

The committee was advised that the Council worked closely with the Cabinet Office through the Local Government Association (LGA) and that the Head of Integrated Commissioning and Procurement chaired the LGA's national advisory group for procurement, which had discussed how sharing best practice would work in reality. Details of approaches to procuring various categories of spend had been provided by the government's commercial function and the Procurement Review Unit would

work with the Crown Commercial Services, which provides frameworks for local authorities.

In response to a query regarding value-for-money, it was stated that previous practice had favoured the most economically advantageous tender, but the new regulations had revised this to the most advantageous tender, which would encompass price, quality, contribution to local economy and contribution to climate change targets. The Deputy City Treasurer stated that value-for-money remained paramount in the Council's activity.

It was noted that the current regulations lend to a drawn-out process for suppliers who may be unhappy with the outcome of a contract award, but the new regulations would enable a more straightforward process to resolve disputes and a body would be established, linked to the Procurement Review Unit, to adjudicate such disputes.

The Commissioning Lead explained that the 'light-touch regime' principally applied to social care services and previously applied to healthcare services, although these were now subject to a different regime. He stated that the new competitive procedure applied a light-touch approach to most contracts and provided greater flexibility, which was retained under the new regulations. He further explained that the new competitive procedure was designed to emulate the 'light-touch regime' but a number of authorities, including the Council, advocated for an explicit regime for social care services. Members were informed that the Procurement Bill went further than the new regulations to ensure that there were strong grounds to not require competing tenders, such as in individual contracts where the service user's choice was taken into account and allowed the Council to make individual judgements on care packages.

The Deputy City Treasurer welcomed the Procurement Act and reiterated that the Council's procurement team was nearly fully staffed and had received requisite funding for a new contract management system, which would help with the implementation of the new regulations.

The Executive Member for Finance and Resources also welcomed the new regulations and recognised that this would simplify the procurement process, improve transparency, and could provide a pathway for new businesses and local companies to secure public contracts. He stated that the development of the new regulations demonstrated the improvements for residents that could occur when the government listened to local authorities.

Decision: That the report be noted.

RGSC/23/63 Social Value

The committee considered a report of the Head of Integrated Commissioning and Procurement which provided an update on the social value delivery of the Council and its wider partnerships.

Key points and themes within the report included:

- The work of the Social Value Governance Board;
- The introduction of a Social Value Co-ordinator role on a 2-year fixed-term contract;
- Updates on social value within contracts, including major contracts;
- Measurement of social value;
- Training and guidance;
- A refresh of procurement documentation, including Invitation to Tender documents;
- The Social Value Fund and projects which have benefited from this;
- Case studies from suppliers; and
- The work of the National Social Value Task Force.

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

- Welcoming the comprehensive appendices;
- How local members could work with their Neighbourhood teams to suggest projects that may benefit from social value;
- What the Key Performance Indicators (KPI) and monitoring process would be for the social value road map at appendix 4;
- If there was a link between the new procurement regulations and social value;
- Who was responsible for monitoring social value;
- How the success of social value delivery was communicated with residents, with particular reference to the Our Town Hall project;
- How members could get more social value embedded within their wards;

The Deputy Executive Member for Finance and Resources introduced the item and thanked the committee for their continued interest in the Council's social value work. She stated that the Council was continuing to lead on and deliver a wide range of social value and Manchester had the highest social value and zero carbon weightings in procurement than any other local authority in the country.

The Chair relayed a written representation from Councillor Reid to the committee, which commended the social value work undertaken by Morgan Sindall which was contracted for the development of Gorton Hub and Hammerstone Road. Councillor Reid stated that Morgan Sindall recruited local people to apprentices and placed great emphasis on mental health support for their employees. Local community groups had also been assisted in their projects by volunteers from Morgan Sindall.

In response to queries, the Commissioning Lead noted that further work was needed to identify local members' roles in identifying areas for social value work and this

could be undertaken by the Social Value Governance Board. He explained that the brokerage workstream of the Social Value Governance Board Task and Finish Group tried to identify how the Council could connect opportunities with local need. This would be progressed with the Social Value Governance Board and the Head of Integrated Commissioning and Procurement advised that there had been discussion on how to link this with Neighbourhood Investment Funds.

The Commissioning Lead acknowledged that measurement of social value was a challenge for many authorities and partners and the Council was currently part of a Co-operative Councils' network which looked at social value measurement. This was a challenge because there were several measurement frameworks available, such as Themes, Outcomes, Measures (TOMS) although it was noted that this framework was difficult to use when measuring social value delivered by voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) groups. He stated that there had been significant work undertaken in the last year to identify a more consistent measurement of social value and KPIs had been developed.

In response to a query regarding a link between the new procurement regulations and social value, the Head of Integrated Commissioning and Procurement stated that there was no reference to social value in the new regulations but that the Procurement Act supported social value delivery through the amendment to award contracts to the most advantageous tender.

The committee was advised that there was an internal resource or a social value portal which were responsible for monitoring the social value delivery of major projects through the collection and verification of data and this was something that officers wanted to embed into the management of all contracts. The Commissioning Lead also advised that a Social Value Co-ordinator had been recruited and would begin work in January 2024. This role was established following the success of a dedicated resource on other projects and would be responsible for liaising with teams across the Council to promote opportunities for social value and collate information on delivery.

The Commissioning Lead explained that Social Value Governance Board Task and Finish Group was seeking to improve communication on social value work and the Council's Communications team and wider corporate services, such as HROD, were involved in promoting this. The Head of Integrated Commissioning stated that the Council previously held annual social value event, but it was felt that this only reached those involved in social value work already and officers wanted to identify better methods of communication.

It was also noted that different industries were in different places with their social value work, for example the highways and construction sectors who had been delivering social value for a number of years.

The Deputy Executive Member for Finance and Resources thanked officers for their work and recognised the role of members in being best placed to identify areas in their communities that could benefit from social value. She reiterated that the Council was a leader on social value work and acknowledged that it was sometimes easier to communicate social value work on the Our Town Hall project than it was for highways projects but this was an area of consideration going forwards with a communications plan in development.

Decision:

That the committee

1. notes the report, and
2. requests that the next Social Value Update report includes further information on how social value work is communicated.

RGSC/23/64 Revenue Budget Update and Corporate Core Budget Proposals 2024/25

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

Key points and themes within the report included:

- An estimated budget shortfall of £46m was expected in 2024/25, £86m in 2025/26, and £105m by 2026/27;
- This gap would reduce to £1.6m in 2024/25, £30m in 2025/26 and £49m by 2026/27 after the application of approved and planned savings and the use of c£17m smoothing reserves in each of the three years;
- Changes to the Medium-Term Financial Plan;
- The resources available to the Council and those required;
- Additional directorate pressures;
- The planned public consultation on proposed council tax levels and savings and cuts measures;
- Next steps for the budget process;
- An overview of the service area and priorities of the Corporate Core directorate, including the base budgets for each service area for 2023/24;
- The savings plan for 2024-27 and further options for saving;
- Workforce implications, including a review of vacant posts, particularly those vacant for longer than 12 months, to determine which should be deleted with the least impact on service delivery;
- Additional funding of £1m had been allocated to offset the lower rental income that can be realised due to the Christmas Markets using a smaller footprint as a result of the temporary closure of Albert Square. This funding will then be

used to meet some of the increased operating costs of running the civic estate once the Town Hall is reopened;

- Government grants and the income they provide;
- Future opportunities and risks;
- The indicative medium-term budgets by service area; and
- The indicative medium-term budgets by type of spend/income.

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

- Recommending residents read the Leader's letter to the Chancellor of the Exchequer prior to completing the Council's budget consultation;
- Noting that high inflation was costing the Council £21m per year, which was not recognised by the government;
- Expressing frustration at the lateness with which the Local Government Finance Settlement was provided;
- How many grants the Council was currently in receipt of, and how this compared to previous years;
- Why the costs for IT to move to a hybrid cloud solution were revenue and not capital spend;
- Why the year-on-year spend for cloud-based services increased and if there were any potential savings as a result of moving to a hybrid cloud solution;
- What work was underway to reduce the need for agency staff within the IT service;
- How eligible families were identified for the Household Support Fund 4 (HSF4) and how the Council could continue to provide such support if the government cut this funding in the future;
- How the Finance Settlement might affect the Greater Manchester Business Rates Retention pilot scheme;
- The staff pay award;
- Whether the government may offer inflationary assistance in order for the Council to maintain service delivery;
- Suggesting that the public consultation on the budget should reference where the Council had successfully made savings previously;
- Noting that most savings would be the result of deleting vacant posts, and querying at what point long-term vacant posts were identified for deletion; and
- Commending the work of officers and expressing concern over the growing funding gap in future years.

In introducing the item, the Executive Member for Finance and Resources stated that there had been warnings of budgetary pressures amongst local authorities since 2012 and the LGA had recently found that English councils were facing a shortfall of £4bn in the next financial year. He stated that Manchester was a well-managed council, despite having lost £443m of its overall budget since 2012, and that difficult financial decisions had been made at the appropriate time and smoothing reserves had been used prudently. He argued that the government did not value or recognise the work and services of local authorities and that budget cuts were driven by

ideology which meant that councils like Manchester with higher levels of deprivation were more significantly impacted.

The Executive Member for Finance and Resources also advised the committee that the government's Autumn Statement would be provided on 22 November and the Leader of the Council had written to the Chancellor of the Exchequer to call on him to provide adequate funding for councils like Manchester and to end the practice of issuing Local Government Finance Settlements at the last minute, which did not provide any certainty or ability to plan for the future.

The Deputy City Treasurer explained that the challenges highlighted by the Executive Member had been compounded by the Covid-19 pandemic and rising inflation rates. He reminded members that a balanced budget for 2024/25 had been set as part of the 2023/24 budget process and this was based on the Council delivering £36m of savings and using £53m of reserves to ease pressure on frontline services. He advised that there was now a gap of £1.6m in this balanced budget and that a £49m gap was emerging by the 2026/27 financial year. He also advised that the proposals in the report aimed to protect investments made previously into street cleaning, neighbourhoods and cost-of-living support.

The Deputy City Treasurer advised that the Council was in receipt of around 200 grants and most of these were only guaranteed for the following year, which he stated made spending decisions and planning difficult. He also advised that there were overheads involved with receiving some of these grants, such as time and resource required to prepare and submit bids.

In response to queries regarding the budget for a hybrid cloud solution, the committee was informed that the Capital Programme was fairly mature and underpinned by significant borrowing, for which the Council had the budget to fund. He noted, however, that the capacity for borrowing was restricted due to high inflation rates. He explained that there was a drive to decrease the amount of on-premise IT hardware and to buy software services instead.

The Director of ICT explained that agency staff had been recruited where there was additional demand and there was work underway to review the target operating model for IT. This would seek to identify continued demand and how this could be met by recruiting more permanent staff. He noted that contract resources were occasionally needed to provide specific skills for which the Council did not require on a long-term basis.

In response to a question regarding HSF4, the Deputy City Treasurer explained that this amounted to around £13m of funding per year and an allocation policy for this had been designed as part of the 2023/24 budget process. Around half of this funding was spent on administering Free School Meals and the Holiday Activities programme. There were also a number of targeted schemes such as food support. He stated that the Council had a package of cost-of-living support measures which

would be retained, although some of this budget would be used to fund the increase in the Council Tax Support Scheme discount and he recognised that it would be challenging if the HSF4 scheme was to end. The Head of Finance explained that there was a criterion of residents who would be supported through HSF4, including disabled households and the elderly, and that work was ongoing to review the Council's support packages with a report to this committee in January 2024 which would set out the future model of support.

The Deputy City Treasurer explained that the GM Business Rates Retention Pilot scheme would continue for 10 years as part of the Devolution Trailblazer and that this had been factored into the Medium-Term Financial Plan. He advised that the Council tended to be compensated for any business rates relief schemes and that there was an ongoing government consultation on proposed changes to the indexation rate.

It was also confirmed that this year's staff pay award had been agreed and would be a flat fee increase of £1,925 again. There were indications that future pay awards may revert to previous practice of a 2.2% increase, but the Council had prudently budgeted for a 4% increase.

In response to a member's question, the Deputy City Treasurer stated that he did not anticipate the government providing financial help for rising inflation costs. He also stated that officers were proposing to begin work on the 2025/26 budget soon after this year's budget had been approved.

Regarding the proposed deletion of vacant posts, the Deputy City Treasurer explained that a lot of work was underway on this. He acknowledged difficulties in recruiting to certain posts and stated that part of this work included challenging service areas on the need to keep posts that had been vacant for more than 12 months. He noted the need to approach this sensitively and confirmed that more detail on this would be provided in February 2024. A member also suggested that this information should be broken down into service areas for greater clarity.

In closing the item, the Executive Member for Finance and Resources commended officers for their dedicated work and reinforced the importance of a sustainable budget for residents.

Decision:

That

1. the report be noted, and
2. the committee requests that information on vacant posts which could be deleted be broken down into service area in the next Budget report.

RGSC/23/65

Overview Report

The committee received a report of the Governance and Scrutiny Support Unit which provided details of key decisions that fell within the Committee's remit and items for information previously requested by the Committee. The report also included the Committee's work programme, which the Committee was asked to amend as appropriate and agree.

A member noted the responses to recommendations made at the previous meeting and wished to place on record her thanks to officers in HROD for this.

Decision:

That the report be noted and the work programme agreed.

Environment, Climate Change and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on 12 October 2023

Present:

Councillor Shilton Godwin – in the Chair
Councillors Collins, Holt, McCaul, Razaq, Wiest and Wright

Apologies: None received

Also present:

Councillor Rawlins, Executive Member for Environment and Transport
Councillor Igbon, Executive Member for Vibrant Neighbourhoods
Councillor Ahmed Ali, Deputy Executive Member for Vibrant Neighbourhoods
Samantha Nicholson, Director of Manchester Climate Change Agency

ECCNSC/23/50 Minutes

In moving the minutes, the Strategic Lead, Waste, Recycling & Street Cleansing Team stated that a response to the written questions that were submitted after the previous meeting that related to ref. 'ECCNSC/23/46 Street Cleansing Programme and Campaigns Update' would be provided to the Member.

Decision

To approve the minutes of the Environment and Climate Change Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 7 September 2023 as a correct record.

ECCNSC/23/51 Manchester Climate Change Partnership and Agency – Impact Report 2022-23

The Committee considered the report of Director, Manchester Climate Change Agency that presented the Impact Report that provided a concise overview of the activities delivered by the Partnership and Agency in support of the city's climate targets and objectives, as set out in the Manchester Climate Change Framework (2020-25) and its 2022 Update.

Key points and themes in the report included:

- Providing an introduction and background;
- Describing the purpose and structure of the Manchester Climate Change Partnership (MCCP) and Manchester Climate Change Agency (MCCA) Impact Report;
- Providing an overview of the Manchester Climate Change Partnership;
- An overview of key activities of the Partnership;
- Providing an overview of the Manchester Climate Change Agency; and
- An overview of key activities of the Agency.

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

- Welcoming the report and the clarification provided regarding the structure and role of the Agency and the Partnership;
- Recognising the progress made to date and welcoming the case studies provided;
- Welcoming that Manchester as a city had secured an A list rating from CDP, noting that to earn an A score from CDP, organisations must have shown environmental leadership, disclosing action on climate change, deforestation or water security;
- Noting recent national government announcements in relation to actions to address climate change and the negative impact this could have on the ambitions to reduce emissions;
- Would the Greater Manchester Combined Authority Trailblazer arrangements provide any additional powers or levers of influence to address climate change;
- Membership of the Partnership should not provide an opportunity for organisations to 'greenwash', and how were members of the Partnership monitored (Greenwashing was when an organisation spends more time and money on marketing itself as environmentally friendly than on actually minimising its environmental impact.);
- Was carbon offsetting accepted as an action by Partners (Carbon offset was a way to compensate for your emissions by funding an equivalent carbon dioxide saving elsewhere.);
- Consideration needed to be given to formally collating feedback from Partners, suggesting a stakeholder survey;
- The Partnership should engage with local Muslim communities and organisations, noting that Quranic teachings called for the protection of the planet;
- Noting that the scale of retrofitting of domestic and commercial properties required was a significant challenge for the city and was there a City Challenge on this specific activity;
- Noting the importance of green skills and training to facilitate and deliver retrofitting at scale;
- Welcoming the Manchester Climate Change Youth Board and supporting the launch of their manifesto and endorsing their priorities; and
- Consideration needed to be given as to how the Manchester Climate Change Youth Board could be brought together with local decision makers.

The Director, Manchester Climate Change Agency welcomed the comments and feedback from the Committee in relation to the clarity that was provided, and she paid tribute to her team for their work. She said that the report would provide a useful document to promote and articulate the work of the Partnership and to encourage new members. She encouraged all Councillors to promote this through their networks.

The Director, Manchester Climate Change Agency stated that she shared the Committee's concerns regarding recent national announcements in relation to activities to tackle climate change, adding that despite this the work of the Partnership would continue and actions would be taken locally, making reference to the development of the Local Plan and the In Our Nature programme as examples. She advised that support was offered to organisation across the Partnership, making reference to the City Challenges groups, peer to peer learning, advisory groups and

networking. She added that work was underway to consider opportunities to unlock additional investment from the private sector as it was recognised that this was key to delivering activities at the scale required.

The Director, Manchester Climate Change Agency said that Manchester City Council was a key partner of the Partnership and continued to demonstrate and provide clear leadership on the issue of climate change and this was demonstrable through the progress made against the Manchester City Council Climate Change Action Plan.

The Director, Manchester Climate Change Agency stated that the zero carbon by 2038 ambition was shared across the Greater Manchester Combined Authority. She added that the Greater Manchester Combined Authority Trailblazer would provide an opportunity to unlock additional investment to drive this programme of activity. She described that the details of this would be worked through, and the related plans would emerge over the next two years.

The Director, Manchester Climate Change Agency welcomed the positive comments regarding the inclusion of case studies and stated that this were a small fraction of the wide range of activities undertaken across the Partnership. She addressed the issue of 'greenwashing' by commenting that the Partnership was alive to this issue and there were conditions to organisations joining and they had to commit to actions and to work collaboratively. In terms of monitoring and meaningful reporting, she stated that this was challenging and accepted this would be difficult due to different data sets used by different organisations and acknowledging that some organisations were local, whilst others were international, and it would be difficult to disaggregate the Manchester 'slice' from their activities.

The Director, Manchester Climate Change Agency welcomed the comment from the Member regarding engaging with Muslim groups and organisations and that she would follow this up with the Member directly outside of the meeting. She made reference to the Our Faith Our Planet Network, an inter-faith network based in Manchester that focused on climate change action through engagement and education. The group were committed to creating a green, healthy and inclusive city that contributed to the Manchester Climate Change Strategy. Further she referenced the In Our Nature Project that had engaged with a range of different community groups across the city.

The Director, Manchester Climate Change Agency addressed the issue raised relating to carbon offsetting by acknowledging this was a challenge. She said that the Partnership aimed to be inclusive and recognised that some organisations may choose to use this as a supplementary action to reduce their emissions. She added that it was understood that the Manchester could not achieve its targets and stated ambition by solely using carbon offsetting.

The Director, Manchester Climate Change Agency acknowledged the scale of domestic retrofitting required was a challenge. She described that funding was available to Registered Providers to deliver this work and referred to the Your Home Better scheme, an independent service delivered by retrofit experts, providing advice, planning and delivery to help reduce the costs of bills as well as carbon emissions associated with home energy and heating. In addition, she said that the Bee Net Zero

partnership offered advice and support to businesses to go green. The Bee Net Zero partnership united a range of organisations and support programmes from across Greater Manchester who were committed to making the transition as straightforward and cost-efficient as possible for businesses.

The Director, Manchester Climate Change Agency commented that the Manchester Climate Change Youth Board consisted of people aged between 16 to 28 years of age and the ambition was to strengthen the links between the Board and local decision makers. She stated that the Partnership would continue to support the Board, including by developing and strengthening governance arrangements and support with grant funding applications to deliver projects.

The Executive Member for Environment and Transport stated that she would engage with the Manchester Climate Change Youth Board to discuss how they would wish to connect with decision makers in the Council and she would facilitate the progress of this as an action. She further stated that it was everyone's responsibility to take action to tackle the climate emergency. She reiterated the request for all Councillors to promote the work of the Partnership across their networks and she concluded by thanking the Committee for their continued support and challenge.

The Chair informed the Committee that Manchester's 2023 Emissions Report from the Manchester Climate Change Partnership and Agency would be submitted for consideration at the November meeting and the Work Programme would be updated to reflect this additional item.

Decision

1. The Committee welcome the continued commitment for the city to reduce its carbon emissions in line with the agreed carbon budget and for Manchester city and the wider Greater Manchester city region to become zero-carbon by 2038.
2. Endorsing the statement from the Executive Member for Environment and Transport who agreed to engage with the Manchester Climate Change Youth Board to discuss how they would wish to connect with decision makers in the Council.

ECCNSC/23/52 Manchester City Council Climate Change Action Plan – Quarter 2 Update report

The Committee considered the report of the Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer that provided an update and overview of progress made in delivering the Council's refreshed CCAP during Quarter 2 2023-24 (July – September 2023). Key points and themes in the report included:

- Providing an introduction and background, noting that all activity described related to the period in which the report was issued, in this instance July to September 2023;
- An update on CO₂ emissions, noting that emissions data related to the previous quarter due to billing and data monitoring being quarterly in arrears (i.e., April to June 2023);

- Key messages and achievements from Quarter 2, including the completion of the first tranche of new low carbon social housing in Newton Heath, the promotion of Plastic Free July and the Council co-hosting a Youth Sustainability Conference; and
- Informing that the Quarter 2 progress report would be published in an accessible format on the Council's website.

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

- The Committee criticised the lack of leadership from the government on the issue of climate change and called for the continued lobbying of government on this important issue;
- Noting the issues reported regarding the decarbonisation of the national grid, the Committee noted that a report on 'Power Purchase Agreement to Decarbonise the Energy Supply' was scheduled to be considered at the December meeting;
- Discussion of behaviour change and measurable KPIs, the Committee noted that a report on 'Neighbourhood Teams Engagement with Residents' was listed for consideration at the December meeting; and
- Noting that emissions from Streetlights had risen by 5% during Q1 2023-24 due to a change in National Government's emission conversion factors.

The Strategic Lead, Resources and Programmes said that lobbying of Government, the Shadow Secretary of State and the Department for Energy Security & Net Zero on the important issue of support to tackle climate change was undertaken by officers via the Core Cities Network.

The Zero Carbon Manager acknowledged the risk and challenge to the Council's ambitions presented by the national grid, noting the increased use of natural gas in the production of electricity had increased the carbon intensity of the national electricity system by 7%. She commented that despite national challenges the Council continued to be innovative and remained committed to taking actions to reducing its own emissions across a range of activities and initiatives.

In response to a question from a Member, the Zero Carbon Manager stated that the section that read '*Outlined in the new Manchester Housing Strategy is a commitment for the Housing Providers to retrofit a third of their total housing stock by 2023*' should be 2032 and this would be corrected.

Decision

To note the report.

ECCNSC/23/53 Waste and Recycling Update

The Committee considered the report of Strategic Director (Neighbourhoods) that provided an update on progress in delivering waste, recycling, and fly-tip removal.

Key points and themes in the report included:

- Providing an introduction and background, noting that waste disposal and recycling arrangements for Manchester and other Greater Manchester Authorities (except. Wigan) are managed by the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) and the operating contract for the disposal and recycling facilities, together with Household Waste Recycling Centre's (HWRCs) was delivered by Suez;
- Noting the Councils service provider Biffa were responsible for providing scheduled domestic waste and recycling bin collections; and reactive / pro-active (passageways and known hotspots) fly-tip removal services for defined land types;
- Describing how the activity contributed to the climate change agenda;
- Information on relevant national strategies;
- Performance data across a range of activity types;
- Information on the waste collection contract;
- Information on passageway collections and cleansing;
- Flytipping and the work to address this, including target hardening projects;
- Updates on commercial waste; flats above shops and Christmas collection arrangements; and
- Providing case studies across a range of activities described.

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

- Recycling opportunities needed to be promoted and encouraged in apartment blocks, especially the ability to recycle food waste;
- Was there any update since the report had been written regarding national policy, noting that The Waste Strategy (2018) had been subject to several delays;
- More information was sought on Keep Britain Tidy (KBT) and Keep Manchester Tidy (KMT) campaigns;
- Discussing the incidents of flytipping in Manchester and the comparative data provided against other local authorities;
- Noting that flytipping on non-council owned or no public-land was not removed in a timely manner;
- The experience of reporting flytipping and frustrations experienced.

The Strategic Lead, Waste, Recycling & Street Cleansing Team stated that there had been no further updates since the report had been produced in relation to national policy and they continued to lobby the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) for updates, and that she shared the Committee's frustrations. She said that despite this Manchester and Greater Manchester were actively working to eliminate avoidable waste before the 2050 target presented in the Defra Waste Prevention Programme. She further commented that the work of KBT and KMT had been reported to the previous meeting, with officers in attendance. She stated that they were seeking to progress the request to establish a regular update to all members on their activities.

The Strategic Lead, Waste, Recycling & Street Cleansing Team address the discussion on the flytipping statistics that were presented in the report. She said that there had been a spike in incidents post covid, however incidents of flytipping were still unacceptably high. In response to the comparative data provided she said that it

was difficult to draw conclusions from this data as there was inconsistency across the authorities in how they collated their data. She advised that work was ongoing across Greater Manchester to consider this.

The Strategic Lead, Waste, Recycling & Street Cleansing Team said that teams would continue to work with landowners to ensure that flytipping was removed as they had a responsibility to remove waste, however ultimately cases could be referred for enforcement action to have it appropriately removed and disposed of. In response to a specific question, she said that when flytipping was removed but it had not been formally reported as a request for service this would not be included in the data.

The Strategic Lead, Waste, Recycling & Street Cleansing Team commented the questions asked by a Member relating to the recycling of litter picked waste would be addressed in a written response to be provided following his written submissions after the previous meeting.

The Project Officer, Waste, Recycling & Street Cleansing Team said that they would continue to work with building managers when requested to facilitate and support recycling in their buildings on behalf of the residents, particularly in regard to food waste and textiles. He said the service would continue to promote this offer with building managers. He advised that there was no legal requirement for buildings to provide food waste recycling facilities.

The Project Officer, Waste, Recycling & Street Cleansing Team acknowledged the comment from Members regarding the frustrations expressed in their attempts to report incidents of flytipping using the Councils CRM (Customer relationship management) system. He commented that the introduction of a new RDXP system should resolve the issues articulated.

The Executive Member for Vibrant Neighbourhoods said that delays in the governments Waste Strategy (2018) was very frustrating, however Manchester had taken the decision to invest additional resources to address flytipping and develop initiatives to work with and support communities to tackle flytipping. She further paid tribute to the many volunteers across the city who were working to ensure Manchester was a clean and greener city. She called for all businesses and landowners to support this ambition.

The Chair in concluding this item of business welcomed the recycling data that had been provided and the information relating to the arrangements over the Christmas period.

Decision

To note the report.

ECCNSC/23/54 Single Use Plastics

The Committee considered the report of Head of Integrated Commissioning and Procurement; Strategic Lead – Resources and Programmes and the Sustainability

Project Manager, Zero Carbon that provided an update on work being undertaken across the Council on Single Use Plastics (SUPs) as part of the action under Workstream 3 of the Council's Climate Change Action Plan 2020-25.

Key points and themes in the report included:

- Providing a background to this work;
- updates on actions taken by the Council to deliver its pledge to eradicate the use of avoidable Single Use Plastics by the end of 2024;
- Information on the national ban on SUPs introduced by Government; and
- Providing an update on the communications and engagement work undertaken to reduce SUPs use within the Council and with businesses and residents across the city.

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

- Who had determined what was classed as avoidable or unavoidable plastic and was there a comprehensive list of what fell into which category;
- Welcoming the joint work on this issue across Greater Manchester;
- Lamenting the plans to deliver a circular economy had been rolled back by the government;
- Welcoming the Refill campaign and called for an increase in the number of Refill points to be delivered in public spaces;
- What monitoring was undertaken to ensure that all MCC Markets and Parks meet the Council's Single Use Plastic Free Pledge; and
- Would there be monitoring of business occupying units in the Wythenshawe Civic Centre to ensure that they were complying with the action to reducing single use plastics from across the Council's operational estates.

The Sustainability Project Manager stated that a report on how this work had been developed was reported to the Committee at the meeting of 8 December 2022 and she made reference to the Council working group that had contributed to the Council's SUPs Action Plan. She stated that a SUP Action Plan that was described within the report would be agreed by the SUP Working Group, and then passed for wider approval later this year.

The Sustainability Project Manager advised that the GM SUP group met quarterly and was an opportunity to share good practice and learning, share resources and explore opportunities to access additional funding. She stated that opportunities would also be explored to link with other core cities on this issue, however Manchester was leading on this issue.

The Sustainability Project Manager said that she would provide information following the meeting regarding the approach adopted by the Market Teams to ensure appropriate monitoring was undertaken to of MCC Markets and Parks, so they met the Council's Single Use Plastic Free Pledge. She added that the Christmas Market was monitored by the Specialist Markets Team.

The Sustainability Project Manager said that the ambition was to work with different landowners to explore all options to extend the refill scheme and all options for

maximising opportunities would be considered by the established Task and Finish Group, however currently they had to work within the existing infrastructure. She advised that a trial had been conducted in Bury and this was subject to evaluation.

The Sustainability Project Manager stated that she would need to take away the specific request regarding arrangements for Wythenshawe Civic Centre however added that Licensing and Trading Standards would be working with businesses on this issue, adding the Councils Licensing Policy would have specific reference to SUP.

The Head of Integrated Commissioning and Procurement informed the Committee that meaningful data on Scope 3 emissions for suppliers should be available next year.

The Executive Member for Environment and Transport said the Council had invested in additional resources to drive this work to support the Council's commitment to reducing emissions.

Decision

To note the report.

ECCNSC/23/55 Overview Report

The report of the Governance and Scrutiny Support Unit which contained key decisions within the Committee's remit and responses to previous recommendations was submitted for comment. Members were also invited to agree the Committee's future work programme.

The Chair noted that under consideration of a previous agenda item it had been agreed to consider the Manchester's 2023 Emissions Report from the Manchester Climate Change Partnership and Agency at the November meeting.

Decision

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

Environment, Climate Change and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on 9 November 2023

Present:

Councillor Shilton Godwin – in the Chair
Councillors Chohan, Collins, Ilyas, McCaul, Wiest and Wright

Apologies: Councillor Holt

Also present:

Councillor Rawlins, Executive Member for Environment and Transport
Councillor Foley, Deputy Executive Member for Environment and Transport
Councillor White, Executive Member for Housing and Development
Samantha Nicholson, Director of Manchester Climate Change Agency
Peter Boulton, Head of Highways, Control & Operational Support, TfGM

ECCNSC/23/56 Minutes

Decision

To approve the minutes of the Environment and Climate Change Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 12 October 2023 as a correct record.

ECCNSC/23/57 Revenue Budget Update 2024/25

The Committee considered the report of Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer that described that the Council was forecasting an estimated budget shortfall of £46m in 2024/25, £86m in 2025/26, and £105m by 2026/27. After the application of approved and planned savings, and the use of c£17m smoothing reserves in each of the three years, this gap reduced to £1.6m in 2024/25, £30m in 2025/26 and £49m by 2026/27. This position assumed that the savings approved as part of the Medium-Term Financial Strategy in February 2023 of £36.2m over three years were delivered.

This report provided a high-level overview of the updated budget position. Each scrutiny committee was invited to consider the current proposed changes which were within its remit and to make recommendations to the Executive before it agreed to the final budget proposals in February 2024.

Key points and themes in the report included:

- Updates on the refreshed position including progress in reaching a balanced budget, reflecting preliminary savings and investment options;
- The government was expected to announce the Autumn Statement on 22 November 2023, but no major changes were expected;
- Government funding for 2024/25 would be confirmed in the provisional finance settlement, expected late in December 2023;
- The accompanying report set out the priorities and officer proposals for the services within the remit of this committee. This included a reminder of the

savings proposals identified as part of last year's budget setting process (£36.2m across three years) and additional savings for consideration (£2.5m from 2024/25). As far as possible these were aimed at protecting the delivery of council priorities and represented the least detrimental options; and

- There remained a forecast shortfall of £1.6m next year. Any further reduction to the underspend this year would reduce the need to top back up General Fund reserve in 2024/25 and help bridge this shortfall. In addition, the Collection Fund position would be finalised in January and the final levy amounts from GMCA confirmed.

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

- That compared to other local authorities, Manchester was a financially well managed authority; and
- To pay tribute to the significant work undertaken by all Executive Members and the Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer and her team.

Decision

To note the report.

ECCNSC/23/58 Neighbourhoods Directorate Budget 2024/25

The Committee considered the report of the Strategic Director (Neighbourhood Services) that set out a service overview and key priorities including an update on the Climate Action Plan, along with the latest draft budgets for the services within the remit of this scrutiny committee.

Key points and themes in the report included:

- Noting that as part of the 2023/24 budget process, savings were identified over a three-year period and it was intended that the 2024/25 budget would be light touch and no further savings would be required;
- In light of the current financial year's pressures and ongoing high inflation rates it had been necessary to revisit the initial assumptions and identify further savings options for consideration;
- As part of identifying further savings options the initial priority had been to protect service delivery wherever possible, and this had included looking to increase income generation opportunities where possible; and
- The proposed savings from services within the remit of this scrutiny committee were summarised and set out in more detail in Appendix 1.

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

- With regard to staff retention, what was being done to retain technical knowledge amongst staff;
- Expressing caution at introducing a charge for replacement bins, commenting that this could result in increased incidents of flytipping and decreased propensity to recycle that would be undesirable and would result in increased costs

- Any proposals for charges for replacement bins needed to be subject to a full Equality Impact Assessment;
- More information was sought on proposals for income generation from parks and green spaces; and
- What data informed the reported Growth and Pressures 2024-27 at section 3.8 of the report.

The Strategic Director (Neighbourhood Services) advised the Committee that the Council maintained a register of all contracts, and these were RAG rated and monitored. He stated that within this list there were 'Gold' contracts that warranted additional monitoring, and this included the Biffa waste contract. The report described that a new Contract Management System was expected to go live during the current financial year. Once operational, this would provide Directorates with consistent contract performance information to support contract managers to ensure that contracts delivered against expectations and opportunities for improvement could be identified and realised more easily.

In regard to staff retention, the Strategic Director (Neighbourhood Services) commented that this had always been an issue, and to address this the Council had striven to be an attractive employer by offering good terms and conditions, training and development opportunities for staff and providing career progression.

The Strategic Director (Neighbourhood Services) stated that the issue of charges for replacement bins had been debated at length in the previous round of budget setting discussions and that additional resources had been specifically allocated to address flytipping. He further explained the rationale regarding the statement provided in the report at section 6.1, however he was mindful of the comments raised by the Committee regarding Equality Impact Assessments and said that if these proposals were to be considered in the February round of budget discussions, following the Financial Settlement, further consideration would be given to the Equality Impact Assessment.

The Strategic Director (Neighbourhood Services) said that the Growth and Pressures analysis as described in the report was based upon a range of data sets available to the Council, including projected population growth data and footfall data in the city centre.

In regard to parks and income generation, the Strategic Director (Neighbourhood Services) said that there had been significant investment in parks to reduce ongoing costs and to generate commercial returns.

The Executive Member for Environment and Transport stated that the funding cuts and nature of the budget allocations made it very difficult to plan long term and deliver the ambitions the Council had for the city. She stated that she endorsed the ask of the Leader in her recent letter to the Chancellor of the Exchequer ahead of the Autumn Statement.

The Chair noted that compliance and enforcement budget information had been omitted from this report and requested that this be included in the report submitted to the February meeting.

Decision

The Committee recommend that if the proposal to charge for replacement bins were to be considered in the February round of budget proposals following the provisional financial settlement, expected late in December 2023, that a full analysis of the impact of this should be undertaken.

ECCNSC/23/59 Manchester's Emissions Report

The Committee considered the report of Director, Manchester Climate Change Agency that provided a summary of Manchester's Emissions Report, which was due to be published by Manchester Climate Change Agency in November. It covered the city's direct, energy-related emissions in 2021, plus an estimate for 2022, and was based on the latest data released by the UK Government's Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ).

Key points and themes in the report included:

- The Emissions Report enabled Manchester to track its progress against the carbon reduction targets, carbon budget and zero carbon date of 2038 that were set out in the city's Climate Change Framework (2020-25), and its 2022 Update;
- The report showed that, in 2021, Manchester had the second lowest per capita emissions among Greater Manchester authorities, with a figure of 3.4t CO₂ per person. This was 14% lower than the Greater Manchester average of 4.0t CO₂ per person and more than 20% below the national average of 4.5t CO₂ per person. This was explained by a mixture of urban density, which had led to more efficient living, and the high levels of deprivation. Those with least, emit least. High levels of carbon emissions are overwhelmingly emitted by the wealthiest in society; and
- Over the five-year period from 2018 to 2022, Manchester emitted 9.54 million tonnes of CO₂ (m tCO₂), against a total carbon budget of 15m tCO₂, allocated to last until 2038 and beyond (until 2100). This meant that 63% of the city's total 30-year carbon budget had been used in its first five years.

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

- Describing the data provided as alarming and disappointing;
- Noting that the report called for 'urgent action at pace and scale to ensure Manchester stays within its carbon budget' and asked what this would look like;
- Was there now a need to publicise those organisations and sectors that were large emitters of carbon but had not engaged with the Partnership and/or failed to develop an action plan to reduce their emissions;
- Would any funding be released to Manchester from the revised plans for HS2 to help fast track greener transport schemes;
- The Manchester Climate Change Framework 2020-25, and its 2022 Update provided a list of 175 actions, were these being delivered upon; and
- Would the Trailblazer Devolution arrangements provide an opportunity to support the scale of work to reduce carbon emissions across the city.

The Director, Manchester Climate Change Agency commented on the question raised regarding the scale of action required and referred to Local Area Energy Planning as an example of this. Members noted that the Committee would be receiving a report at their December meeting on the topic of a Power Purchase Agreement to decarbonise the energy supply. In regard to a 'carrot or stick approach', she said that all levers of influence should be utilised to engage on the issue of carbon emissions and mitigation actions.

The Director, Manchester Climate Change Agency directed the Members to the report that was considered at the meeting of 25 May 2023 that discussed the approach to the actions in the Updated Framework. (See section 4 of the report 'Manchester Climate Change Framework 2022 Update – Progress Report' considered 25 May 2023).

The Executive Member for Environment and Transport emphasised the need for a just transition in relation to climate change and commented that the Council continued to use all available levers and spheres of influence to address climate change and made reference to the Planning report that was to be considered later on the agenda as one example of this. She stated that the Trailblazer Devolution arrangements would support the work to address carbon emissions as it would be used to address a number of areas of activity, including housing retrofit works. She stated that it needed to be recognised that inflationary pressures reduced the funding available in real terms and funding to deliver the scale of work required remained a significant challenge.

The Chair concluded this item by reiterating that it was everyone's responsibility to take immediate actions to reduce carbon emissions. She further recognised and thanked the Partnership and the Agency for their continued hard work on behalf of the city.

Decision

To note the report.

ECCNSC/23/60 Manchester Active Travel Strategy and Investment Plan – Update on Progress

The Committee considered the report of the Strategic Director, Growth and Development that provided a summary of progress on delivery of the aspirations and commitments of the Manchester Active Travel Strategy and Investment Plan.

Key points and themes in the report included:

- Providing an introduction and background;
- A summary of progress to date across a range of activities; and
- Next steps.

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

- Was there any evidence that delivery of School Streets increased the levels of walking to and from school;
- Should there be an ambition to have more than one school street per ward;
- Noting that outside London, dedicated national funding for active travel had reduced in 2023 from approximately £308 million over the following two years to approximately £100 million, a reduction of around 67%;
- Welcoming the update provided in relation to cycle hangars and asking what criteria was used to identify high demand areas;
- The need to ensure that there was connectivity across local authority borders for active travel schemes;
- Expressing concern that the temporary scheme on Deansgate was not meeting its ambition to increase walking; and
- Were there any further low traffic neighbourhood schemes planned, noting that these schemes needed to be communicated and managed appropriately.

The Active Travel Lead, Infrastructure and Environment stated that during the academic year 2022/23, seven primary schools had taken part in a pilot scheme to implement a 'School Street'. He said that monitoring was incorporated as an element of the pilot and that an evaluation exercise would be undertaken, adding that initial feedback obtained had been very positive. With reference to the reduction in dedicated national funding he said that he shared the Committee's frustration, however there was a pipeline of schemes that had been developed so that when funding opportunities did arise these could be bid for. In regard to cycle hangars he said that details of the locations would be released in early 2024, at around ten locations around the city, focusing on areas where there was known demand, and a large percentage of terraced houses or apartments. He confirmed that this information would be shared with Councillors at the appropriate time.

The Interim Head of Infrastructure and Environment stated that the roll out of the Bee Network would improve active travel connectivity across local authority boundaries. In regard to the specific question regarding Deansgate he commented that this was a relatively new scheme and would continue to be monitored. The Strategic Director Development stated that the current scheme on Deansgate was a temporary measure and would be subject to change as part of the wider ambitions for Deansgate that were referenced in the table provided at 3.2 of the report.

The Executive Member for Environment and Transport stated that the lessons learned from the School Streets pilot would support the wider roll out of these schemes, noting that this required buy in from the schools and consideration of the surrounding neighbourhood as these could impact on them. She said that it was not the intention to limit School Streets to one per ward. She said that the ambition was to develop a network of support that included schools and local community groups to share learning and good practice and encourage schools to adopt this model. In regard to the comment raised in relation to low traffic neighbourhood schemes she said that consideration needed to be given to the use of appropriate language when articulating these and similar initiatives. She said that the ambition was to create a 'streets for all' model, with a distinct neighbourhood focus and that all local Councillors and residents would be consulted with on these plans and proposals as they developed.

The Chair commented on the ACES Europe Capital of Cycling bid adding that if successful this would significantly raise the profile of cycling across Manchester and would be very welcomed.

Decision

To note the report.

ECCNSC/23/61 Vision Zero - Update

The Committee considered the report of Strategic Director, Growth and Development that provided a summary of progress on the development of a Vision Zero strategy for Greater Manchester.

Key points and themes in the report included:

- Providing an introduction and background;
- Providing a definition of Vision Zero;
- An overview of road safety data in Greater Manchester and in Manchester;
- Noting that the adoption of Vision Zero and the MCC Road Safety strategy provided the opportunity to implement effective and sustainable practices to reduce collision rates and enable the uptake of more walking, wheeling and cycling, supporting the Our Manchester goals of creating a sustainable, liveable and connected city;
- An overview of the number of programmes currently being delivered which could make significant improvements to road safety;
- Information on the three principles of the Safe Systems approach; and
- Next steps.

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

- Requesting an update in relation to the introduction of 20mph speed limits on current 30mph roads;
- Irresponsible cyclists were also responsible for collisions;
- Enforcement action by the Police was important, particularly in relation to speeding and driving standards to support the ambitions of Vision Zero; and
- The term accident was not appropriate and a more suitable term would be crash or collision.

The Head of Highways, TfGM noted the comments and concerns articulated regarding dangerous cyclists, however stated that the vast majority of deaths and serious injuries on roads were caused by motorists, hence the focus of the work described. However, he stated that consideration would be given to engagement with the gig economy as he acknowledged the proliferation on motorised bicycles on the roads and the hazards these presented to other road users and pedestrians. He added that it was the responsibility of all road users to drive carefully and considerately with due regard to the prevailing conditions. He further acknowledged the comments expressed regarding the appropriate use of language and terminology.

The Executive Member for Environment and Transport stated that the areas of the road network to introduce 20mph zones were being considered and mapped. She commented that all relevant Members would be consulted with at the appropriate time as this work developed. The Head of Network Management said that consideration would also be given to reducing some 40mph zones to 30mph as part of this mapping exercise.

The Executive Member for Environment and Transport concluded by referring to the importance of cycling proficiency training for young people and that all Members should promote and support Road Safety Week that would commence 20 November.

Decision

To note the report.

ECCNSC/23/62 Refreshed Tree and Woodland Action Plan 2024 - 2034

The Committee considered the report of Strategic Director, Growth and Development that described that a refreshed Tree and Woodland Action Plan (TAWAP) had been developed in the context of the adopted Green and Blue Infrastructure (G&BI) Strategy. This had been reported to the Environment and Climate Change Scrutiny Committee and was agreed in March 2023.

Key points and themes in the report included:

- Providing an introduction and background, noting that the report set out how the TAWAP was being updated in line with best practice and our most recent evidence;
- The Headline Actions had been revisited and streamlined down from 21 to 16 across the four key objectives as this would help provide clarity, maximise their effectiveness and avoid duplication;
- Describing the vision and objectives of the TAWAP;
- Information in relation to the governance and leadership arrangements;
- Describing how a refreshed Tree Action Plan would sit with the G&BI Strategy;
- Noting that as a key part of delivering the City's G&BI Strategy, the TAWAP benefited from a strong cohort of supportive partners, both internal to the Council and externally;
- Discussion of the challenges and opportunities;
- Delivery of the TAWAP noting that the TAWAP would be updated and reported on annually as part of the wider Green & Blue Infrastructure Implementation Plan;
- Discussion of funding; and
- Next steps.

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

- Noting that the report stated that 'The TAWAP will allow a focus to be given to trees, helping to ensure that they will continue to be planted in Manchester selectively and appropriately, with due regard given to location, landscape character and sustainability', how would these locations be identified;
- Expressing the need for community and resident involvement in these decisions;

- Developers needed to be reminded of their responsibilities in relation to greening and tree management;
- What was the approach to 'difficult to plant' areas;
- What was the approach to the size and types of trees to be planted; and
- Further information was sought on the duration of the draft Action Plan public consultation.

In presenting the report to the Committee the Director of Planning, Building Control and Licensing paid tribute to her team for producing the detailed report and bringing forward the Action Plan, stating that the Manchester was pioneering on this work and approach.

The Senior Policy Officer advised that intelligence mapping and consideration of a neighbourhood focus would inform the correct location for future planting of trees, and this included community engagement activities on this specific subject. With reference to other landowners, he commented that the principles of tree management could be accessed and used by all and was a useful resource. He further commented that the public consultation would commence following this meeting and noted the views of the Committee. This would be an 8 week online public consultation, using the same questions that were asked during the 2017, online public consultation as this would provide useful benchmarking information. He stated that a communications campaign would also be used to promote this consultation, in addition to promoting this at appropriate events across the city.

The Senior Policy Officer stated that the approach in Manchester was to plant the correct tree in the correct location, and careful consideration needed to be given to this. He further commented that it was important to recognise that each ward was different, and a 'one size fits all' approach would not be appropriate. He said this work would be delivered in collaboration with different Council Departments and different partners across the city.

The Director of Planning, Building Control and Licensing said that with the support of City of Trees they were seeking to develop a document that would be accessible to all, including developers and relevant stakeholders that would address the issue of difficult to plant areas. This resource would provide information and examples of good practice and technical information. She stated that it would demonstrate the 'art of the possible' and tackle the myth that nothing could be done.

The Chair in concluding this item stated that the Committee endorsed the commencement of the draft Action Plan public consultation. She further commented that those areas with fewer trees should be prioritised, particularly when engaging with developers, noting the importance of trees and the shade they provided during periods of extreme heat that were a consequence of climate change.

Decision

To note the report.

ECCNSC/23/63 Planning Policy, Construction and Climate Change

The Committee considered the report of the Strategic Director, Growth and Development that described how planning policy could seek to address climate change, with specific consideration of the emissions associated with the construction phase.

Key points and themes in the report included:

- An update on the Local Plan and climate related issues;
- A summary of the emerging evidence base that would help inform draft planning policies in the Manchester Local Plan around construction standards;
- Noting that the evidence base had been prepared with the support of the members of the Manchester Climate Change Partnership and wider industry experts;
- Information on the Manchester Climate Change Partnership's City Challenge Net Zero New Buildings task and finish group that had been established to convene the expertise and capacity of local stakeholders towards increasing the low carbon standards of new buildings and support the refresh of Manchester's Local Plan, noting that their findings and recommendations would be published in a final report, due to be published before the end of 2023;
- An update on The Places for Everyone joint local plan; and
- Discussion of the consideration around the Planning Application Process.

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

- Noting that the 2022 Framework Update stated that to meet the city's plan to be Zero Carbon by 2038, all new buildings in the city from 2023 should be Zero Carbon and asking for an update on this;
- Did the work reported ensure that Manchester was compliant with The Paris Agreement;
- Members appointed to the Planning Committee should receive awareness training on this subject area;
- Noting that emissions associated with the construction phase could be significant, especially in those locations where there were multiple projects underway in close proximity, and what was being done to mitigate this;
- Examples of good proactive innovation, such as the West Gorton Sponge Park should be replicated across developments; and
- Recognising the important work of the Manchester Climate Change Partnership and wider industry experts in informing this important work.

The Director of Planning, Building Control and Licensing commented that she was mindful that there were a number of new Members on the Committee and stated that she would provide a briefing note on the Local Plan that would be circulated to all members of the Committee for information.

The Planning and Infrastructure Manager commented that buildings and the building process was recognised as a significant contributor to carbon emissions, hence the focus of the work described throughout the report. He said that the approach would be to consider emissions in the context of the whole life cycle of building. He said this

approach would be tracked and reported as part of the ongoing reporting of the city's overall carbon budget. In response to the discussion regarding net zero buildings, he said the adoption of The Places for Everyone joint local plan and the emerging Manchester Local Plan would include an evidence based Net Zero new development policy. He added that there was good practice already being applied within new developments across the city including the use of standards such as BREEAM (BREEAM was the world's leading science-based suite of validation and certification systems for a sustainable built environment) and NABERS (NABERS UK was a simple, reliable system for rating the energy efficiency of office buildings across England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland). In response to the comments raised regarding Biodiversity Net Gain he described that significant work was already underway in Manchester in regard to this, noting that a report considered by the Committee at their February 2023 meeting discussed this.

The Planning Section Manager said that all proposed developments were required to submit an Environmental Impact Assessment, and this included consideration of the 10% requirement of Biodiversity Net Gain, adding that they always challenged developers to deliver more. He said that all major developments were subject to a Construction Management Plan. This provided a framework of control, which was subsequently embedded in a condition of planning permission. He commented that enforcement action could be taken by relevant departments for any breach of these conditions, noting that some breaches would be subject to different legislation. He added that Construction Management Plans were used to mitigate the worst impacts on residents when developments were in the construction phase.

The Executive Member for Housing and Development made reference to the number of new build, zero carbon social housing that had been delivered and stated that the Council remained committed to being net zero by 2038. He further acknowledged the comments raised regarding training for members of the Planning Committee and stated that this would be considered with a view to progressing this.

The Chair expressed her appreciation for the work undertaken by the Manchester Climate Change Partnership and wider industry experts to consider the current wider policy background and guidance documents for net zero, financial implications for net zero, evidence base of developments and their performance in terms of carbon, and recommendations for planning policy in relation to Net Zero development. She further noted an invitation to visit some examples of development good practice in relation to commercial properties that had been developed and that she would liaise with officers outside of the meeting.

Decision

To note the report.

ECCNSC/23/64 Overview Report

The report of the Governance and Scrutiny Support Unit which contained key decisions within the Committee's remit and responses to previous recommendations was submitted for comment. Members were also invited to agree the Committee's future work programme.

Decision

The Committee notes the report and agrees the work programme.

Planning and Highways Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on 19 October 2023

Present: Councillor Lyons - In the Chair

Councillors: Chohan, Curley, Davies, Gartside, Hassan, Hewitson, Hughes, Johnson, Kamal and Lovecy

Apologies: Shaukat Ali, Andrews and Riasat

PH/23/76 Supplementary Information on Applications Being Considered

A copy of the late representations received had been circulated in advance of the meeting regarding application 135932/FO/2023 and 136878/FO/2023.

Decision

To receive and note the late representations.

PH/23/77 Minutes

Decision

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 21 September 2023 as a correct record.

PH/23/78 136314/JO/2023 - 60 Oldham Street, Manchester, M4 1LE - Piccadilly Ward

The Committee considered the report of the Director of Planning, Building Control and Licensing regarding a variation of Condition 3 (Opening Hours) to planning permission 126960/JO/2020 (amended under 124836/NMC/2019) (as discharged under CDN/21/0969) to allow opening of premises the following hours: Sunday to Thursday – 11:00 to 02:30 (the next day); and Friday and Saturday – 11:00 to 03:30 (the next day).

60 Oldham Street had been converted into four apartments with the ground floor and basement changed to a restaurant and bar (126960/JO/2020 amended by 120878/FO/2018). The opening hours applied for and approved at the ground floor and basement were Tuesday 17.00-00.00, Wednesday to Saturday 12.00 to 13.30 and 17.00 to 00.00 (application ref no CDN/21/0969). A scheme of acoustic insulation was approved (CDN/21/0947).

The approval included the erection of a 7-storey building on an empty plot to the rear at 53 Spear Street to form five apartments. The consent had been fully implemented.

The site is in the Stevenson Square Conservation Area and on the edge of the Smithfield Conservation Area. It is in as the Northern Quarter which contains homes, hotels, commercial, places of worship, bars and restaurants.

Two objections had been received regarding the application.

The Planning Officer had nothing to add to the printed report.

The applicant attended but had nothing to add to the report.

Members queried if there was a mechanism to shield noise from the internal venue and how issues would be monitored between Planning and Licensing.

The Planning Officer stated that there was Acoustic Insulation installed and Environmental Health were happy with that, noting there was no objection raised by them. It was noted that the operating hours were most effectively managed through Licensing.

A member then raised concerns about the hours, live music and queried if a condition could be attached regarding occupancy levels.

The Planning Officer noted that noise levels had been tested by Environmental Health who were happy that there was no noise transfer if the venue stays within the noise management plan. The Planning Officer noted that this Committee was to deal with Planning issues, and they were satisfied with all Planning related issues. They acknowledged that there were tensions in this area but reiterated that they were satisfied with the noise management plan.

The Director of Planning noted that a condition regarding occupancy levels was difficult to do through the Planning process and advised members to not consider that.

Councillor Lovecy moved the Officer's Recommendation to Approve. Councillor Curley seconded the proposal.

Decision

The Committee resolved to Approve the application.

PH/23/79 135932/FO/2023 - East Manchester Academy, Grey Mare Lane, Manchester M11 3DS - Ancoats & Beswick Ward

The Committee considered the report of the Director of Planning, Building Control and Licensing regarding the Installation of Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) together with the installation of 5-metre-high boundary treatment and 3-metre-high acoustic barrier.

The proposal was for the creation of a Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) together with the installation of boundary treatment.

The proposal would result in the loss of grass playfield. Sport England have objected on this basis. MCR Active support the proposals.

The Planning Officer had nothing to add to the printed report.

The applicant did not attend, nor did any objector.

Members queried if the throwing cage due to be lost would be relocated and why the pitch was unusable and such poor quality. It was also noted that grass space was being lost and if that could be replaced by the planting of extra trees or something similar.

The Planning Officer noted that the drainage was poor which had led to the pitch being waterlogged. It would cost more to fix the drainage than what was proposed in the application. They noted that as Sport England had objected to the proposals, should the Committee be Minded to Approve, the application would be referred to the Secretary of State. There was a condition that the throwing cage would be relocated. The Planning Officer stated that a condition could be added regarding adding greenery.

Councillor Curley moved the Officer's Recommendation of Minded to Approve.

The Chair queried if members wanted to add a condition related to greenery. The Director of Planning noted that the condition would need to be carefully crafted as the application was subject to funding.

Councillor Kamal seconded the proposal of Councillor Curley.

Decision

The Committee resolved to be Minded to Approve, subject to the conditions set out in the report and an additional condition, the wording of which is to be agreed by the Director of Planning and the Chair, regarding the adding of greenery to replace the lost grass pitch.

PH/23/80 136878/FO/2023 - 4B Albany Road, Manchester M21 0AW - Chorlton Ward

The Committee considered the report of the Director of Planning, Building Control and Licensing regarding the erection of a 4-storey building to form 40 no. residential apartments, together with cycle and car parking, bin store, landscaping, and boundary treatments following demolition of existing buildings.

The application related to the erection of a 4-storey residential development comprising 40 affordable apartments, following demolition of an existing business premises together with the provision of car parking, cycle parking and landscaping.

Following notification of the application 15 representations have been received, including 13 objections, 2 in support and 1 neutral response with comments.

The Planning Officer had nothing to add to the printed report.

An objector attended and addressed the Committee, noting that they owned a local recording studio that had been there for 20 years. The recording studio was close to the proposed site and it was felt that the construction phase of development would create a level of noise that would stop their ability to work. They felt that the noise report provided had not considered their business needs. There were no mitigation measures in place for the noise created during construction for their business. The objector requested that the Committee declined the application, but if they were to approve it then to add strong conditions regarding noise and vibration during construction or that there should be some financial compensation available in order that they could operate from an alternative studio during that noisy time.

The applicant's agent addressed the Committee, noting that there had been prior engagement with local residents, ward councillors and planning officers before submitting the application. They noted there would be short-term, temporary disruption during construction but that there had been no objection from Environmental Health and the disruption needed to be balanced with the social value of the proposals. Construction timing and activity was proposed to be regulated by conditions from officers. The applicant would register with the considerate constructors' scheme and liaise with the studio. This was a 100% affordable scheme, which was noted as being much needed. The application would not result in any overlooking, overshadowing or loss of light for its neighbours. Energy for the proposed site would be 100% electric, with no gas used. The level of parking proposed had been deemed acceptable by Highways Officers. The scheme would improve Biodiversity. The applicant's agent felt this was a much-needed scheme for the area.

The Planning Officer noted that it was key that the applicant was fully aware of the concerns raised by the neighbouring recording studio and had agreed to all points listed within the construction management plan including a communication strategy with neighbouring occupiers and businesses, including the recording studio. This would mean that the recording studio would be pre-warned of noisy activities. The applicant had also confirmed that they would join the considerate contractors scheme. The officer also stated that demolition could take place under a prior approval notice without the level of control available through this planning application process and that works could take place without the need for planning permission which could bring substantial noise and disturbance, such as refurbishment works, and replacing hard standings. It is also the case that the application property could be used for a variety of other uses without the need for planning permission without any control by the Local Planning Authority in relation to hours of operation, outside working, or numbers of HGVs for example. The proposed construction management plan offered reasonable levels of mitigation in this case. It was also stated that the applicant had confirmed that Pad Foundations would be used rather than more intrusive traditional foundation types.

Members raised queries regarding the architecture, biodiversity and the wording of the condition relating to communication between the applicant and the recording studio.

The Director of Planning stated that construction was difficult to control but they, alongside the Chair, could look at the wording regarding the Construction

Management Plan and in particular the requirement for a community consultation strategy, and that this should provide detailed time frames for demolition works and additional requirements relating to details of notification of noisy activities..

The Planning Officer stated that negotiation had taken place with the applicant to secure a quality approach to architecture and also clarified that the existing site consisted largely of built form and hard standing and that the proposal included soft landscaping, the planting of five new trees and bio-diversity enhancements.

Councillor Curley moved the Officer's Recommendation of Approve subject to additional wording within the construction management plan condition.

Councillor Hughes seconded the proposal.

Decision

The Committee resolved to Approve the application, subject the conditions set out in the report, including an amendment to the condition relating to the construction management plan, the wording of which is to be agreed by the Director of Planning and the Chair.

Health and Wellbeing Board

Minutes of the meeting held on 1 November 2023

Present:

Councillor T Robinson, Executive Member for Member for Healthy Manchester and Adult Social Care (MCC) - In the Chair
 Katy Calvin, Thomas - Manchester Local Care Organisation
 Kathy Cowell, Chair, Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust
 Paul Marshall, Strategic Director of Children's Services
 David Regan, Director of Public Health
 Bernadette Enright, Director of Adult Social Services
 Tom Hinchliffe, Deputy Place Based Lead
 Dr Murugesan Raja, Manchester GP Board

Apologies:

Councillor Craig, Leader of the Council
 Councillor Bridges, Executive Member for Children and Schools Services
 Councillor Chambers Deputy Executive Member for Healthy Manchester and Adult Social Care
 Bill McCarthy, Chair, Greater Manchester Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust
 Amanda Smith, Chair, Healthwatch

Also in attendance:

Jane Pilkington, Director of Population Health, NHS Greater Manchester
 Dr Cordelle Ofori, Deputy Director of Public Health

HWB/23/20 Minutes

Decision

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 20 September 2023 as a correct record.

HWB/23/21 Manchester Partnership Board Update

The Board considered the report of the Deputy Place Based Lead that provided an update on the topics discussed at the private meeting of the Manchester Partnership Board held 3 October 2023. Reference was made to ongoing work concerning:

- Commissioning work within Manchester and Greater Manchester, concerning the integrated commissioning function for health and social care with all partners.
- Winter planning relating to Urgent and Emergency Care Capacity Funding. It was reported that agreement had been reached on the most effective use for the limited level of funding available for the winter period. The funding will be used for additional capacity in primary care. It was acknowledged that work

with partners had enabled the funding available to be targeted in areas of need.

The Chair also reported that so far, no response had been received to the letter sent to the Secretary of State for Health, from him and Councillor Green (Chair of the Health Scrutiny Committee), concerning funding arrangements for the Integrated Care Board (ICB) for the 2023/24 winter period. Any response received would be circulated to members of the Board and the Health Scrutiny Committee. The Chair also reported that he will discuss the importance of using the Urgent and Emergency Care Capacity Funding effectively with the Deputy Chief Executive (Manchester Foundation Trust).

Decision

The Board noted the report.

HWB/23/22 Fairer Health for All

The Board considered the report of the Director of Population Health, NHS Greater Manchester Integrated Care and the Director of Public Health, Manchester City Council, that described the opportunities for the Manchester Locality, through the Health and Wellbeing Board, to input and shape priorities for co-ordinated action on health inequalities across Greater Manchester.

The report described that Fairer Health for All (FHFA) was a system-wide commitment and framework for reducing health inequality and tackling inequalities across the wider, social, and commercial determinants of health, leading to a greener, fairer, more prosperous city-region. In addition, it was noted that FHFA had been co-produced through extensive locality and community participation and engagement over the past fifteen months, which had taken place alongside the development of NHS Greater Manchester's Integrated Care Partnership strategy and the Five Year Joint Forward Plan.

Consideration would also be given to the proposed principles, targets and metrics in the Greater Manchester Fairer Health for All Framework. It was important to note that Manchester already had the well-developed Making Manchester Fairer Action Plan (2023-2027) and the Director of Public Health, Deputy Director of Public Health and the GM Director of Population Health would continue to work collaboratively to ensure plans were aligned and clear.

The Board was requested to review and comment on the Fairer Health for All Framework Engagement Draft and engagement questions outlined in section 2.2 of the report submitted.

The Director of Population Health provided an overview of the plan and outlined the ongoing work to align sectors in addressing health inequalities. The Board was informed that the document sets out a plan and provides practical tools and resources to help make Fairer Health for All a reality. This includes two central tools: a Fairer Health for All Academy to support learning and development and Health and

Care Intelligence Hub will foster shared learning and collaboration and collate vast and diverse intelligence, data and insights from across public and VCFSE partners.

Confirmation was given that the Fairer Health for All will be submitted to the Integrated Care Board and Integrated Care Partnership. Health Trusts will also receive the document for comment, via a task group appointed to provide the alignment to Manchester Foundation Trust. Discussions are currently ongoing to determine how the providers will be engaged.

The Chair welcomed and commented that the report is accessible to all audiences. In reference to the delivery work within localities it was requested that separate reference should be included in the final document to acknowledge this.

It was reported that the final report will include all linked plans as well as references to locality work.

The Chair invited questions and comments from the Board.

In response to the report the board made the following comments: -

In welcoming the report, the Chair of MFT highlighted the importance of using the document as a tool to help engage with and better inform local people and MFT members and use the input to complement the work of MFT Governors.

Reference was made to NHS community services/ Living Well at Home, and it was suggested that a more explicit reference on of role of community services within integrated urgent care should be included. Currently work across GM is working to standardise delivery of services and the inclusion of that work in the document would be beneficial.

Reference was made to the importance of all partners working to the same plan and direction to ensure that the resources available to providers are used in the most efficient manner. The document contains information to help better support the dialogue for a joined-up and preventative care approach and inform financial planning to achieve it.

A comment was made that it is important that the inclusion of principles to provide a level of standards on what to expect at a local level within a neighbourhood setting is presented as an enabler rather than another strategy.

A comment was made that specific reference could be made to work on commissioning within the care market.

In response to the points and comments made, the Director of Population Health referred to discussions currently ongoing on contracting and commissioning arrangements to agree on a process to align social value on commissioning. With reference to principles, there are principles included within the document. The principles are being used in conjunction with GM system boards and other partners on the design of an assurance process/framework. The Fairer Health for All Academy website will be used to provide examples of the work and stories of

change. The comment made on alignment of partners feature strongly within work to build relationships and strengthen communication. Developing models of care also provide the opportunity to make financial savings. The Director also undertook to provide feedback on a social model for health and where possible to support arrangements for the work of MFT Governors.

The board was informed that the next steps of the process for the document would be presented to locality boards during November across Greater Manchester, with a final consideration by the ICB and ICP in January 2024.

Decision

The Board noted the report.

HWB/23/23 Making Manchester Fairer: Tackling Health Inequalities in Manchester 2022-2027

The Board considered the report of the Deputy Director of Public Health that described the key achievements of the Making Manchester Fairer programme in September as well as an update on the Communities and Power Theme and the Race & Health Education Programme.

The report and accompanying presentation described that a comprehensive and immersive education programme on Race and Health Equity had been developed and commissioned. The programme was launched on 18 September at the Manchester Art Museum with partners from across the council, health, and housing attending. 75 people had been invited as the first cohort which would enable our workforce to be better informed, equipped and confident to implement the right solutions that will improve outcomes for communities experiencing racial inequality and discrimination.

The report and accompanying presentation further described that a Communities and Power Steering Group, co-chaired by Manchester City Council's Deputy Leader Cllr Rahman, and Executive Member for Vibrant Neighbourhoods Cllr Igbon, had been established to drive forward the actions outlined within the two Manchester-specific themes of (i) Tackling systemic racism and discrimination, and (ii) Communities and power. The Communities and Power Steering Group work had developed several workstreams that would support the delivery of the aims and objectives of the MMF Action Plan.

The Chair invited questions from the Board.

A member asked if there is an opportunity for partners to join up existing workstreams relating to race and racism in the workplace to help amplify the approach across Manchester. With reference to neighbourhood working, and in particular community development work, the comment was made that it is important for community-based roles/skills to be co-ordinated to ensure that the same approach and methodology are used whenever the community is being engaged and amplify this across Manchester.

It was reported that the work to amplify workstreams is already taking place through the regular meetings with those linked to the various organisations involved. Highlighting the work would be discussed to decide how to best showcase what is happening and how specialist skills are used.

In response to a comment made on the importance of achieving the correct narrative for a holistic approach from organisations, the board was informed that partners involved in housing had set up a task group to work on all eight themes to engage with communities and reflect on the approach of the organisation. The task group has enabled specific matters to be addressed in a joined-up approach from the partner organisations.

A member referred to the Community Development Review and the importance of ensuring service users have a voice and that the voice is heard and asked how the services users will know they have been heard and how will that help to shape future actions.

It was reported that the maturity assessment quality standards will measure how the information received is used and will feed back to the participants on any action taken on issues raised. The Community and Residents Involvement Framework provides a description of the arrangements for engagement and accountability. A Making Manchester Fairer Community Forum will be established for residents with a lived experienced to help input on the best way to hold Making Manchester Fairer to account.

The Chair stated that it is important to reflect on what has taken place during the last twelve months on the work to develop Making Manchester Fairer and what has been achieved in that time. The initiative involves key stakeholders from across Manchester and it is important to maintain a spirit of versatility with integrity to ensure that tackling health inequality is the central focus while working towards Making Manchester Fairer a whole Council approach. Monitoring the delivery of the initiative will be the key to assure the residents of Manchester that the right approach has been taken.

Acknowledgement was given to the work undertaken by the lead officers involved in the two themes presented.

Decision

The Board noted the report.

HWB/23/24 Stopping the start: Our new plan to create a smokefree generation in Manchester

The Board considered the report of the Director of Public Health that provided an update to previous reports about the Tobacco Control and Vaping Programme and set out the response to the government's proposals.

Noting that on 4 October 2023, the Rt Hon Steve Barclay MP, Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, wrote to Directors of Public Health to advise them of the government's future plans to control tobacco use and vaping. The letter was accompanied by the publication of a Command Paper titled, "*Stopping the start: our new plan to create a smokefree generation.*" The Command Paper sets out the government's plan to prevent addiction to all forms of tobacco, to support current smokers to "quit" and to enhance the controls and legislation around electronic cigarettes, with the aim of curtailing the worrying phenomenon of youth vaping.

The proposals contained within the Command Paper are the subject of a major public and professional consultation which closes on the 6 December 2023.

The Department of Public Health at Manchester City Council welcomes the contents of the Command Paper because smoking remains the biggest cause of preventable death in Manchester. Government estimates suggest that there have been as many, if not more, deaths from smoking, as from COVID-19 in England since the start of the pandemic. In Manchester, although improvements have been made, smoking rates are still higher than national averages.

Vaping, when used appropriately, could be one of the treatment solutions available to support tobacco users to manage their addiction to Nicotine and ultimately to "quit" smoking. However, Manchester is experiencing some of the social problems associated with vaping, in terms of youth vaping and a significant counterfeit market.

Manchester City Council and partner organisations had taken a whole system approach to Tobacco Control for many years. The well-established partnership programme had been extended to incorporate the phenomenon of vaping and is well placed to implement all the government's recommendations and much of this work is already underway.

The report described that the Director of Public Health had worked with the Programme Lead for Tobacco Control to collate a Manchester response to the proposals contained within the Command Paper. These are set out in section 6.4 and the Health and Wellbeing Board are asked to comment on each of them. Pending any additions and changes suggested by the Board, the Chair, supported by the Director of Public Health, will submit the formal response to the consultation on behalf of the Board by 6 December 2023. The report presented the initial summary responses.

The Chair in acknowledging the importance of Tobacco Control and Vaping Programme, thanked officers for the work undertaken.

The Chair requested an update be submitted to the next meeting of the Board in January 2024, to set out what the intentions are for Manchester and the proposals to use the allocated funding from the Government.

The Board was advised that a bid will also be submitted for funding for the Swap to Stop Scheme. This will involve the creation of a focus scheme in Newton Heath and Miles Platting working with housing providers in those areas to identify and engage with smokers in those areas who are not known to the Stop Smoking service.

Members of the Board welcomed the report and acknowledged the challenge of changing the behaviour of smokers and communities.

The Chair referred to Section 4 of the report and asked if specific issues should be included in the Chair's response to the consultation.

The Board was informed that there are different reasons for vaping which include vaping to help stop smokers for health purposes and vaping that is not that is related to criminality. The use of vaping has grown massively across all sections of the city and Trading Standards officers have helped to uncover an illegal vaping market and have seized a high volume of vapes in the process which have been linked to organised crime groups.

A member of the Board asked if there are sufficient resources available to address the behavioural change needed to prevent the take up of vaping by young people.

It was reported that a training programme is being developed for professionals, parents and carers working with children to help address any confusion on the safety of vaping. A North West School Vaping Statement has been published and is being disseminated and will be circulated shortly. The increase in the use of vaping will need to be considered separately to tobacco control. The update report to be submitted in January 2024 will outline how funding received will be used on smoking cessation and will include a focus on the increase in vaping and youth vaping and how existing resources can be used and where additional capacity may be needed for local approaches.

The findings of the consultation and anticipated recommendations expected from the Government will help to start to address youth vaping through legislation on the marketing of products, similar to those used for tobacco products. This approach will be as important as the ongoing related health work.

Decisions

1. The Board noted the report and agreed that the Chair, supported by the Director of Public Health, responds formally to the consultation on behalf of the Manchester Health and Wellbeing Board as set out in section 6.4 of the report.
2. To circulate the Chairs consultation response to all Board members and the Member of Parliament for each of the Manchester constituencies (as set out in 1 above).

Standards Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, 2 November 2023

Present:

Nicolé Jackson, Independent Co-opted Member – In the Chair
Councillors Andrews, Connolly, Evans, Lanchbury and Simcock
Councillor O'Donovan, Ringway Parish Council

Apologies: Councillor Good, Geoff Linnell, Independent Co-opted Member, Alan Eastwood, Independent Person

ST/23/16 Minutes

Decision

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 15 June 2023 as a correct record.

ST/23/17 Member Code of Conduct

Consideration was given to the report of the City Solicitor that asked the Committee whether to support the adoption of the LGA Model Code of Conduct for Members or retention of the Council's current code, both of which were appended to the cover report. Members noted the Monitoring Officer's views regarding adoption of the LGA Code.

Members commented that the Manchester Code of Conduct for Members was more robust than the LGA Code. The Chair noted that whilst the LGA Code specifically referenced bullying and harassment, the Manchester Code did refer to 'respect' and the Committee commented that they were satisfied that the inclusion of the word respect would cover any allegation of harassment.

The Chair commented that she was of the opinion that the format of LGA Model Code of Conduct for Members was slightly confusing to the reader, adding that this was not the case with the Manchester Code of Conduct for Members.

Decision

To recommend to full Council that the Council retain its current Code of Conduct for Members.

ST/23/18 Update report on the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks for Elected Members

The Committee considered the report of the Strategic Head of Human Resources that provided an update on the process for elected members to complete Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks and the follow-up work that had been carried out by the Human Resources Organisational Development and Transformation (HROD&T) Compliance Team to ensure completion of the checks. This followed the decision made by full Council in 2018 that a criminal record check should be carried

out for all elected and co-opted members who undertake “saved” regulated activities in line with the Council’s Corporate Parenting Responsibilities in safeguarding children, young people, and adults.

The report listed the proposals to make the process as straightforward as possible for elected members to complete any outstanding DBS checks.

The Committee noted that there were five Members who had not yet completed a DBS check. Members acknowledged that Officers had done as much as was possible to support Councillors to complete the required checks. The Committee therefore supported the recommendation proposed by a Member to refer the outstanding cases to the relevant Group Officer/ Leader to ensure that the checks were completed.

In response to a question asked regarding potential sanctions for any Councillor failing to complete a DBS checks, the Assistant Director of Legal Service: Governance stated that whilst DBS checks were voluntary and there were no formal sanctions as such, it was important to note that it had been agreed by the Council in 2018 that DBS checks be carried out for all members. She indicated that ultimately it was a matter for the relevant political group as to the consequences for a member who fails to comply with a decision of full Council.

The Chair of the Committee stated that if any Member had a concern about completing a DBS check they should discuss this with the Monitoring Officer at the earliest opportunity.

In response to a question, the Head of HR Operations advised the Committee that a DBS check was valid for three years and was carried out on a rolling basis as and when the checks expired.

The Committee requested that an update report be submitted to the Standards Committee meeting of 14 March 2024.

Decision

The Committee

1. Support the proposals set out in Section 5 of this report in order to make the process as straightforward as possible for elected members and assist with the completion of the outstanding checks.
2. Recommend that the outstanding five DBS cases be referred to the relevant Group Officer/ Leader to assist in ensuring the completion of the outstanding DBS checks.
3. Recommend that an update report be submitted to the Standards Committee meeting of 14 March 2024.

ST/23/19 Process for Dispensations

The Committee considered the report of the City Solicitor and Monitoring Officer that discussed the operation and efficacy of the process for granting dispensations in relation to Members' Interests, noting that the Committee last received a specific report regarding dispensations at its meeting on 16 June 2022. The Annual Report received by the Committee on 16 March 2023 also provided a brief update on the grant of dispensations.

The report described that it was the Monitoring Officer's view that the requests for dispensations that had been made had been sought in appropriate circumstances and that the level of requests for dispensations did not give rise to concern.

Decision

To note the report.

ST/23/20 Register of Members Interests

The Committee considered the report of the City Solicitor and Monitoring Officer that discussed the operation and efficacy of the Register of Members' Interests, noting that the Committee last received a specific report on this issue at its meeting on 16 June 2022. The Annual Standards Report considered by the Committee at its meeting on 16 March 2023 had also contained a short update on the Register of Members' Interests.

The report described that the Monitoring Officer was of the view that Register of Interests requirements are understood by Members but would, as a matter of good practice, continue to issue specific guidance to all Members regarding declaration of interests at meetings.

Decision

To note the report

ST/23/21 Review of the Operation and Efficacy including a proposed amendment of the Arrangements for dealing with Code of Conduct complaints against Members

The Committee considered the report of the City Solicitor and Monitoring Officer that provided an update on the operation and efficacy of the Arrangements for dealing with Code of Conduct complaints against Members ('the Arrangements') and to set out the Monitoring Officer's proposal for an amendment to the Arrangements.

A copy of the Arrangements was provided as an Appendix to the report with the proposed amendments to paragraphs 2.1 and 2.2 shown as tracked changes and any proposed additional wording in bold. The proposed amendments related to the need for any complaint to be in writing, with appropriate reasonable adjustments for complainants who were not able to do so.

Other than the proposed amendments to paragraphs 2.1 and 2.2 of the Arrangements it was noted that the Monitoring Officer was satisfied that the

Arrangements remained fit for purpose and was not aware of any issues arising from their operation.

Decision

The Standards Committee:

1. Note the Monitoring Officer's information on the operation and efficacy of the Arrangements for dealing with Code of Conduct complaints against Members.
2. Recommend to full Council the Arrangements as amended.

ST/23/22 Work Programme for the Standards Committee

Consideration was given to the report of the Governance and Scrutiny Support Unit that presented the Work Programme for the Committee. The Committee were invited to approve or amend the Work Programme as appropriate.

The Chair noted that under discussion of a previous agenda item it had been agreed to include a report on the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks for Elected Members for the meeting scheduled for 14 March 2024.

Decision

The Committee note and approve the Work Programme, subject to the above additional item for the meeting of 14 March 2024.

Licensing Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday, 23 October 2023

Present: Councillor Grimshaw – in the Chair

Councillors: Andrews, Flanagan, Hewitson, Hilal, Hughes, Judge and Reid

Apologies: Councillors Connolly, Evans, Ludford and Riasat

LC/23/01 Minutes

Decision

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 5 December 2022 as a correct record.

LC/23/02 Statement of Licensing Policy 2023-2028

The Committee considered the report of the Director of Planning, Building Control and Licensing, presents a proposed final revision of the Statement of Licensing Policy under the Licensing Act 2003 to be presented to the Licensing Policy Committee.

The Committee was reminded that the Licensing Act 2003 came into effect on 24 November 2005 and covers the following licensable activities:

- Sale or supply of alcohol
- Provision of regulated entertainment
- Provision of late-night refreshment

The Licensing Act also requires each Licensing Authority to publish a statement of licensing policy to show how it intends to achieve the four licensing objectives:

- Prevention of crime and disorder
- Public safety
- Prevention of public nuisance
- Protection of children from harm

A review of the Policy has been undertaken together with a public consultation. The outcome was included in Appendix 1 of the report submitted.

The policy will be presented to the Licensing Policy Committee on 31 October 2023 with the recommendations of the Licensing Committee. The Licensing Policy will then be submitted to the meeting of Council on 29 November 2023 for approval.

The Chair invited the Committee to comment on the proposed Licensing Policy.

Members referred to the current arrangements for Fallowfield and Withington and the City Centre within the current policy. Members suggested that the current arrangements for Fallowfield and Withington should be applied all areas of the city. The student population within those area had started to reduce and move to other areas and for that reason the special arrangements should be applied to other areas

outside of the City Centre. Additional information on the demographic makeup of the local area could be included in applications for premises licences.

The Committee were informed that Section 4 of the Policy focuses on how a premises licence application is considered and additional information could be required for premises applications to provide more information to better explain how the proposed business would operate.

A member made reference to restrictions placed on people with a disability regarding the arrangements currently in place for the outside area of the Albert Schloss premises on Peter Street in the City Centre. The current policy arrangements appeared not to be strong enough to protect the interests of disabled people using the pavement footpath outside of the premises. A loading/parking area had been established that impacts on the pavement and the management of the area was not working. The member undertook to contact officers on the areas of concern that had been outlined.

The Committee was advised that enforcement officers can investigate how premises operate and take appropriate action under the guidance of current legislation. Consideration would be given to the requirements of the Equalities Act and Planning and Building Control.

Decision

To recommend to the Licensing Policy Committee the following changes to the content of the Licensing Policy:

Remove the current area-based policies in place for Fallowfield and Withington and apply these to all areas of the city, outside of the City Centre.

LC23/03 Delegation of Licensing Authority Functions

The Committee considered the report of the City Solicitor that sought the Committee's agreement to the licensing authority delegations contained in Sections C and F of Part 3 of the Council's Constitution.

Decision

To affirm the existing arrangements as set out in the excerpts from Sections C and F of Part 3 of the Council's Constitution as included to the report submitted.

Licensing Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday, 13 November 2023

Present: Councillor Grimshaw – in the Chair

Councillors: Connolly, Andrews, Evans, Flanagan, Hewitson, Hughes, Judge, Riasat and Reid

Apologies: Councillors Ludford and Hilal

LC/23/04 Minutes

Decision

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 23 October 2023 as a correct record.

LC/23/05 Statement of Licensing Policy 2023-2028

The Committee considered the report of the Director of Planning, Building Control and Licensing, which presented proposed revisions of the Statement of Licensing Policy under the Licensing Act 2003. This followed consideration of the matter at the previous Licensing Committee on 23 October 2023 and at Licensing Policy Committee on 31 October 2023.

On 10 March 2023, the Licensing Policy Committee received a report presenting the draft revised Statement of Licensing Policy and requested officers to consult upon it. Officers consulted with statutory consultees and arranged for an 8-week public consultation which took place from 31 May to 26 July.

On 23 October 2023, the Licensing Committee received a report presenting the findings of the public consultation and the changes proposed as a result. On 31 October 2023, the Licensing Policy Committee considered the recommendation of the Licensing Committee and referred the matter back to this Committee.

The draft policy is updated to include the proposed area plans and copies of these are provided at Appendix 1. Subject to any further required amendments and subsequent approval of the Licensing Policy Committee at the scheduled meeting on 20 November 2023, it was intended to present the policy to the Council on 29 November 2023 to approve the publication of this policy.

It was noted that all areas could be kept under review and this policy would not rule out special policies for areas that do not currently have one.

The Committee were provided with two options; Option 1 was to retain Section 6 with the addition of the area boundary maps for Fallowfield and Withington Special Policies, and Option 2 revised Section 6 to remove any 'Special Policy' and to put the revised policy back out to public consultation.

The Chair invited the Committee to comment on the proposed Licensing Policy.

A member queried how many responses had been received to the public consultation from Fallowfield and Withington. 41 responses were received in total, but the Principal Licensing Officer was unsure how many were received from each area. They believed that over 80% were from Fallowfield and Withington, with the rest from City Centre residents.

A member queried why any area should have a special policy when others do not, noting their belief that all areas experience problems. It was stated that area profiles were based on clusters of Licensed Premises. It was recognised that all areas do have challenges but that some are more significant than others. A continued analysis of data would allow the Licensing Unit to continuously review the policy.

A member asked how an area that had not yet been developed had a special policy and if the names of special policies could be more specific to the area they are for. It was noted that this was due to experience of similar areas and members can raise issues for other areas. The policy could be reviewed at any point if appropriate to do so. The Principal Licensing Officer was supportive of more specific titles for special policy areas.

A member wondered how many Licensed Premises an area would require for a special policy to be implemented, whilst concerns were also raised regarding the 'patchwork' nature of special policies across the City. It was noted that placing a special policy in an area was not an exact science and that various things went into it, including the number of alcohol related issues, not just the number of Licensed Premises. It was accepted that the 'patchwork' nature could become a limitation if the number of special policy areas becomes too many.

The Licensing Unit manager noted that it was a challenge to keep up with the development of the City and that the policy had been worked on for a long time. They accepted that other areas had their own issues, but the evidence gathered from various teams across the Council, GMP and others had informed the need for special policy areas. The Licensing Unit manager did believe that the issues experienced in Fallowfield and Withington were different to those in other areas. They noted additional guidance could be provided for other areas.

A member queried the process for an area becoming a special policy area. The Committee's legal adviser stated that the policy would continually be under review and could be amended at any time. Any substantial change to the policy, such as creating a new special policy area, would require public consultation but the rest of the policy would remain live during that time.

Decision

To recommend to the Licensing Policy Committee the following:

1. To retain Section 6 with the addition of the area boundary maps for Fallowfield and Withington Special Policies.
2. To amend the names of the special policy areas to be more specific to the area rather than the ward.

3. Delegating to the Chair and Director of Planning, Building Control and Licensing to look into the possibility of annual reviews with ward members and officers to see if there is a need to add or remove any special policy areas.

Licensing and Appeals Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday, 23 October 2023

Present: Councillor Grimshaw – in the Chair

Councillors: Andrews, Flanagan, Hewitson, Hilal, Hughes, Judge and Reid

Apologies: Councillors Connolly, Evans, Ludford and Riasat

LAC/23/05 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 17 July 2023 was submitted.

Decision

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 17 July 2023 as a correct record.

LAC/23/06 Hackney Carriage Fare Review 2023

The Committee considered the report of the Director of Planning, Building Control and Licensing, that set out the relevant information the Committee would need to consider, to enable it to make recommendations to the Executive in relation to the Hackney Carriage Fare tariff. The Committee had previously considered a report on 17 July 2023 that outlined relevant information to review the Hackney Carriage Fares.

The Committee made the following recommendations to the Executive:

- 1) Increase the unit cost per mile on all tariffs by 8%
- 2) Increase the waiting time fare by 23%
- 3) Increase the Day flag tariff to £3.40
- 4) Increase the Night flag tariff to £3.80

Hackney Trade representatives were present at the Committee meeting 17 July, where the Committee was informed that the majority of members supported the proposals.

The Committee was advised that a notice was placed in the Manchester Evening News on 15 September 2023 setting out the proposed changes for Hackney Carriage Fares. Seven objections were received to the proposed changes. The reasons for the objections were as follows:

- Private hire companies are cheaper and therefore the increase will mean more lost business;
- Customer feedback to drivers is that they are expensive anyway;
- Upfront flag is too high and could have an adverse effect;
- Cost of other public transport is getting cheaper so believe this will kill the trade.

From the seven objections were submitted, six were from Hackney Carraige drivers. Two Hackney Carraige drivers had submitted two objections. The five objections were set out in the appendix to the report submitted.

The Chair then invited members of the trade and their representatives to speak on the proposed changes to fares.

Representatives of Unite the Union and ATA (Union) addressed the Committee and stated that the proposals were supported by the majority of the 1882 members with three opposing the changes. Unite represented 375 members of the Hackney Carraige trade and ATA represented 88 members at Manchester Airport. Reference was made to the rising costs including insurance for Hackney Carriages, and the requirement to upgrade vehicles. These cost-of-living increases had contributed to a reduction in the number of Hackney Carraige drivers.

At this point the chair requested all parties to leave the meeting room to allow the Committee to consider the proposal and the submissions received in private.

All parties were readmitted into the meeting room and were informed of the Committee decision.

Decision

To recommend the following changes to Hackney Carraige Fares to the Executive:

- Increase the unit cost per mile on all tariffs by 8%
- 2) Increase the waiting time fare by 23%
- 3) Increase the Day flag tariff to £3.40
- Increase the Night flag tariff to £3.80.

Licensing Policy Committee

Minutes of a meeting held on 31 October 2023

Acting under Delegated Powers

Present: Councillors Grimshaw (Chair), Davies, Evans and Flanagan

Apologies: Councillor Leech

LPC/23/03 Minutes

Decision

To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting held on 10 March 2023.

LPC/23/04 Statement of Licensing Policy 2023 - 2028

The Committee considered the report of the Director of Planning, Building Control and Licensing that presented a proposed final revision of the Statement of Licensing Policy under the Licensing Act 2003.

The Committee had been invited to:

- i. Review the responses received to the consultation and the proposed changes to the policy.
- ii. Consider any recommendations by the Licensing Committee on final content of the policy.
- iii. Recommend to Council to approve the policy for publication subject to any final changes required by this Committee.

The Principal Licensing Officer presented the report by providing an introduction to The Licensing Act 2003 that had come into effect on 24 November 2005 and the requirements this placed on each Licensing Authority to publish a statement of licensing policy to show how it intended to achieve the four licensing objectives.

The Principal Licensing Officer described that the policy was published for a five-year period although the licensing authority must keep its policy under review and make such revisions to it, at such times, as it considered appropriate.

The Principal Licensing Officer described that there were several issues that had gained further prominence since the last policy had taken effect, namely, Martyn's Law and consideration of counter terrorism security measures at licensed premises; Agent of change; spiking, vulnerability in the Nighttime Economy (NTE), women's safety, water safety and the increase in delivery services. These had been outlined and addressed within the draft policy to enable all relevant parties to understand what considerations they should make in each regard.

The Principal Licensing Officer referred to the consultation strategy that had been undertaken and provided a summary of the responses as detailed within the covering report and accompanying appendices.

The Principal Licensing Officer referred to the policy for Fallowfield and Withington, noting that this had been proposed to ensure that there was some increased scope for applications to be granted, subject to limitations. There was also concern about the saturation of hot food takeaways and issues of litter arising from them. It was recognised that in Fallowfield, there was a need to diversify the local sociable economy and there was a recognised local support for ensuring this. Similarly, in Withington, there was support for ensuring that there were opportunities for good operators to flourish and to promote vibrancy, within reason. The proposed NTE policy for Pubs, clubs and bars, including other primarily drinking establishments: changed from ‘Policy was to refuse except in exceptional circumstances’ to “Applications will be considered on their merits having regard to the local area objectives”.

The Principal Licensing Officer summarised the key changes described in the Statement of Licensing Policy 2023 – 2028 that was appended to the cover report, noting that consideration had been given to the phases identified (Twilight/Evening Economy/NTE/Late Night Economy) but it was proposed to retain them as originally proposed:

- Section 2 had been merged with previous Section 15 (Determining applications) to present the decision-making considerations at an earlier stage of the document. In turn, it is hoped that this would then enable readers to home in on those subsequent sections most relevant to them.
- Section 5: Steps rephrased to improve clarity and revised to ensure comprehensiveness.
- Restructured Section 2 to incorporate previous Section 6 (General approach to determining applications) to give a more direct approach.
- Addition of detail on what might constitute an exception to any special local area policies (Section 6).
- Area profiles updated with additional detail e.g. recognition of recent closures on Deansgate Locks, increased prominence of Bridge Street, and including relevant area boundaries.
- Section 4 – clarification around expectations of venue ‘Plan of Management’.
- Updates to responsible authority contact details in Appendix B.
- Additional information in Appendix E around consideration of representations.

The Committee noted that the Licensing Committee had considered the proposed final revision of the Statement of Licensing Policy at their meeting of 23 October 2023. Having considered the report, the Licensing Committee made the following recommendation to the Licensing Policy Committee.

Remove the current area-based policies in place for Fallowfield and Withington and apply these to all areas of the city, outside of the City Centre.

The Committee debated the recommendation and agreed that a meeting of the Licensing Committee should be convened at the earliest opportunity, followed by a

meeting of the Licensing Policy Committee to reconsider the Statement of Licensing Policy 2023 – 2028 and to enable officers the opportunity to provide for clarification the location maps of the areas incorporated in the proposed Fallowfield and Withington area-based special policies.

Decision

The Committee recommend that a meeting of the Licensing Committee should be convened at the earliest opportunity, followed by a meeting of the Licensing Policy Committee to reconsider the Statement of Licensing Policy 2023 – 2028 and to enable officers the opportunity to provide for clarification the location maps of the areas incorporated in the proposed Fallowfield and Withington area-based special policies.

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Manchester City Council Draft Statement of Licensing Policy under the Licensing Act 2003

2023–2028

1

Foreword by the Leader of Manchester City Council

For inclusion in published policy

2

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1. Guide to using this policy

This Statement of Licensing Policy (hereafter referred to as the 'Licensing Policy') is published under Section 5 of the Licensing Act 2003 and states how Manchester City Council, as the licensing authority, will regulate the licensing process locally to promote the four licensing objectives, which are:

- The prevention of crime and disorder
- The prevention of public nuisance
- Public safety
- The protection of children from harm.

Licensing is about regulating licensable activities on licensed premises, by qualifying clubs and at temporary events within the terms of the 2003 Act. In most cases, this policy will be used when considering an application for a new licence, variation, or a review of an existing licence. It also sets out the licensing authority's approach to all operators on how it expects the licensing objectives to be promoted in Manchester.

Section 2 sets out how this policy applies in practice including how applications will be considered and determined on their respective merits.

Section 3 explains our vision for the city and how licensed premises and the night-time economy will contribute to its future.

We intend to frame our approach around the consideration of the nature of the venue, location, hours, operational management standards and the licence conditions as set out in Section 4.

Section 5 sets out operating steps to be considered in relation to the operation of the business. Where relevant representations (objections) have been received, we will particularly consider those steps and the degree to which they have been addressed.

We have set out area profiles of various parts of the city (Section 6) to focus decision making in those areas. Some area profiles set out specific Special Policy approaches for that area.

Section 7 provides special considerations for licensing large events (both indoor and outdoor venues).

There are also sections relevant to other licensing processes and the considerations for each:

- Temporary Event Notices (Section 8)
- Designated Premises Supervisors (Section 9)
- Transfers of licences (Section 10)
- Personal Licences (Section 11)
- Licence Reviews (Section 12)
- Compliance and enforcement (Section 13)
- Shadow Licences (Section 14).

The appendices provide a range of supplemental information relevant to licensing functions and matters contained in the policy.

Appendix A provides an overview of the licensing process generally.

Appendix B details the responsible authorities.

Appendix C explains how this policy integrates with other Council strategies.

Appendix D provides suggested policies and procedures for operators.

Appendix E gives further guidance on making a relevant representation for residents and other persons (Appendix E). All parties considering submitting comments in response to an application are strongly encouraged to have regard to it.

Appendix F summarises the process for applying for a film to be certified by the local authority.

Appendix G sets out the levels at which different licensing decisions are taken.

Appendix H provides a glossary of the key terms used in this document.

Appendix I provides a summary of crime and antisocial behaviour statistics for different areas.

Acknowledgement

The licensing authority would like to thank colleagues at City of Newcastle, NSW, Australia and the use of their concepts and materials.

2. General Principles

The licensing authority must carry out its licensing functions with a view to promoting the four licensing objectives:

In carrying out its licensing functions, the licensing authority must have regard to this licensing policy and any guidance issued by the Secretary of State under Section 182.

In having regard to this policy, we will apply the principles set out in Section 4 in considering the merits of an individual application in tandem with any other relevant sections of the policy.

A key aim of this policy is to **ensure that licensed venue density reflects an appropriate mix of venue types, including non-alcohol-related entertainment options** (see Venue diversity, density and availability in Section 3) and so in the growth and development of areas, we aim to ensure that the grant of further licences (and variations) delivers this ambition.

In areas where the correct balance is not struck, the intention is to diversify the licensed economy there.

How this policy applies

All applications for new Premises Licences or variations need to be supported by an operating schedule. The schedule must specify (among other things) the steps that the applicant proposes to promote each of the licensing objectives.

If no responsible authority or other person lodges an objection (known as a 'relevant representation') to the application, the licensing authority must by law grant the application as set out in the operating schedule, subject only to mandatory conditions under the Licensing Act 2003. The steps proposed by the applicant will become licence conditions. The licensing authority will have no discretion to refuse the application or to alter or add to the conditions arising from the operating schedule.

Where there are relevant representations, a hearing of the opposed application before a licensing subcommittee will normally follow. Parties may avoid the need for a hearing where agreement can be reached on revised terms, e.g. additional conditions, amended hours.

Where there is a hearing, the subcommittee must, having regard to the representations, take such steps as it considers appropriate to promote the licensing objectives. These may include refusing the application or adding to or modifying the conditions proposed in the operating schedule.

In exercising its discretion, the licensing subcommittee will have regard (among other things) to this licensing policy. Therefore, in drawing up their operating schedule, applicants would be well advised to read this policy carefully. Where an operating schedule complies with this policy, it is generally less likely that a responsible authority or other persons will object to it, or that any objection will succeed. Therefore, compliance with this policy is likely to assist the applicant to

avoid the delay and expense of a contested licensing hearing, as well as the risk of a refusal or the addition of unwanted licence conditions.

This is not to say that an opposed application that complies with the policy will necessarily be granted or that an opposed application that does not comply with it will necessarily be refused. Nothing in this policy prevents an applicant being able to apply for a licence or variation and have it determined on its merits.

Where there have been relevant representations, the licensing authority will always consider the merits of the case, and interfere with the operating schedule only when, and to the extent, appropriate to promote the licensing objectives. Nor will blanket or standard conditions be applied without regard to the merits of the individual case. So, for example, the licensing authority will not interfere with an operating schedule that does not comply with this policy where the steps proposed are sufficient to meet the licensing objectives in the individual circumstances of the case.

However, the policy represents the licensing authority's view of the best means of securing the licensing objectives in most normal cases. It has been drawn up in consultation with other expert bodies and responsible authorities, together with community stakeholders. While the contents of the operating schedule are a matter for the applicant, where there is objection to a schedule that departs from the policy, the licensing subcommittee hearing an opposed application will normally expect to be given a good reason for the departure if it is to be asked to make an exception to the policy.

In this policy, there are references to the licensing authority's expectations of applicants and defined policies stated. As explained above, the policy is only engaged where the licensing authority has discretion following the receipt of objections. In such cases, the licensing authority will not apply the policy rigidly, but will always have regard to the merits of the case with a view to promoting the licensing objectives.

Further, the licensing authority may use this policy when exercising other licensing functions. For example, when considering an application for review of a licence, the licensing authority is likely to view with concern premises that are being run in clear breach of the terms of this policy.

The contents of this section apply both to Premises Licences and Club Premises certificates.

Delegated powers

Where no representations are made, the licensing authority must grant the application subject to mandatory conditions and appropriate conditions converted from the steps to promote the licensing objectives that were proposed in the application's operating schedule.

Many of the decisions and functions will be purely administrative in nature, and in the interests of speed, efficiency and cost-effectiveness, such matters are delegated to officers in the Licensing Unit.

See Appendix G for a full breakdown of the decision-making levels.

Licensing hearings

Where there are relevant representations, a hearing will be held by a subcommittee of three councillors from the authority's Licensing Committee. Hearings will be scheduled in line with the regulations of the Licensing Act. The authority may extend these timescales, where it is permitted to do so, because of the complexity of issues, the number of submissions received, whether submissions are made in a timely manner and, particularly, the time taken by the applicant or other parties to respond to any questions or requests from the authority for further information.

The Licensing Act gives the authority a duty to have regard to the public interest in the performance of their licensing functions to *determine what actions are appropriate for the promotion of the licensing objectives in their area* (Section 182 Guidance, para 9.41).

This could involve granting a licence, granting with conditions attached, or refusing the licence. The same evaluative process is required by the Act whether the premises are currently operating or not. In all cases decisions should be made not only on whether there is currently crime, public nuisance etc present, but also on whether an application might lead to circumstances that could generate these, and therefore undermine the licensing objectives.

The authority will not stray into non-contested matters or identify further issues or material that have not been raised in submissions unless it considers necessary to do so in line with the authority's duty to ensure the promotion of the licensing objectives; if a Licensing Committee thinks that any evidence submitted is either unclear or misleading, or if it has questions that remain unanswered, it has the power to be inquisitive and ask questions of any party at the hearing (see Reg 17 of the Hearings Regulations 2005). The licensing authority will act on any material it considers plausible and apt to influence its judgment. The High Court has held that the only parameter to this power is 'relevance and materiality' (*Murco Petroleum v Bristol* [2010] para 30).

The role of the licensing objectives in decision-making

While the licensing objectives are an important material factor, they do not enjoy exclusivity when it comes to deciding what is relevant, and the authority has full power to consider all factors, positive and negative, in relation to a proposal.

All these considerations involve a wider consideration of the geographic location in which the licensed venue sits, and how the application would impact upon this, and so the licensing authority will consider an application dynamically within its local context, with a view to determining what action (if any) is appropriate to promote the licensing objectives in each individual case.

Submissions identifying both positive and negative aspects of the proposed licensed premises will be taken into account by the authority when considering the overall impact of a licence application.

Each case determined on its merits

Issues relevant to the likely effect upon the licensing objectives of an application being granted will vary according to the circumstances of each case and will be influenced by the extent of stakeholder participation. Each application will be determined on its merits.

'Promoting the prevention' (see Section 182 Guidance para 1.2+) of the objectives can be seen as actively working to create environments where the licensing objectives are less likely to be undermined. While decisions on this need to be evidenced, transparent and logical, by their nature they are often not clear-cut.

The Court of Appeal has made it clear that licensing decisions should involve 'an evaluative judgment' as opposed to a black and white pronouncement. Key to this is the way in which the issues and the evidence are dealt with. Although these are "...in a sense questions of fact, they are not questions of the 'heads or tails' variety. They involve an evaluation of what is to be regarded as reasonably acceptable in the particular location... (this) is essentially a matter of judgment rather than a matter of pure fact." (Hope and Glory [2011] para 42).

The Court of Appeal is clear that licensing is an administrative function (Hope and Glory v Westminster [2011] para 41), to which a balance of probabilities applies. This means that licensing committees can decide – on the balance of probabilities – that the occurrence of an event was more likely than not.

Licensing committees are not courts of law, and in licensing decisions causality also needs to be seen within 'an evaluative judgment', and not necessarily to be proved beyond reasonable doubt. In making its judgment, a licensing committee will assess any evidence and its link with a particular premises with a view to ensuring the link is logical and transparent.

Need and commercial demand

Whether or not there is a need or demand for a new licensed business is not a relevant consideration. However, the number of existing licensed businesses in a locality and the addition of a further outlet continue to be relevant to the issue of overall impact on the promotion of the licensing objectives.

Evidence

The guidance does not bind committees by strict rules of evidence, although the key facts and contentions asserted in an application or relevant representation should be supported by relevant evidence or other material, e.g. photos, press articles, videos.

Relevant evidence means evidence having any tendency to make the existence of any fact that is of consequence to the determination of the application more probable or less probable than it would be without the evidence.

Where a party can support their case with relevant evidence, their case will be stronger than without.

The more improbable the event, the stronger the evidence would be expected to be to demonstrate its likelihood.

Evidence may, for example, come from the geographic location or the conduct of an operator. For new applications it is necessary to evaluate the impact that they may have on the objectives, and relevant evidence from the locality can be used to help with this. In most situations the best evidence is local information that can be seen as material fact and directly relevant to a specific case.

To the extent that contentions are based upon underlying material (e.g. a police or Council submission based upon data on alcohol-linked crime rates or disturbance complaints in a community), then the underlying material upon which those contentions are based should be either made available to the authority or identified in a manner that would enable an opposing party to make an informed response.

Similarly, if any party makes a contention about the likely positive or negative social impact of a proposed licensed premises that is based upon research or statistics, the underlying research or statistics should be identified.

Notwithstanding the above, members of the local and broader communities may express their observations or opinions regarding the impact of a proposed licensed premises without providing expert or statistical evidence in support of those submissions.

Persons making submissions to the authority should be aware that their submissions will be given to the applicant and be contained in any committee report published by the authority for the determination of the application.

Cumulative impact

Even if there is no cumulative impact policy, those making representations may still do so based on cumulative impact, and their representation will be considered on merit.

Hours

We aim to promote high-venue diversity, a wide variety of entertainment options, inclusive and accessible venues, a diverse and multigenerational set of participants, and a safe public space.

Later hours will generally be more appropriate within the city centre than other areas of the city due to the developed infrastructure in respect of managing a later night-time economy, such as the comprehensive integrated CCTV network, increased access to public transport, cleansing services, and a more visible enforcement presence. Nevertheless, many areas of the city centre are home to residents who have a right to sleep and enjoy their homes.

The licensing authority will generally expect hours to be appropriate for the locality. Where there are relevant representations, it will be for the sub-committee to determine if they agree with any characterisation of an area when considering an application before them, taking into account the information provided to them as well as applying their own local knowledge.

Hours will not be reduced as a bargaining tool to compromise; the starting point for the application is not important – it is the outcome that must be appropriate for the promotion of the licensing objectives. Applicants are strongly encouraged to apply for the hours they intend to operate, and it may be that not applying for (unwanted) later hours might reduce the likelihood of

objections against the application. The licensing authority will not consider the fact that other premises in the vicinity already have similar hours as a justification for granting similar or extended hours.

We will use the time-period definitions (Section 5) to shape our approach and when applying the Evening Economy, Twilight, NTE and Late Night Economy concepts, it should be noted that there is a degree of crossover between them. This flex may be used to adjust the terminal hours as appropriate having regard to those for neighbouring venues.

While the quality of the venue and the operator will be an important consideration generally and may be a relevant consideration in justifying the appropriateness of a later terminal hour, it is often beyond the capacity of the operator to control the impact of customers once they have left the premises. The lateness of the terminal hour for the premises will often be a contributory factor in the risk of intoxication and potential for disturbance, and so licensed hours may be reduced to avoid:

- The likelihood of nuisance
- Peaks of dispersal.

The licensing authority will also be mindful of the risk of staggered closing times leading to 'migratory drinking' and problems on the streets as patrons move from closed bars to open ones.

Conditions

If a relevant representation is made, the licensing authority will have the discretion to take appropriate steps to promote the licensing objectives.

Conditions that simply reflect good management practices should not generally be expected to appear on Premises Licences without very good reason. Instead, the licensing authority will aim to focus conditions to determine the fundamental issue of whether a premises can operate in a particular locality in a manner that prevents the licensing objectives being undermined.

While this policy advocates the use of a Plan of Management to demonstrate company policies and practices, this will not be a substitute for appropriate conditions given that a licence can be transferred to a different holder.

Relevant conditions will not be limited to measures set out in this policy, and the authority will consider whether there is evidence that shows it is appropriate to impose a condition specifically to promote one or more of the statutory licensing objectives, including public safety and protecting children from harm.

The licensing authority will not seek to micro-manage the operation of a business through the extensive imposition of conditions; however, it considers that a limited number of conditions are appropriate for the understanding by an operator regarding those specific requirements and to facilitate compliance monitoring.

When attaching conditions, the principles to be applied by the licensing authority are that conditions will be:

- Tailored to the premises and licensable activities concerned

- Appropriate, necessary and proportionate
- Precise, clear and unambiguous
- Practical, realistic and enforceable
- Non-duplicative of existing statutory requirements or offences
- Self-contained (i.e. the reader should not need to look outside the condition itself to know precisely what is required)
- Modern and fit for purpose.

Conditions will not:

- Be applied as standard
- Replicate offences set out in the Licensing Act 2003 or other legislation
- Duplicate other statutory requirements or other duties or responsibilities placed on the employer by other legislation
- Seek to manage the behaviour of customers once they are beyond the direct management of the licence holder and their staff
- Require the admission of children to any premises.

The licensing authority will not impose conditions that restrict or prevent access by children unless relevant representations are made and doing so is considered appropriate to promote the licensing objectives. Where relevant representations are received, the licensing authority may seek to ensure that children are not permitted to enter or remain on licensed premises after a 'specified cut-off time' by attaching an appropriate licence condition. Conditions, where they are appropriate, should reflect the licensable activities taking place on the premises. In addition to the mandatory condition regarding age verification, other conditions relating to the protection of children from harm can include:

- Restrictions on the hours children may be present
- Restrictions or exclusions on the presence of children under certain ages when specified activities are taking place
- Restrictions on the parts of the premises to which children may have access
- Age restrictions (below 18)
- Restrictions or exclusions when certain activities are taking place
- Requirements for an accompanying adult (including, for example, a combination of requirements that state children under a particular age must be accompanied by an adult)
- Full exclusion of people under 18 from the premises when any licensable activities are taking place.

Conditions requiring the admission of children to any premises cannot be attached to licences. Where no licensing restriction is appropriate, this should remain a matter for the discretion of the individual licence holder, club or premises user.

Refusal

Where, following relevant representations and a hearing, the authority is not satisfied that the imposition of conditions is appropriate and sufficient for the promotion of the licensing

objectives, the authority can restrict licensable activities and/or hours. The authority may also refuse to specify the person nominated as Designated Premises Supervisor.

However, where all the above steps are not considered appropriate and sufficient to promote the licensing objectives by the authority, the policy is to refuse the application.

Applications will normally also be refused where an applicant is unable to demonstrate a satisfactory ability to ensure the promotion of the licensing objectives. This may be due to previous conduct or a lack of competency through deficient relevant knowledge, training, policies and procedures.

Notification of the authority's decision

When the authority has determined an application, it will notify the applicant and any other party it is required to notify under the Licensing Act 2003.

At a hearing, the authority may, at its discretion, advise the parties in attendance of their decision before the formal decision letter is notified. However, it reserves the right to communicate its decision within five working days of the hearing, except in Summary Review matters.

Integration with planning and promoting consistency with the Local Plan

The licensing process is separate from planning and building control regimes and shall be properly separated to avoid duplication and inefficiency. The planning and licensing regimes involve consideration of different (albeit related) matters and, as such, licensing applications shall not be a rerun of the planning application. Where the hours granted by planning are different to the licensing hours, the licensee must observe the earlier closing time. Likewise, the granting of a Premises Licence or Club Premises Certificate (or a variation) does not negate the requirement for the licensee to ensure that relevant planning permission (or building control approval) is in place prior to the premises operating. Premises operating in breach of their planning permission may be liable to prosecution or other enforcement under planning law. Any applicant who chooses to apply for the relevant licence prior to obtaining planning permission is advised to be aware of the relevant planning policy for the locality.

Manchester's Local Plan guides development in the city, and an updated version is currently under review.

While licensing and planning applications will be considered separately, consistency between the strategies underpinning decision-making, i.e. the Local Plan and licensing policy, can provide a complementary vision for the city. Therefore, the licensing authority as a responsible authority will engage with Planning as a responsible authority, with a view to promoting alignments between the respective strategies at the individual application stage.

3. Our vision for the city

This Licensing Policy identifies strategic principles to shape the city's licensed economy over the next five years to ensure the safety, amenity and economic growth of the city, particularly at night.

It will guide decision-making around the development of licensed premises and the role they play in place-making locally, as well as providing direction in helping to make Manchester:

1. A safe city in which people are confident they will not experience threat or harm
2. A diverse city with a wide range of options and offerings available
3. An inclusive city that welcomes and enables everyone to participate
4. A vibrant city renowned for a lively and energetic atmosphere or ambience
5. A creative city, which is a source of innovation and cultural production enhancing city life.

The licensed economy plays a significant role in the city, operating 24 hours a day in a variety of capacities, including retail, commercial and social.

Through licensing, our approach will aim to:

- **Promote sustainable growth and attract investment through:**
 - Encouraging people to stay in Manchester for longer and growing the number of city visits
 - Hosting more major international events and building the profile of Manchester's visit offer
 - Supporting a local food and drink offer, recognising the importance of Manchester-based independent operators
 - Increasing culture-related tourism through the development of new international attractions
 - Maximising the benefits of an ageing population through developing the appeal of the leisure economy so that it is attractive to the older generation
 - Encouraging responsible and socially conscious operators seeking to harness new technologies that promote sustainability and carbon-output reduction.
- **Minimise harm associated with misuse and abuse of alcohol** (including harm arising from violence and other antisocial behaviour). This includes encouraging responsible attitudes and practices towards the promotion, sale, supply, service and consumption of alcohol.
- **Promote venues and places that are clean and welcoming and where people feel safe and secure.**
- **Support skilled employment, careers and other opportunities in the live music industry, and arts, tourism, community and cultural sectors¹** that are linked to formal qualifications where possible, creating a more diverse talent pipeline.
- Offer a variety of vibrant and diverse activities, entertainment and food and drink options that appeal to a broad range of people so they keep them coming back.
- **Ensure strong partnerships** between businesses, local authorities and the police, which help to create a supportive and enabling environment for night-time activities.
- **Develop a night-time economy that is inclusive and celebrates diversity** to build a positive and welcoming atmosphere, attracting people from all walks of life.

¹ [gm-skills-intelligence-pack-hospitality-sept-2021.pdf \(greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk\)](https://www.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk/gm-skills-intelligence-pack-hospitality-sept-2021.pdf)

- **Ensure good management and regulation** to ensure that the licensed premises operate in a responsible and sustainable way, promoting safety and reducing the negative impacts on residents and the environment.

It is essential that the city grows sustainably as more people choose to live and work here, creating attractive places while responding to increasing demand for city-centre space.

A well-planned night-time economy has a significant role to play in the city's continued growth and progress, and exerts a major influence over the visitor and cultural economies.

Licensed premises are a key employer and major generator of revenue for the local economy, in addition to their value in attracting visitors and encouraging people to live in the area.

Licensed premises provide a range of careers, employment and other opportunities in the live music industry, as well as in the arts, tourism, community and cultural sectors. The city has found that more music events, workshops and taster sessions, and more activities for young people are desired by residents in the city. By tying these together, it provides an opportunity for social interaction, but could also play a pivotal role in career interest and development in relation to music, while creating the audiences of the future. This would feed into the city's objectives to create a thriving and sustainable city, and to be a highly skilled city.

The music scene in Manchester is a major contributor to the city's economy,² supporting thousands of jobs and attracting a substantial number of music tourists and others to the city. It can also be the driver to continue employment opportunities, as it can provide the chance to create, produce and promote events and businesses connected to the older population.

We want to support the creation of a fair economy. This would include ensuring that staff and artists are sufficiently remunerated for work and performances in the city, and that existing members of the hospitality ecosystem have access to ongoing training and information that can support development and work towards sustainable, long-lasting careers. Around 21% of full-time night-time economy workers earn less than the living wage, compared to 14% across all Greater Manchester full-time workers. For part-time workers it's even more striking: around 53% of part-time night-time economy workers earn less than the living wage (compared to 44% of all part-time employees in Greater Manchester).³

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the hospitality sector has been significant and the impacts continue to be felt, compounded by the increasing cost of living. Cultural venues are an essential element in bringing people back to the city centre, and reinvigorating Manchester's visitor and daytime and evening economy.

The growth of alfresco dining and drinking, instigated by the pandemic and through the introduction of pavement licences, has led to reimagination of many businesses and areas of the city, particularly the city centre. The licensing authority is keen to support the development of

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https://www.manchester.gov.uk/news/article/9032/new_report_shows_the_value_of_manchesters_music_economy_to_the_city

³ GM Night-Time Economy Strategy

such uses, where appropriate, particularly where enabling such alfresco uses positively contributes to the ambitions of this policy and the city.

While we aim to leverage the opportunities a vibrant night-time economy brings, we will address its inherent challenges. In particular, the following issues stand out when considering the impact of licensed premises on the night-time economy:

1. Creating a vibrant and inclusive social economy

This policy outlines our plan to promote a more accessible and inclusive place for everyone, particularly in the night-time economy.

Venue diversity, density and availability

We aim to promote growth and ensure that licensed venue density reflects an appropriate mix of venue types, including non-alcohol-related entertainment options.

We aim to strategically encourage growth in line with the following range of characteristics, which we consider define a night-life cluster contributing to night-time cultural vibrancy without unduly impacting the surrounding areas:

- A mix of different venue types and sizes
- One or more destination venues
- A mix of licensed and unlicensed venues
- Managed impacts on surrounding residents in terms of sound and antisocial behaviour
- A point of difference and a sense of place
- Transport connectivity
- Walkability within the cluster and between neighbouring clusters
- Good opportunities for people watching
- Resilience to change in venue mix.

Supporting the growth of diverse options will provide greater accessibility to the city at night and increase the overall level of participation.

The authority considers that licensed premises being located next to one another in a 'cluster' have the propensity to lead to greater risks of behavioural issues (including antisocial behaviour), an oversupply and overconsumption of alcohol, property damage, violence, traffic issues and other noise disturbances due to (but not limited to) the potential flow-on effects of patrons moving from one licensed premises to another.

A cluster of homogenous venues can facilitate a dominant culture that is limited and exclusive. In contrast, a diverse mix of venue styles and types will attract a diverse range of participants, in turn contributing to better perceptions of safety.

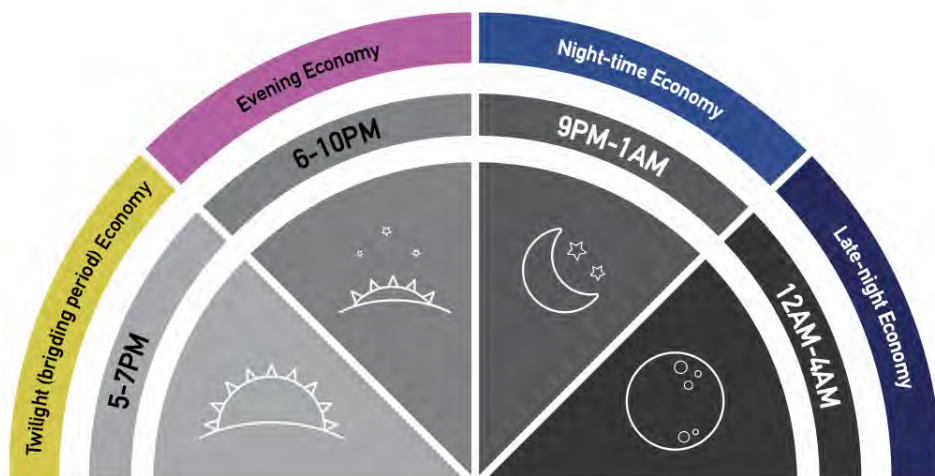
A diversity of venues is understood to be a key contributor to a sense of vibrancy. It is also important for the development of cultural spaces and broader social diversity, which are important preconditions for an inclusive society accepting gender, ethnic and subcultural differences.

- The development of Ancoats through smaller 'limited impact' licensed venues and a burgeoning creative and dining scene is a good example of the positive regenerative effects licensed premises can bring in tandem with other uses in the development of successful and appealing places. This approach of more diverse venues attractive to broader demographics demonstrating limited impact deserves further encouragement, and it is an approach we wish to promote in other areas of the city, particularly those where a late-night economy would be unsustainable.

Pro-active Night-time planning

Just as activity takes place across the city in separate places throughout the day, it also occurs in diverse ways throughout the night. There are key times of night when there is a change in the types and diversity of venues available, the ease of access to public transport, and a changed compliance environment, such as noise thresholds. As the night goes on, different demographics and night-life cultures emerge to prominence, and with them various kinds of activity, behaviours, service needs and risk profiles.

This policy adopts a model that acknowledges distinct but overlapping phases, each with its own unique character and set of opportunities for alcohol management, cultural experience and economic development, as set out below:



Different approaches may be appropriate between these different time periods, as they involve shifting demographics; for example, we know that late-night economy periods are more likely to be populated by younger persons and can produce increased demand on resources (e.g. policing, taxis and private hire). By demarcating an overlap between time periods, this approach ensures that any initiative targeted at a key time of night must also acknowledge and accommodate the tail and emergence of the time periods both prior and following as well as recognising differences in perception. Importantly, the boundaries of these time periods are not set in stone but are the

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product of policy, culture and venue availability. They are open to change as we develop our city at night.

There are also key growth periods that present greater opportunity for economic development and cultural activity of the kinds that contribute to our vision of a safe and vibrant night-time economy. For instance, the twilight period, while not strongly associated with the night-time economy, is important for capturing the activity of the daytime economy and transitioning into strong levels of evening economy activity in night-life areas. Research shows that if people can be retained through the twilight period, then night-time dining and cultural activity can be significantly strengthened.

However, the consideration of the hours of operations during all times of the day will be a relevant consideration; daytime activity can often be considerable and the start time for licensable activities will always be an important consideration, particularly in relation to the start time for the sale and supply of alcohol.

Inclusive social opportunities

This licensing policy aims to create a vibrant and welcoming community for everyone by fostering a culture of accessibility and inclusivity in our licensed premises,

Our objective is to create a supportive environment in which older people and those with disabilities can access and enjoy licensed premises without facing any barriers. It is crucial that we make every effort to ensure that they can continue to enjoy their leisure time, participate fully in community life, and enjoy the same social opportunities as everyone else. This will be achieved by raising awareness among venue owners and managers about the needs of generations, encouraging the adoption of age-friendly practices, and creating opportunities for social interaction among older patrons.

We will launch a targeted awareness campaign to educate venue owners, managers and staff about the importance of accessibility and inclusivity for older people. This will include sharing best practices, providing guidance on accessible design, and offering resources to help businesses adapt their premises and practices to better serve seniors.

We will partner with local senior organisations to facilitate dialogue between venue owners and older people. By creating a platform for communication, we aim to ensure that the voices and needs of seniors are heard and taken into consideration when making decisions about licensed premises.

For seniors, we encourage local licensed premises to host events specifically designed for older people. These events may include activities such as dancing, trivia nights, or cooking classes, providing a chance for seniors to socialise and build connections with their peers in a comfortable and age-friendly setting.

We encourage venues to host events specifically designed for disabled patrons. These events may include activities such as live music, accessible games, or movie screenings with open captions, providing a chance for disabled patrons to socialise and build connections with their peers in accessible and welcoming settings.

To measure the impact of our efforts, we will monitor and evaluate the accessibility and social opportunities provided by licensed premises in our community surveys to gather feedback from seniors and venue owners. This data will help us refine our strategies and ensure that our vision is being realised.

Promoting a Liveable City

Our goal is to find the correct balance locally to enable a high quality of life for residents, where local businesses can thrive, and there is an appropriate variety of activities day and night. The Our Manchester Strategy sets out the city's ambition to be a world-class city. Including the aspiration to be a liveable city in which we will create sustainable, safe, resilient and cohesive neighbourhoods, including accessible cultural facilities. Manchester is a diverse city and challenges vary significantly with some areas, particularly the city centre, grappling with urban development and growth whilst many neighbourhoods facing issues relating to poverty, unemployment and social inequality.

Noise and balancing mixed-use areas

City centre residential density is increasing as city living rises in popularity. With this comes the challenge of balancing the needs of those calling the city centre home, and those who visit solely for entertainment.

There is an expectation that life in a city centre is going to involve denser social and business interactions, typically with later trading venues and increased noise levels, and that these will extend beyond the comparative time periods of suburban neighbourhoods. Noise can arise in different ways from licensed premises, such as music or other sources breaking out from the venue, noise from customers using external areas, and when departing and dispersing from the venue.

While it is important to manage the expectations of residents in such areas regarding levels of background noise, the right of residents to not be unduly impacted by noise from licensed premises, particularly late at night, should be taken seriously. Although such environments will not be expected to be completely noise-free and peaceful environments, the authority considers that noise affecting residential properties should remain within tolerable levels such that home life remains viable and restful sleep is a possibility. However, city centre residents need to accept that city life involves a degree of noise and activity.

One policy approach to managing this tension between the valuable social, cultural and creative benefits of live music and performance, and the legitimate demands of city residents not to be unduly disturbed, is called the 'agent of change' principle, i.e. the person or business responsible for the change will be responsible for managing the impact of the change. Consistent with this recommendation and recognising 14.66 of the s182 Guidance, the policy of the Council will be to respect the agent of change principle and the licensing authority will expect responsibility for suitable mitigation measures to be taken by the incoming agent of change.

Making Manchester Fairer

Our aim is to ensure that the licences we grant do not undermine the core principles and values of the city's action plan to tackle inequalities, "Making Manchester Fairer". We aim to support this strategy by ensuring that alcohol is sold and supplied responsibly, such as preventing over-service and drunkenness, as well as restricting alcohol to underage persons, and to ensure the availability of alcohol does not foster a supportive environment for people who are dependent on alcohol and need to reduce their drinking.

In line with the Making Manchester Fairer Strategy, through the promotion of a local area approach we aim to promote equity, not only to improve outcomes across all of Manchester compared to other parts of the country, but also assist any certain groups or communities who may need further support to get to the same vantage point.

Previous research has shown there is a link between increased availability of alcohol and increased alcohol consumption. However, the impacts of alcohol consumption in a population are not felt equally across society. Increased levels of deprivation are associated with increased levels of alcohol-related harm. Higher rates of deaths from alcohol and higher rates of alcohol-related hospital admissions have been reported in more deprived areas, despite similar or lower levels of alcohol consumption when compared to less deprived areas. In the UK, alcohol-specific mortality was reported as 5.5 times higher in the most deprived communities, despite a higher proportion of the population from the least deprived communities drinking above recommended limits. The extent of place-based deprivation is calculated using a range of metrics including health, crime, income, employment, housing, and education.

Manchester is ranked the 6th most deprived local authority in England. There were 2,286 alcohol-related admission episodes in Manchester recorded from 2021-2022 (PHOF⁴), which translates to a directly standardised rate of 554 per 100,000 (PHOF). This is significantly higher than both the national (494 per 100,000) and regional (511 per 100,000) average (PHOF). Many people suffering harm due to alcohol misuse do not enter treatment; therefore, the treatment numbers may not necessarily reflect the level of hidden harm being experienced by residents who may be dependent on alcohol but have not presented for treatment. Alcohol-related harm also extends beyond the individual, impacting both the family unit and wider community. In Manchester, there were 135 alcohol-related hospital admission episodes in people under 18 recorded between 2018/19 to 2020/21 (PHOF). This translates to a rate of 36.6 per 100,000, statistically significantly higher than the national average (29.3 per 100,000) (PHOF).

Children who do not consume alcohol themselves may also experience alcohol-related harm through indirect means. Data from 2018-2019 National Drug Treatment and Monitoring Services (NDTMS) estimates 1692 adults dependent on alcohol live with children in Manchester, resulting in an estimated 2,770 - 3,008 children being directly impacted by alcohol misuse in the home. Furthermore, 794 children in need assessments performed in Manchester cited alcohol misuse by a parent as an issue. Living with an adult who misuses or is dependent on alcohol is regarded as an 'Adverse Childhood Experience' (ACE).

⁴ [Public Health Outcomes Framework - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/public-health-outcomes-framework)

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Existing research suggests that a higher density of alcohol licensed premises is associated with higher levels of binge drinking and violence. Research has also shown that homelessness and alcohol misuse are linked, thus individuals residing in temporary accommodation may be more vulnerable to alcohol-related harm.

Reducing vulnerability and improving women's safety

We are committed to ensuring Manchester is a safe and welcoming city for everyone, regardless of their gender, ethnicity, sexuality, beliefs or background. Sadly, this is not always the case. The increase in reports of drink spiking and the demand for welfare and police services indicate that there is important work to be done in developing Manchester's night-time economy to improve actual and perceived safety for visitors, residents and those who work in the city at night.

Operation Mantle sees police officers seeking to identify predatory behaviour against women and girls and includes individuals following, harassing and other types of misogynistic behaviour; some of which goes unreported. As well as improving safety, this operation is intended to change assumptions that women and girls should naturally tolerate such behaviour.

Operation MakeSafe also operates with hotels in the city centre, where officers visit hotels to raise awareness with staff about predatory behaviour, spiking and to carry out test purchases to ensure staff challenge and know how to respond.

This policy aims to ensure that vulnerability and women's safety is an important consideration in decision-making in the night-time and late-night economy throughout the city. The licensing authority will keep the prevalence, prevention and reporting of sexual harassment and misconduct and gender-based violence under review.

Operators are strongly encouraged to develop a harm-reduction policy for their business and ensure sufficient measures to protect and provide support to customers in spiking and vulnerability incidents.

We aim to promote best practices, including the [Night Time Industry Association \(NTIA\) standards of good practice](#) for dealing with spiking and having a duty of care for customers (see Steps to Promote the Licensing Objectives) as well as integrate with other safety-related initiatives in the city:

- Promoting [Manchester's Women's night-time safety charter](#) and supporting the delivery of WAVE training across licensed premises
- Village Angels and Student Angels volunteer programmes
- The provision of a dedicated Welfare Unit offering medical and other support during weekends
- Proactive welfare checks at licensed premises
- The [Manchester Good Night Out Guide](#), promoting information for all visitors to Manchester on enjoying a safe night out in the city
- Working closely as part of the [Manchester Water Safety Partnership](#)
- Marshalled taxi ranks in our prominent night-time economy areas at weekends.

Reducing alcohol-related violence

The role of alcohol in the night-time economy is prominent, and the social and economic risks of its unmitigated and irresponsible supply and consumption for night-life participants and city residents alike are important considerations. Managing the adverse impacts of alcohol is a strategic priority to reduce levels of alcohol-related violence and antisocial behaviour, as well as the broader social costs associated with irresponsible supply and consumption of alcohol.

Overconsumption of alcohol at licensed premises is a principal contributor to alcohol-related harm and late-night incidents. Most measures intended to limit customer over-intoxification rely on actions being taken by the management and staff at the licensed premises. Therefore, responsible service and good-quality venue management are important. This policy sets out expectations for training in alcohol service, and the licensing authority encourages operators selling alcohol to support the development of their servers through holding personal licences.

Alcohol venue licence density can be a strong predictor of alcohol-related violence. Research acknowledges that a range of factors contribute to a higher risk of violence:

- Quantity of alcohol sold
- Level of adherence to responsible service guidelines
- Style of venue
- Trading hours
- Patron numbers and demographics
- Type of drinks consumed
- Socioeconomic factors
- Environmental characteristics and the density of alcohol outlets.

Licensing law is not the primary mechanism for the general control of nuisance and antisocial behaviour by individuals once they are away from the licensed premises; therefore, it has no bearing on the individual, club or business holding the licence, certificate or authorisation concerned. Nonetheless, it is a key aspect of such control and licensing law will always be part of a holistic approach to the management of the evening and night-time economy.

This policy aims to promote partnership across businesses involved in the city centre's night-time economy, improve information-sharing, and reduce levels of crime and disorder associated with licensed premises. Venues and operators are expected to collaborate locally to deter and prevent access by known troublemakers using facilities currently available, such as NITENET and DISC for city centre venues and local pubwatch networks.

Promoting Partnership working

NITENET and DISC

We aim to promote and support joined-up security and street operation between neighbouring premises. Within the city centre, we support the use of the NITENET radio network by licensed operators.

Manchester's Business Crime Reduction Partnership (BCRP) helps to create a safe and secure city for customers, staff and visitors by reporting and tackling business-related crime, supporting a city centre Civil Exclusion Scheme as well as managing access to the NITENET security radios connected to Manchester city centre's CCTV (closed circuit television) room, and real-time intelligence via a secure online portal (DISC) to see data on offenders.

The following three key criteria (one will suffice) will be considered:

1. Is the venue in a cluster of venues in the city centre (e.g. Peter Street, the Village)?
2. Is the venue situated in an area with known antisocial behaviour/crime issues?
3. Is the venue operating late at night?

Local area network meetings

The licensing authority and responsible authorities endeavour to provide effective support to operators and trade groups, including the Village Licensing Business Association (VLBA) and the Manchester Pub and Club Network, providing advice and guidance and effective personal engagement.

The Manchester Pub and Club Network meet approximately 3 to 4 times per year at venues across the city centre hosting various guest speakers that offer a citywide and national strategic view of the licensing sector. The aim of the network is:

- To bring licensed premises and key stakeholders together to form a strong localised and city-wide business network.
- To build relationships between all parties, and to identify and implement activity which will improve and enhance city wide trading conditions.
- To share information and sector relevant intelligence with Manchester City Council, Greater Manchester Police, GMFRS and other stakeholders, to the advantage of the network. (For example, changes to licensing regulations, trends in businesses crime, transport and infrastructure or opportunities such as local events and festivals.)

Localised Manchester Pub and Club networks meet on a quarterly basis and deal with day-to-day operations and localised issues including but not limited to changes to licensing regulations, trends in businesses crime, transport and infrastructure or opportunities such as local events.

These networks include:

- Northern Quarter 1 (Tariff st to Oldham Street)
- Northern Quarter 2 (Oldham st to Shudehill)
- Peter street area
- Oxford road area
- Deansgate Locks/First street
- Central Retail district
- Printworks/Exchange Square
- Ancoats
- Piccadilly Area

- Village area (in partnership with the VLBA)
- Castlefield (to be launched in 2024)

4. How we will consider Premises Licence applications

“...the simple question should be whether (the proposal) does any harm and, if it does, how this can be mitigated without disproportionate restraints.”⁵

Generally, licensing will focus on four main considerations:

- **What**
- **Where**
- **When**
- **How**

When considering these, it should be noted that licensed premises and the activities that take place at those premises exist in a dynamic environment, and so cannot be looked at entirely in isolation. There are multiple and intersecting factors; some of these can be controlled by licensed premises, while others are clearly external, that affect the premises' impact on the promotion of the licensing objectives.

Many factors are known to be compounding, e.g. overcrowding can combine with patron intoxication, lighting, loud noise and poor ventilation to elevate the risk of problems. Other factors have been shown to reduce alcohol-related harm, such as adequate lighting and well-trained, knowledgeable staff exercising due diligence. A comprehensive local area risk assessment helps evaluate the potential impact of granting a licence. The ability to appropriately assess risk and understanding of the local issues is also an appropriate consideration (see the operational standards of management). Therefore, failure to identify relevant concerns may be a relevant consideration.

When relevant representations are received, the authority will consider (without limitation) the following aspects of a relevant application when assessing the overall impact of a licence, authorisation or approval being granted:

⁵ Covid-19 and the future of the social economy, Philip Kolvin KC and Alicia Scholer (2020)
[Covid-19 and the future of the social economy - NIGHTTIME.ORG](https://www.nighttime.org.uk/covid-19-and-the-future-of-the-social-economy)

What

- Proposed licensable activities and how the application aligns with any Licensable Activity Special Policies (see below)
- Nature of the business and how this impacts on the mix of venue types, including non-alcohol-related entertainment options (see Venue diversity, density and availability in Section 3)
- Physical make-up of the business.

Where

- Location and suitability of the premises, including:
 - how the proposal aligns with the vision for the city (Section 3),
 - likely impacts on the locality, as set out in Section 4 below, and
 - any local area policy in Section 6.

When

- Days and hours of operation, particularly in relation to divergent phases of the night-time economy, as set out in Section 4:
 - Twilight (5–7pm)
 - Evening economy (6–10pm)
 - Night-time economy (9pm–1am)
 - Late night economy (12 midnight–4am+).

How

- Operational standards of management, licence conditions, and the ability of these to mitigate identified risks.

Licensable activities

The proposed licensable activities and how the application aligns with any Licensable Activity Special Policies (below).

Licensable Activity Special Policies

When representations are received for the application, the licensing authority intends to take the following approaches relating to the listed licensable activities:

LASP1 Boxing and wrestling

It is the Council's policy to refuse any application for bare-knuckle fighting or slap-fighting contests unless there are exceptional circumstances for granting. The licensing authority would expect any applicant for such events to provide comprehensive risk assessments, particularly around competitor safety, medical and safeguarding arrangements. The licensing authority considers these activities carry severe risks related to the welfare of participants and any applicant would be expected to provide compelling reasons how these would be addressed.

LASP2 Exhibition of films

It is the Council's policy that no R18-rated material should be shown without a sex cinema licence under the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 or where an exemption for such a licence has been granted by the Licensing Authority. This is to ensure that appropriate sex cinema provisions under the LGMPA can be exercised.

LASP3 Operation of Challenge 25 in age-verification policies

Mandatory licence conditions require all premises licensed to sell alcohol to have an age-verification system in place. The licensing authority's preferred approach is Challenge 25, whereby any person considered by the server to be under the age of 25 needs to provide proof that they are aged 18 or over. This is to promote vigilance in staff selling alcohol and to reduce the likelihood of underage alcohol sales.

LASP3 Delivery services (for alcohol and late-night refreshment)

In considering applications for delivery services, in addition to other relevant elements of the policy, the licensing authority will consider how the applicant will ensure that this service is not likely to adversely impact on the licensing objectives. Relevant considerations may include:

- How the proposal aligns with the [Best Practice for Rapid Delivery Services Delivering Age Restricted Products](#) by the Retail of Alcohol Standards Group (RASG)
- Whether delivery services will be carried out by third parties or in-house staff
- Nature of the vehicles used
- Likely local areas of delivery
- How vehicles and delivery couriers will service the venue (parking, waiting areas etc)
- Any contractual arrangements with delivery services, including disciplinary procedures
- History of compliance
- Any proposed restrictions on service
- Arrangements for age verification
- Prohibitions on delivering alcohol to open spaces or parks, such as Castlefield Arena, including associated landmarks

The authority considers there are risks associated with delivery services for alcohol and/or late-night refreshment:

- The deliveries would likely be to residential addresses where there was a risk of noise nuisance at the delivery point
- Public nuisance can arise from delivery activities due to noise and disturbance during the collection process and the delivery process
- Alcohol for immediate consumption delivered in the early hours of the morning is likely to be consumed by someone who has already been drinking.
- At off-licensed premises, there is direct supervision when a customer places an order for alcohol. Staff can refuse to serve a customer who appears to be intoxicated or underage. Refusal logs are kept; CCTV is available to be reviewed by the responsible authorities

- Delivery drivers and riders contravening highway regulations, including illegal parking, riding through red lights, jump between pavement and road lane cycling, and cycle without lights
- Where alcohol is served by a delivery, the items have already been paid for before the courier arrives at the delivery location. Typically, couriers will wish to finish the job as soon as possible and it is questionable whether it can be reasonably expected that a courier, eager for the next job, would robustly carry out the necessary checks, e.g. wait for a customer to produce ID documents or to show that the recipient is the same person who placed the original order, associated with refusing the sale of alcohol and then having to deal with the added workload of returning the goods
- The responsible authorities are unable to effectively check couriers in a delivery-only model as envisaged by the appellant
- The risk of alcohol deliveries to public drinking hotspot areas, landmarks, or events and contravention of the city's Public Space Protection Order on drinking alcohol in unlicensed public areas

Although home delivery reduces footfall in night-life areas, it carries the risks outlined, and applications for delivery services will be considered on their respective merits, having regard to how effectively such risks are identified and addressed through any specific measures and processes the applicant or third party has put forward to mitigate them.

Where relevant representations have been received in relation to applications for premises that provide a delivery service for alcohol, we shall consider imposing a condition (or conditions) that those deliveries are only made to a fixed physical address, that goods are only left to the named purchaser and where a Challenge 25 check is completed and recorded before alcohol is handed over. This is to avoid risks of alcohol being supplied to underage persons or that are likely to undermine the council's PSPO on alcohol consumption in unlicensed public places.

LASP4: Alcohol supplies in residential and office environments, including the use of vending machines for alcohol or autonomous technology

There is a growing trend for accommodation and co-working spaces to seek to provide alcohol to residents, employees and their guests by way of bar facilities or vending machine. In all cases, the licensing authority will expect applicants to demonstrate how their operational setup ensures compliance with the mandatory licensing objectives, particularly in relation to refusing service to intoxicated people and how their age verification policy will, as a minimum, require individuals who appear to the responsible person to be under the age of 18 years of age to produce on request (before being served alcohol) identification bearing their photograph, date of birth, and a holographic mark. We will also expect applicants to provide appropriate time limits for the supply of alcohol and limit the products available e.g. by way of ABV, as well as staffing and supervision arrangements to avoid risks of antisocial behaviour and intoxication, particularly during later hours.

For applications to provide the supply of alcohol by way of a vending machine, the licensing authority's starting point will be for such machines to require appropriate checks to take place before alcohol can be supplied before such machines can be activated for each transaction. We

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will also expect low and no-alcoholic product options to be provided alongside to promote responsible alcohol consumption.

Nature of the business

While many venues typically may not neatly fit a generic category, understanding the primary nature of the venues will be influential in anticipating the likely effect on the promotion of the licensing objectives, as some venues can typically have a lower impact.

Typically, licensed premises will provide varying dynamics between drink, food and entertainment provision dependent on the operating style. However, the alcohol-centric nature of the late-night economy means controlling the availability of alcohol will typically be a prime factor in controlling the risk of incidents of violence and antisocial behaviour during this period. Therefore, the licensing authority will take a stricter view in relation to the supply of alcohol at venues in areas where the balance is not struck.

However, this principle ultimately applies to all venue types. Venues may be defined as follows but are not limited to:

- Drinking establishment
- Entertainment venue

Experiential entertainment venue, such as Escape Rooms, Minigolf venues

- Food and dining venue
- Hot-food takeaway
- Dark kitchen - food preparation facilities designed solely for the purpose of preparing food for delivery or takeout and operating without a traditional front-of-house dining area, instead, they focus exclusively on cooking and fulfilling orders for delivery through various food delivery apps or platforms.
- Off-licence – retail providing the sale of alcohol for consumption off the premises
- Alcohol delivery services – supplying alcohol through fulfilling orders for delivery only from a remote storage site.
- Hotels and other residential properties, including offices and co-working spaces
- Art gallery, Museum, and Library
- Market, including night market
- Artisan food and drink producers, including microbreweries and tap rooms
- Other commercial (miscellaneous).

The licensing authority recognises that a venue may transform how it operates throughout the day and night, particularly in relation to the focus on alcohol and entertainment versus food-led operations. It is important that the proposed operating style of the venue is transparently described and demonstrated to enable licensing controls, including relevant conditions and plans of management to help manage elevated risks, if appropriate. Equally, we recognise the increasing flexible use of venues through the growing business model of multiple offerings, e.g. bookstores, record stores and galleries that provide a complementary amenity or service.

Applicants are encouraged to clearly describe and set out what their business will be, for example, copies of menus, indicative layout, concept brochure or document.

While many types of venue will be self-evident, in considering the differences between certain operating styles, the licensing authority will apply the following general principles for the following types of venue:

Drinking establishment: where the primary purpose of the business or activity carried out on the premises is the sale or supply of alcohol for consumption on the premises. While entertainment (e.g. live performers, karaoke) is often featured and food is often available at pubs, bars and clubs, in practice, alcohol consumption is typically the primary activity at premises with a bar accessed by customers and/or where there is vertical drinking.

Food and dining venue: alcohol service is predominantly ancillary to the primary activity of providing meals and dining facilities, and food is served at all times. Consideration will be given to the availability of (and nature of) non-alcoholic drinks and food available for purchase during the hours that alcohol is sold.

Entertainment venue: used primarily for live performances or other creative or cultural events. This includes music halls, concert halls, dance halls and theatres. Entertainment acts are promoted, and one or more persons are engaged to play or perform live in person. The audience typically leaves at the end of the performance. A live music performance is an event where one or more persons are engaged to play or perform live or pre-recorded music in person, but not including karaoke. A grassroots music venue will be recognised in line with the [definition](#) used by the [Music Venue Trust](#), as originally contained in the Mayor of London's Music Venue Rescue Plan (October 2015).

Off-licence: the degree of alcohol sales will be a relevant consideration, but this category includes supermarkets, mini-markets, convenience stores and similar.

Hot-food takeaway: the supply of hot food late at night typically for consumption off the premises, but may also provide dine-in facilities. Consideration will be given to the dynamics between eat-in/takeaway/delivery at the premises.

Physical make-up of the premises

A thorough evaluation of the physical make-up of the premises helps identify potential risks and allows for the implementation of necessary mitigation measures. Key aspects to consider include:

- The scale: that is, its size, layout and the maximum number of persons the premises can accommodate (including the density of customers, seating vs standing provision, and how accessible it is) can also influence its effects, as patron density and/or the number of people in a licensed premises at any given time can have a significant impact on the atmosphere and safety of the venue. Whether entertainment is to be provided or not, and its nature, may also be relevant in considering the scale of the proposal.
- Layout and design: The layout and design of the premises should facilitate smooth and safe movement of patrons, staff, and emergency personnel. It should also provide

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adequate space for licensable activities without causing overcrowding or obstruction of exits. It should also consider areas proposed to be used for smoking, queuing, and other external activities.

- **Accessibility:** The premises should be accessible to all individuals, including those with disabilities. This may involve providing ramps, lifts, or other facilities to ensure compliance with the Equality Act 2010.
- **Noise control:** The physical make-up of the premises should take into account noise-reduction measures to minimise disturbance to neighbouring properties and prevent public nuisance. This may include soundproofing, appropriate placement of speakers, or limiting outdoor activities.
- **Fire safety and emergency exits:** The premises should comply with fire safety regulations, including the provision of adequate emergency exits, fire alarms, extinguishers and escape routes. The physical make-up should ensure that these safety features are clearly visible, accessible and unobstructed.
- **Security measures:** The premises should incorporate security features to prevent crime and disorder, such as CCTV cameras, secure access points, and well-lit areas.
- **Sanitation and hygiene:** The physical make-up should include adequate facilities for maintaining cleanliness, such as toilets, appropriate having regard to the nature and size of the venue, the clientele, such as the likely degree of alcohol consumption.
- **Age-restricted areas:** If the premises cater for adults and minors, there should be separation of age-restricted areas, ensuring the protection of children from harm.
- The location and suitability of the premises

Relevant considerations will include proximity to residential uses, transport, other venues, the number and density of alcohol outlets currently in the vicinity, cumulative impact, transport problems, sensitive nearby uses or issues (e.g. begging/alcohol abuse), and public space protection orders.

The nature and makeup of the surrounding buildings or activities as well as the physical environment will be an essential consideration, e.g. whether or not the area is wholly residential or commercial/industrial, the availability of space, and what cumulative social impact the addition of a further premises of the type, scale and with the trading hours proposed is likely to have upon the local community/locality. Issues could include transport problems, overcrowding of footpaths, increased pedestrian traffic, littering, noise pollution and the prevailing exposure of the local and broader communities to relevant types of antisocial behaviour and crime, including the proximity of any 'hotspots' for the occurrence of such incidents; and including:

- a. **How the proposal aligns with the vision for the city (Section 3)**
- b. **Relevant matters stated in any local area policy in Section 6.**

The days and hours of operation

The hours of operation should be considered in relation to divergent phases of the night-time economy, as set out in Section 4:

- **Twilight (5–7pm)**

- **Evening economy (6–10pm)**
- **Night-time economy (9pm–1am)**
- **Late-night economy (12 midnight to 4am+).**

Other relevant considerations include how the proposed hours compare with other uses in the vicinity, particularly in relation to the likelihood of nuisance and creating peaks of dispersal, and the availability of other services, e.g. transport.

It is important for licensed premises to carefully consider the potential risks associated with their opening hours and any appropriate steps to manage them effectively, which may include:

- **Alcohol-related harm:** Longer opening hours can lead to increased alcohol consumption, which can increase the risk of alcohol-related harm, such as impaired judgment, accidents, or violence.
- **Noise pollution:** Late-night opening hours can result in increased noise levels, which can disturb nearby residents and potentially result in noise complaints. This also includes the risk of transient noise arising from patrons, particularly at departure.
- **Increased crime risk:** Late-night opening hours can increase the risk of crime, particularly if the venue is in an area with a high crime rate. Venues that are open late into the night may also attract customers who are more likely to become intoxicated or engage in risky behaviour.
- **Staff fatigue:** Longer opening hours can result in staff working longer shifts, which can increase the risk of fatigue and potentially affect the quality of service provided.

Operational standards of management

Effective management is essential for the safe, compliant and successful operation of bars and clubs. It helps to ensure that the establishment is providing good-quality customer service, maintaining financial viability, and building a positive reputation within the community.

A primary responsibility of any licensed premises is to ensure the safety of its patrons and staff. Effective management is essential in ensuring that safety protocols and procedures are in place and being followed, and that potential safety risks are identified and addressed promptly. Licensed premises are subject to numerous regulations and laws related to Health and Safety, alcohol service, noise levels, and more. It is essential to ensure that these regulations are understood and complied with.

The reputation of a venue is critical to its success. Ensuring that staff are well trained and knowledgeable, that service is prompt and courteous, and that the venue is clean and well maintained contributes to the likelihood that an establishment is viewed positively by customers, staff and the broader community. It also helps to attract new customers and retain existing ones.

As the licensing authority, we want to ensure that venues will operate to high standards generally.

The licensing authority encourages licensees to adopt the NTIA (Night Time Industries Association) Standards of Good Practice,⁶ as appropriate to their business. Existing licensed premises are also strongly encouraged to incorporate these within their operating practices, irrespective of whether they have relevant conditions on their licence.

When considering the level of management standard, relevant matters may include:

- Whether there is effective engagement with residents, businesses, the local authority and other statutory bodies to address concerns and ensure compliance with any relevant regulatory requirements.
- Any history of incidents and the track record of compliance with legal requirements.
- Understanding of relevant challenges related to the operation of the business, including best practice, research or knowledge of the local area, and ability to show understanding of local community concerns.
- Knowledge of the licensing objectives, relevant parts of this licensing policy, and responsibilities under the Licensing Act 2003.
- Staff compliance with legislation and venue policies, including emergency procedures, how staff are trained in relevant legislation for their employment (including the licence conditions) to promote the growth of skills within hospitality.⁷
- Use of comprehensive risk assessments for activities at the premises and implementing them in practice effectively.
- Any voluntary approach to partnership initiatives and adoption of best practices, including any that may be relevant to the delivering strategic objectives for Manchester (see Section 3), which may demonstrate the qualities of a responsible operator.

Therefore, it may be beneficial for operators to prepare a Plan of Management for their venue, which sets out company policies and procedures underpinning its operation (see Appendix D) and to make this available to the responsible authorities. Licence applicants may consider providing these in support of any application to demonstrate their standards of management. However, there is no requirement to do so.

Where an application's operating schedule references specific plans and policies, e.g. a smoking management plan or a dispersal plan, it may be appropriate to propose conditions linked to them, e.g. prohibiting amendment to them without prior consultation and approval. In such cases, the respective documents should be provided with the application.

Impacts on the locality:

Applications will be expected to be assessed in respect of the likely impacts on the promotion of the licensing objectives locally. Relevant considerations are:

⁶ <https://www.ntia.co.uk/ntia-standards-of-good-practice/>

⁷ [gm-skills-intelligence-pack-hospitality-sept-2021.pdf \(greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk\)](https://www.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk/gm-skills-intelligence-pack-hospitality-sept-2021.pdf)

Noise pollution: level of disruption to local residents and businesses

Public disturbances: rowdy and antisocial behaviour in the vicinity, including public street drinking

Traffic issues: congestion from taxis and private hire vehicles, customer vehicles

Crime: impact on the risk of crime and disorder issues, including in the vicinity of the premises

Litter and cleanliness: litter from takeaway wrappers and discarded containers, presentation of waste for collection, smashed glass.

Community cohesion: divisions or conflicts among businesses and residents, protecting vulnerable populations including those in temporary accommodation, taking into account community demographics and levels of deprivation

Loss of character: the impact on the wider dynamics of an area, including the risk of a developing monoculture, particularly in respect of alcohol

Accessibility and inclusivity: the proposed business's accessibility and inclusivity for all members of the community, including any impact on licensee's duties under the Equalities Act 2006

Environmental impact*

Hygiene and food safety*

*insofar as relevant to the promotion on the licensing objectives

5. Steps to promote the licensing objectives

This section sets out a range of considerations, based on different stages and types of operation, that may be relevant when considering appropriate measures to address in operational management plans and policies, as well as proposing appropriate licence conditions.

The headlines and bullet points are provided as a guide of relevant considerations, but all parties should consider and address any matter they consider appropriate for the promotion of the licensing objectives, relevant to the individual merits of an application or venue. Measures are typically scalable, i.e. levels of security or medical equipment will be expected to be higher at venues where there is a higher risk, e.g. higher capacities or higher risk of crime.

All relevant steps will be expected to be addressed by an applicant as appropriate, and where relevant representations have been made, applications will be assessed on the degree to which they are.

Where the proposed business intends to operate:

- i. In any area where there are **Special Area Policies (Section 6)**, and/or
- ii. As an alcohol-led venue in the **NTE**; and/or
- iii. During the **late-night economy period (all venues)**.

The licensing authority would expect all applicants for new licences and non-minor variations to be able to demonstrate how relevant risks and likely impacts have been identified and will be addressed through the operating practices of the business. However, there is no requirement to do so. When considering relevant local risks, we encourage applicants to consult with the local community and key stakeholders.

Operational considerations (as relevant)

Where relevant representations have been made, we will particularly consider the following:

Pre-opening

Ensure customers are provided with key information and the venue is safe to open to the public

- Use of tickets, website and social media, and customer contact information to promote key messages.
- How the venue is safe and secure to admit members of the public (see Appendix D for suggested checks).

Arrival

Ensure safe and orderly entry arrangements for the venue. Relevant steps may include:

- Days/times and functions of SIA-registered door supervisors (see Provision of door supervisors)
- Queuing arrangements to prevent obstruction or disturbance, e.g. direction/boundary, use of apps to minimise queuing, use of barriers, staffing arrangements
- Search requirements, including CCTV coverage of search area, detection devices (to detect weapons and drugs, e.g. knife arch, search wands), and how seized items will be managed
- Refusing admission (for underage/drunk/disorderly/suspected or known drug dealer), including non-discriminatory practices
- Use of NITENET radio system and joint security/street operation with neighbouring premises, including use of DISC for identifying known offenders
- Capacity control through use of manual clickers or other technology
- Restrictions on children's presence and/or measures to prevent them from harm, considering the licensable activities carried out.

Physical security measures in place

Deter and detect criminal activity and ensure the safety of patrons and staff:

- Martyn's Law measures (see below)
- CCTV: coverage, image quality, provision of recordings to enforcement agencies Required staffing, e.g. toilet attendants, proactive monitoring by staff/glass collectors
- Lighting
- Use of polycarbonate alternatives to glassware
- Measures to protect against thefts (e.g. through use of Chelsea hooks, free cloakrooms, messaging, hotspot analysis of incidents, deployment of security in key locations, signage, CCTV coverage).

Door supervisors

Security staff provision is assessed by reference to ratio and functions of door supervisors with consideration given to industry standards in terms of ratio of doorstaff.

- How they will be provide a visible presence e.g. through wearing Hi-Viz jackets / vests / armbands
- Provision of suitable PPE for door supervisors
- Periods they will be employed (days/times) so as to ensure the start time is appropriate to capture the likely arrival of the majority of customers at peak times, and they remain on duty until the premises have closed and the customers have dispersed from the premises
- Any required ratio of male/female door supervisors. We recommend that at least one male and one female door supervisor is employed where the venue has a policy of searching customers;
- Where (any particular locations of the venue)

- Requirements for use of bodycams . We would generally expect door supervisors to be equipped with bodycams at venues where there is a higher risk of violent incidents and/or ejections or refusals of entry, particularly if operating during the late night economy
- Requirement to ensure door supervisors are briefed on their responsibilities and aware of company policies and procedures (including capacity limits and emergency procedures) before starting duty
- Maintenance of a register to ensure all identities of door supervisors can be verified, their SIA (Security Industry Authority) registrations are active, and the correct licence type is used, i.e.. door supervisor
- Security briefings to exchange information and intelligence at the start and end of duty
- Specifying the use of SIA-approved Contractor Scheme companies.

Martyn's Law

To promote the adoption of Martyn's Law in licensed premises to ensure licensed premises are adequately prepared for and equipped to respond in the event of a terrorist incident.

The licensing authority continues to deliver free [ACT \(Action Counters Terrorism\) Awareness counter terrorism training](#) courses delivered for licensed premises for venue operators, Designated Premises Supervisors, and those in managerial positions. We strongly encourage licensed premises to incorporate the freely accessible ACT E-learning as part of wider staff training packages.

The licensing authority also expects that:

- Steps taken to ensure all people employed at the premises whose job includes being alert to the terrorist threat are aware of:
 - the current terrorist threat level
 - what that level means in relation to the possibility of an attack.
- Risk assessments for public entertainment venues include consideration of the risk of a terrorist attack and the different types of attack.
- All persons responsible for security are briefed at every event about the current threat level and risk of terrorist attack.
- All public-facing staff must be clear about what to do if the public report suspicious activity or unusual behaviour to them. All suspicious behaviour by customers or members of the public close to the venue must be noted and be reported promptly so that investigations can be made, and action taken, if appropriate.
- Where hostile reconnaissance is suspected it needs to be properly recorded and reported back to the police. If unnecessary reports are made, the remedy should be to train staff better to recognise suspicious behaviour, rather than criticise them for making the report. Suspicious behaviour should only be ignored when an innocent explanation has been verified. Briefings to security staff need to include details of the suspected hostile reconnaissance – this is so staff know what has happened and know what to look out for.
- The venue has robust procedures and relevant training in place and staff are knowledgeable of those procedures to be taken and the necessity of following them in the event of a terrorist incident, such as firearms or weapons attack, including:
 - Evacuation/Invacuation/Lockdown

- RUN/HIDE/TELL principles
- How customers will be safeguarded.
- Applying the 4Cs protocol when dealing with suspicious items.
- Staff are knowledgeable of the HOT principle for identifying suspicious packages.
- Staff understand how to identify suspicious behaviour.
- Staff are knowledgeable of the ETHANE principle for reporting incidents, including suspicious activity.
- First aid kits and any medical equipment are appropriately provided, fully stocked, staff are aware of where they are kept, and staff are suitably trained.
- Measures to alert staff and visitors of any immediate threat or incident.
- Rehearsal requirements for emergency procedures (no less than six months).
- Provision of PACT (Public Access Trauma) kits in strategic locations on the premises.

Customer behaviour management

- The strategies in place for managing customer behaviour, such as managing intoxication, and their effectiveness in reducing the risk of violence and other security or safety incidents, as well as having a clear policy for dealing with unruly patrons.
- Steps to ensure effective management at the premises to monitor when it is open for licensable activities.
- The number of staff available to supervise customers both ordinarily and in emergencies

Crowd control

Venues should have a clear policy for managing large crowds, such as during concerts or sporting events. This may include implementing a capacity limit, managing entry and exit points, and having staff members trained in crowd control techniques.

Spiking and vulnerability

- Physical and other measures to prevent the spiking of drinks at the premises, i.e. where drugs or alcohol are added to someone's drink without them knowing
- WAVE and active bystander training for staff
- How the venue will encourage an active bystander approach
- Having designated, trained welfare staff
- Mobile phone-charging facilities for customers
- Providing a safe space for welfare or first aid while getting further help
- Arrangements to ensure the safe transport home of vulnerable customers, or requesting medical assistance when needed
- Provision and use of treatment and recuperation rooms.

Drugs

How drugs misuse will be deterred and responsibly managed at the venue, e.g.

- How illegal drugs (including nitrous oxide) will be prevented from being brought into the premises, what action the venue will take should anyone be caught with drugs on the premises, and how the drugs will be disposed of

- The use of effective risk assessment based on audience and event profile
- The use of toilet attendants or regular documented toilet checks
- Drug swabbing in WCs
- Searches of the premises
- Training of staff in drug awareness to identify and prevent the supply and use of both illegal drugs and new psychoactive substances
- Physical measures to deter drug use on the premises
- Medical provision and welfare arrangements for dealing with drug use
- Harm-reduction measures in place, such as [MANDRAKE](#), and [The Loop](#)
- Signage and welfare information in the venue.

Promoting women's safety

- Steps to deliver on the Manchester's commitments:
 - [Appoint a Champion](#): appointing a named contact for this work, who will champion and drive forward any action taken
 - [Communicate](#): positive, public/staff-facing communications campaign, both online and in your space(s)
 - [Support your staff](#): create routes for reporting unacceptable behaviour while at work and supporting cultural change
 - [Support the public](#): create routes for reporting unacceptable behaviour while using your service or space at night
 - [Training and responding](#): staff training on the issue, including what to say and do, what not to say and do, and any relevant policies
 - [Training: recording](#): staff training on information-sharing and appropriate recording of details
 - [Designing for safety](#): audit your spaces and adapt them to promote a safer environment and reduce risk of crime
- Respect messaging (including in WCs)
- NITENET
- How the venue will encourage an active bystander approach
- Operate the Ask for Angela campaign
- WAVE and active bystander training for staff
- Specifying if communal toilets are provided. (Note: The starting point will be to refuse the provision of communal toilet areas in any NTE or late-night economy venue. Any application intending to provide communal facilities will be expected to demonstrate a clear plan for how such facilities will be safeguarded.)

Supply of alcohol

The measures employed to comply with legal requirements and promote responsible alcohol consumption:

- Comprehensive Alcohol Management Plan (Appendix D)
- Server training requirements consistent with policy expectations (Appendix D)

- Promote free availability of water through clear signage at bars
- Provision of smaller measures, i.e. 25ml spirit measures
- Designated driver scheme
- Displaying relevant information and posters throughout the premises that state staff have a duty to prevent the sale of alcohol to customers who are drunk
- Limits on the alcoholic strength by volume inside different beverage categories, e.g. beers, lagers, ciders, wines
- Restrictions on products that encourage rapid down-in-one drinking or large quantities for self-service
- Providing multiple personal licence holders on the premises
- Avoiding promotion or sale of alcoholic drinks that are more likely to appeal to underage drinkers or that encourage excessive consumption
- Use of polycarbonate or plastic glasses either as routine practice or during particular times of high risk
- How age restrictions are enforced on the premises, for example through:
 - Operation of Challenge 25 policy
 - Details of what forms of ID are acceptable
 - The use of electronic till prompts
 - The maintenance of refusal logs
 - Staff training
 - Use of mystery shopping.
- Steps to preventing proxy sales occurring, for example through:
 - Regular checks around and/or outside the premises for underage persons encouraging adults to purchase alcohol for them
 - Use of CCTV, particularly in external areas
 - Displaying prominent notices in the premises explaining the law in relation to purchasing alcohol on behalf of persons under 18 and the penalties involved.

Where there is an issue with street drinking:

- Banning high-strength beer, wine and cider; large bottles of white cider; single cans and bottles
- No end-of-aisle promotions, displays near the door or out of sight of the counter, or anywhere except behind the counter
- Prohibiting sales to known street drinkers or other persons, when notified to the premises by the police or local authority
- Avoidance of external promotions of alcohol, including window displays and A-boards
- Signage promoting any local Public Space Protection and staff reinforcing the 'No Street Drinking' warning at point of sales
- Keeping alcohol products in areas where staff can effectively monitor to guard against the risks of shoplifting, and to deter attempts by underage persons to purchase, e.g. use of spotter screens.

Where alcohol deliveries are carried out:

- Implement age-verification procedures at both the point-of-sale and delivery stages, with a Challenge 25 policy implemented at the point of delivery.
- Make clear to customers that receipt of orders that have alcohol must be by an adult.
- Ensure that delivery staff have been given proper training in procedures relating to requesting and identifying proof of age and implement these procedures as standard.
- Include the name of the business and website on any promotional material, e.g. flyers/business cards, and ensure messaging is consistent with the responsible sale of alcohol. Additionally, any website URL or telephone number to be used for orders is expected to be given to the licensing authority.
- Not supply any new psychoactive substances (NPS), such as nitrous oxide.
- Refuse deliveries in situations experiencing alcohol-related nuisance or disorder, and ensure that alcohol is not given to persons who appear drunk. The delivery of alcohol to problematic house parties causing local nuisance and disorder has been a problem in some areas of the city.

Incident planning and response

Ensuring effective response plans and staff are equipped to respond to serious incidents and emergencies such as fire, medical incidents, or violent incidents:

- Staff (including door staff) knowledgeable of emergency procedures, location of emergency exits, evacuation procedures, incident-reporting
- First aid and medical provision for the public – training, staffing, equipment
- Crime-scene preservation training and procedures
- Water safety training and equipment. Where the premises is in close proximity to any waterways, we will expect appropriate water safety measures to be provided in the operating schedule relating to the provision of safety equipment, risk assessments, and training
- Provision of PAcT kits and their location(s) at the venue
- Public liability insurance
-
- Fire Safety Compliance: Where applicable, the premises must comply with The Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005. When a licence is in force in relation to that premises, there is also a duty to record the significant findings of the fire risk assessment that you must have in place and, where relevant, to record any persons, especially at risk. In particular, the fire risk assessment should consider the following, in the event of a fire:
 - Adequacy of the means of raising the alarm
 - Occupancy number to ensure safe escape
 - Adequacy of the means of escape

(We encourage a copy of this being submitted to the fire authority when making any application for a new licence or variation affecting the premises layout.)

Entertainment-specific requirements

Ensure that public entertainments are provided safely

- Boxing and wrestling: contest rules, medical arrangements, security and stewarding arrangements,
- Special effects: requirement for risk assessments to be provided to Environmental Health at least 14 days in advance.
- Restrictions on the use of bottle sparklers/ice fountains
- if they intend to hold promoted **'club' events aimed at, or likely to attract, persons under 18**. The licensing authority expects robust safeguarding and security measures to be in place, supported by documented risk assessments to address potential risks associated with such an activity.
- Include **arrangements for restricting children from viewing age-restricted films** classified according to the recommendations of the British Board of Film Classification or the licensing authority itself (exhibition of films).
- Address **whether any performance may include sensitive or controversial themes**, and how **child performers will be safeguarded for any performances involving children**.
- For any **exhibition of wrestling or boxing**: details of any sanctioning body, the rules that will apply, risk assessment to include the risk of conflict between rival groups of supporters, and the provisions in place to ensure fighter safety and medical welfare.
- Where **entertainment or services of an adult or sexual nature** are to be provided, the following need to be specified: the nature of the entertainment, the location of the premises in relation to their proximity to sensitive uses, how the exclusion of under-18s from the premises will be managed, and how the provision of 'relevant entertainment' (if any) is in line with the Council's Policy and Standard Conditions for sex establishments. Kink events and activities – promoters will be expected to work closely with Health Protection Team (Department of Public Health) in relation to licensed premises which may operate regular/ pop up sex on premises events as well as licensed SEVs as well as adhere to industry code of practice to ensure appropriate safeguards are in place.

Other safety arrangements

- Prior notification to the emergency services of special events
- Temporary electrical installations;
- Required safety checks (before, during and after regulated entertainment);
- Facilities for disabled people, particularly in an emergency

Limiting noise and other nuisances

Ensure that sound systems and other noise-generating equipment are professionally installed and maintained, and how potential noise nuisances will be controlled:

- Steps taken or proposed to be taken to prevent noise and vibration from escaping from the premises, including music noise, and voices (Note: Any new venues must be soundproofed so established residences in the area are not disturbed by the noise)
- Controls or restrictions on amplified sound
- Monitoring and managing ambient noise from outside areas

- Noise assessments, particularly in relation to outdoor and rooftop terraces and the risk of noise travel, as well as the impact on any increase on the existing soundscape and the risk of nuisance arising.
- Preventing nuisance from the positioning and operating of plant machinery, such as kitchen extract systems, as well as preventing nuisance from odours
- Avoiding light pollution
- Steps to prevent nuisance associated with deliveries, such as the use of electric delivery vehicles.

Litter

To ensure the venue and perimeter is kept tidy and free from litter:

- Providing adequate waste bins
- staff to clean the surrounding area as required during operation and at the close of business
- Use of branded wrappers, so far as is reasonably practicable
- No use of avoidable single-use plastics
- Limited packaging, which should be the most environmentally-friendly option.
- Commercial refuse arrangements, which should not be put out no earlier than 2 hours before scheduled collection time
- Preventing the risk of additional litter (including flyposters, smoking materials or illegal placards) in the vicinity of the premises

Control of smoking and external areas

To ensure these areas will be effectively operated and managed to avoid causing nuisance and obstructions, such as:

- Customer numbers permitted in such areas
- Hours
- Location and how it will be delineated
- Supervision arrangements, including any CCTV coverage, preventing begging, clearing litter
- Restrictions of use of glassware
- Preventing illegal parking and obstruction of emergency and other vehicles.
- Management of such areas in tandem with any (smoke-free) pavement licence
- Smoking area locations not under residential windows and balconies or in front of residential doorways

Departure

To ensure the orderly exit and dispersal of customers from the premises, minimise the potential for crime and disturbance as customers leave the premises, and ensure the safe transportation of staff:

- Willingness to stagger hours with nearby competing venues to avoid patrons competing for limited transport options late at night

- Whether there are safe transport home policies for all workers consistent with the [Get Me Home Safely](#) campaign
- Having a policy in place to prevent drunk driving, such as providing taxi services for patrons who are too intoxicated to drive
- Displaying details of local taxi services, mini-cabs and public transport
- Regular collection of empty glasses and bottles, particularly just after closing
- Displaying notices near the exit:
 - that leaving with glasses and bottles is not allowed
 - requesting customers to leave quietly
- The role of door supervisors (or other staff) in managing persons leaving through:
 - encouraging customers to finish their drinks and make their way to the exit
 - drawing the attention of departing customers to any notices in the foyer asking them to leave quietly, and to be considerate by ensuring that bottles and glasses are taken from customers as they leave
 - actively encouraging customers not to congregate outside the premises
 - directing customers to the nearest taxi ranks, or other transportation away from the area
 - preventing street urination in proximity of the venue.

Post-operation

- Cleansing arrangements for the immediate perimeter of the venue (sweeping/wet washing)
- Times of emptying bottles into refuse containers to avoid disturbing local residents and businesses
- How commercial waste is properly presented for collection
- Engagement with local residents and businesses, such as providing dedicated phone lines for reporting issues, and holding periodic meetings to discuss any issues.

Engagement with local authorities and neighbours

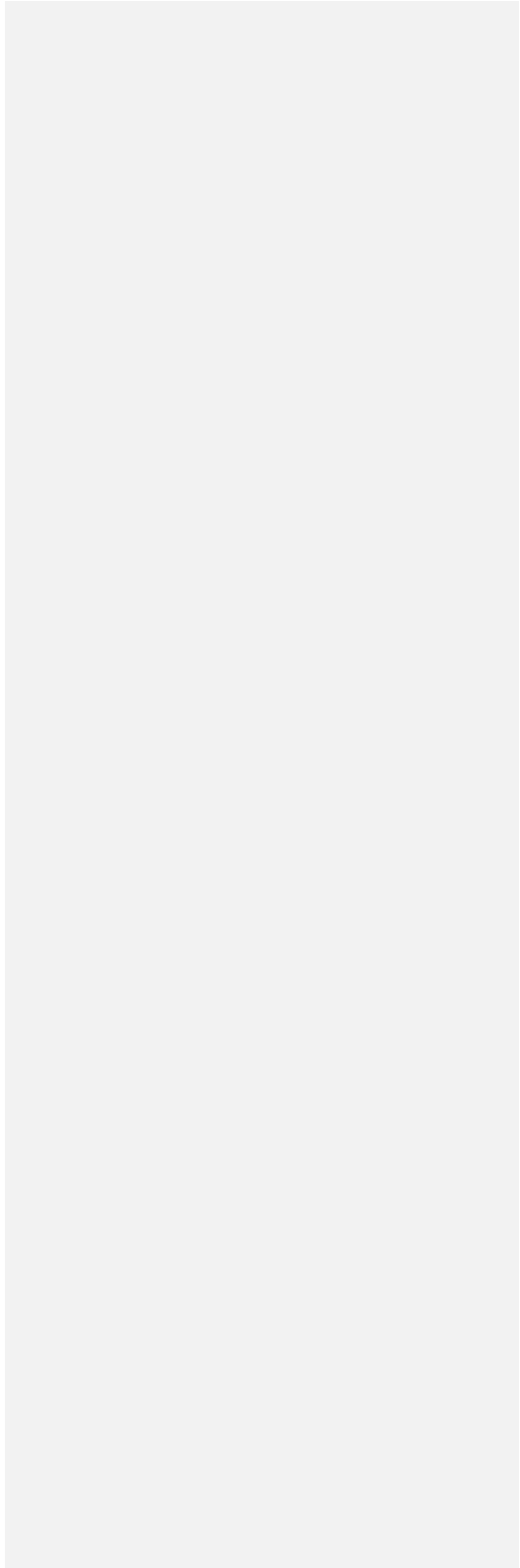
We recognise that it is unrealistic to expect that crimes and incidents will not happen in licensed premises, particularly where alcohol is a factor. However, we want to encourage reporting of incidents and raising any issues of local concern by operators, so that we can work in partnership with them to resolve matters. We want to encourage and support responsible businesses to operate better, not put them out of business.

- We also encourage licensed premises to be good neighbours, which can be achieved by engaging effectively (see Appendix D) with neighbouring residents and businesses, providing dedicated phone lines, and committing to periodic meetings.

Staff training and procedures

- Specified training requirements for staff commensurate to their role and responsibilities.
- Specified frequency for reviewing and updating policies and procedures to ensure they remain effective and up to date.

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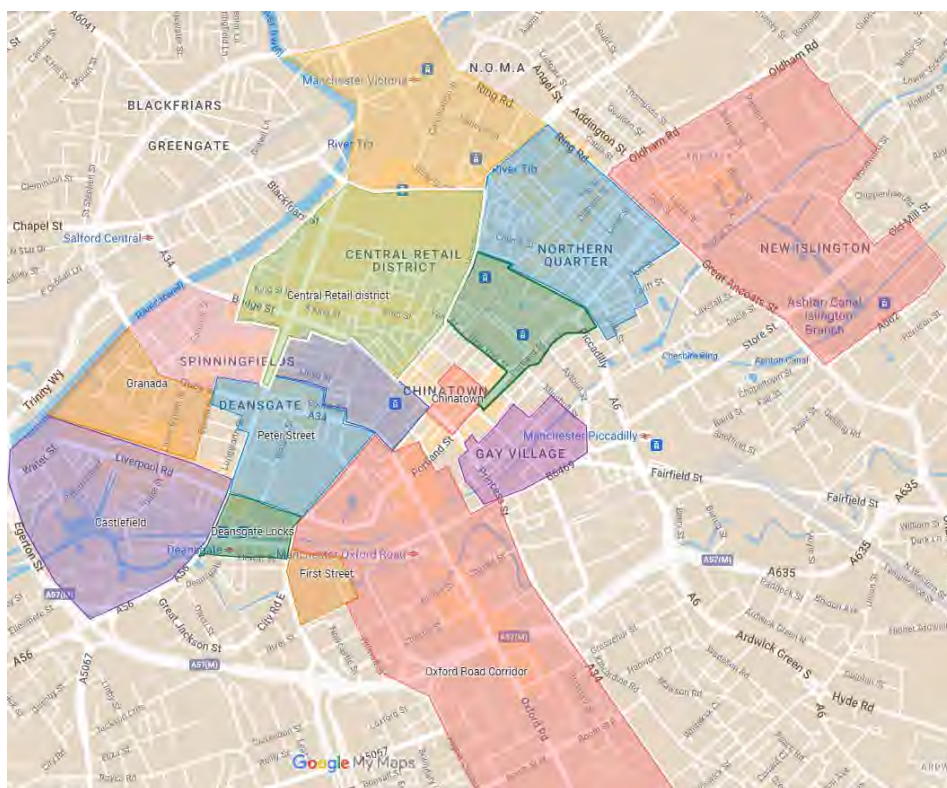


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6. Area-based policies

The economic geography of Manchester city centre is rapidly evolving, with major growth and significant development over recent years. Night-time activity happens in a variety of locations across the city and several distinct nightlife areas have emerged.

Most of Manchester city centre's night-time economy takes place across several night-life clusters: Peter Street, Printworks, Deansgate Locks, the Gay Village, Stevenson Square and Northern Quarter, Oxford Road Corridor, Spinningfields, Chinatown, Cutting Room Square (Ancoats), Deansgate (end), and Piccadilly.



Outside the city centre, established night-life clusters exist in several of Manchester's larger district centres, which generate significant employment opportunities and act as destinations, such as Rusholme, Didsbury Village, and Chorlton; several areas support minor night-life clusters, which also play a key role in the wider city dynamics of the city at night, such as Fallowfield, Withington, and Burton Road in West Didsbury.

New areas continue to emerge, including Red Bank, the Poland Street Zone, and St John's (the former Granada site around the new Factory International venue), and this policy aims to take a proactive approach to the development of licensed premises in such areas.

We will continue to monitor the development of areas such as Northenden, as well as other areas with clusters of licensed premises and associated impacts, such as Moston Lane and Levenshulme.

Each area has its own significant sense of local character, alongside a unique set of challenges and opportunities. This policy focuses on these unique characteristics as key resources in the development of a licensed and night-time economy that reflects a diversity of participants and a range of leisure, cultural and lifestyle options. However, not all areas have definitive boundaries, and identities can blur and overlap between neighbouring areas. Therefore, when applying the policy, any local area boundary shown in this document should be considered as indicative only.

We are adopting this policy with the Government's recommendations at paragraph 14.51 of the statutory guidance in mind. This states that the Government acknowledges different licensing approaches may be appropriate for promoting the licensing objectives in different areas, and licensing authorities – in consultation with others – are best placed to make those decisions subject to the overriding principle that opening hours must not be pre-determined without giving individual consideration to the merits of each application. In determining appropriate strategies around licensed opening hours, licensing authorities cannot seek to restrict the activities of licensed premises where it is not appropriate for the promotion of the licensing objectives to do so.

This section explores these areas in detail and sets out specific considerations for how the licensing authority will approach decision-making in these areas when representations are received to the application. Otherwise, the licensing authority has no discretion to intervene.

Policy AP1: The sections below set out our approach to licensing premises in those areas when we have received relevant representations to a licensing application, notwithstanding that each application will be considered on its merits. Officers will make a recommendation of the type of operation and location of the business, using the information in these sections. However, it will be for the sub-committee to determine if they agree with the recommendation when considering the application before them, and they may decide to depart from the recommendation. Departure from the recommendation should be explained with detailed reasons.

The hours specified relate to the hours of operation (which we refer to as the "terminal hour"), unless otherwise specified.

Where alcohol is sold for consumption on the premises, our policy will be to generally limit the end of any sales of alcohol no earlier than 30 minutes before the terminal hour. Where we have considered representations for licences that do not involve alcohol sales, we reserve the right to set a final hour for licensable activities and for the closing time of the premises (the "terminal hour").

Exceptional Circumstances

Some Areas are subject to 'Special Policies which propose specific restrictions having regard to the use of the venue. In some cases, the policy is to refuse the grant of hours. Such policies to refuse are strict and will only be overridden in genuinely exceptional circumstances. The size or extent of the application or variation will not be treated as exceptional.

It is not possible to give a full list of examples of when the council may treat an application as an exception. As a rule, the Licensing Authority does not consider the following criteria as exceptional:

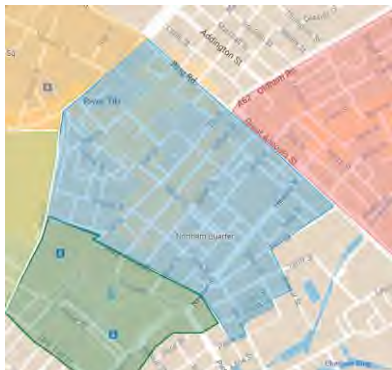
- premises will be well managed and run
- premises will be constructed to a high standard
- applicant operates similar premises elsewhere without complaint
- similar premises operate in the area

Applicants for premises uses that have a presumption to refuse will be expected to demonstrate an exception as to why their licence application should be permitted.

Any list of circumstances where exceptions may be granted is not definitive. However, the licensing authority will consider the merits and potential exceptions could include:

- The grant of a licence subject to the surrender of a comparable use within the vicinity of the premises with the same (or later) terminal hours.
- Applications for shadow licences (Section 14)
- Applications to replace licences that have recently lapsed because of a failure to re-instate following the death or insolvency of the premises licence holder.
- Where an applicant will contribute a material impact to reduce pre-existing negative impacts identified for that locality
- The local community, including residents and businesses, provides overwhelming support for the application, and there is a clear consensus that granting the licence would be in the community's best interest.
- If the establishment has a unique business model or concept that is not adequately covered by existing policies and granting the licence would be consistent with the aims of this policy.
- Licences for time-limited pop-up shops, events and markets. Where the supply of alcohol is a minor ancillary function to the provision of a service e.g., wine supplied with bouquets at a florist or a glass of fizz at a salon, and appropriate restrictions on the scope of the licence are incorporated

Northern Quarter



The Northern Quarter is an unashamedly urban area of the city centre, steeped in history and the hub of independent operators in the city centre. The nightlife scene has played a significant role in the renaissance of the area, having evolved from early pioneers on Oldham Street and Tib Street, and spread across Thomas Street, Edge Street, Stevenson Square and Tariff Street as the area rapidly grew in popularity. Since COVID-19 and as part of wider redevelopment plans, Thomas Street, Edge Street and Stevenson Square have been transformed to enable greater space for alfresco drinking and dining, which has changed the dynamic in those areas.

Given the depth and breadth of the Northern Quarter leisure economy, there are two licensed business networks: West (Oldham Street to Shudehill) and East (Oldham Street to Tariff Street).

Although there is a comprehensive mix of venues, there are concerns about alcohol-related antisocial behaviour and litter, which can act as a deterrent to visitors.

The Northern Quarter is also home to a substantial residential community, and several developments were in place long before the area became a leisure destination. It is important that noise levels associated with the night-time economy are tolerable, and those who live in, work in and use the area should be mindful of the balance between competing considerations.

Objectives

- Increase the diversity of licensed premises in the Northern Quarter through supporting the growth of premises that are at lower risk of alcohol-related violence due to intoxication, or that strongly contribute to the local live music industry or arts, tourism or community cultural sectors
- Enhance the historical cultural identity of the area
- Promote the development of the evening economy, including alfresco dining
- Balance the competing needs of businesses and residents
- Limit noise nuisance, particularly from transient patrons
- Improve waste management associated with the night-time economy
- Reduce litter, antisocial behaviour and drunkenness.

Oxford Road (Southern Gateway)

The [Oxford Road Corridor](#)⁸ bridges The University of Manchester Campus with the city centre. It is home to renowned independent and commercial music and theatre venues, and provides a pipeline for new and emerging artists. This combination of world-class cultural institutions, grassroots and commercial cultural organisations has created a dynamic destination and social mix.



The area has a thriving food and drink scene with some of the city's most iconic pubs alongside modern developments such as Hatch. There are also many hot-food takeaways, which due to their location have created issues of illegal parking and consequent obstruction of the highway. The area has undergone significant transformation in recent years, including several large new residential developments, such as Macintosh Village and several purpose-built student accommodations, increasing residential population in this area, particularly the student population, alongside long-term residents.

Culture plays a key role in building on the area's predominantly student and youth market, reflecting the expectations of the workforce and the city's many visitors. It has a key role to play in Manchester's cultural economy and the wider visitor economy with the densest, most diverse and distinctive collection of cultural facilities outside London. Its range of cultural, leisure and sporting facilities includes several internationally respected arts organisations, museums and galleries. The Oxford Road Corridor boasts the Whitworth, HOME, Royal Northern College of Music (RNCM) and Central Library.

The key aim is to promote the cultural offer of the area, particularly through a strong evening economy.

Objectives

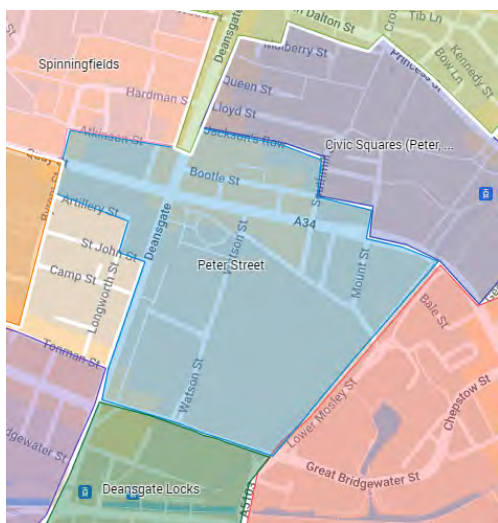
- Support the development of world-class arts and cultural organisations and activities that enhance the reputation of the corridor and the city
- Place cultural venues, performances and activities at the centre of a broader leisure, sport, entertainment and lifestyle offer, optimising the spaces between cultural assets and connecting the public realm

⁸ [Oxford Road Corridor | Manchester's Innovation District](#)

- Use cultural assets, activities and audiences to support small and medium-sized retail, food and drink, and entertainment businesses, as well as creative, artistic, heritage and performance industries
- Balance the night-time economy with increases in residential development.

Peter Street and Great Northern Area

Extending around the Peter Street/Deansgate/Quay Street crossroads, this locality provides a rich mix of high-profile food, drink and entertainment offers, including some of the city's most-renowned live music and theatre venues and hotels. The Great Northern Tower, home to 257 residential apartments, also overlooks the area.



This area has enjoyed a renaissance in the last decade as one of the city centre's primary night-time economy destination areas. However, the popularity of the area, particularly at weekends, means there are often issues arising from high numbers of patrons and the limited space on the footpath. High volumes of traffic, particularly from private hire vehicles – many licensed outside of Greater Manchester – compound the issue.

The area benefits from a marshalled taxi rank and a dedicated welfare space currently situated at the Great Northern complex. However, the development of the late-night economy has resulted in increased victims of crime, particularly in relation to violence and thefts. There has also been a rising

number of public-order offences that is 3-times the level of the rest of the city centre during the peak hours of 11pm to 4am, increasing the demands on policing and other public services.

A key priority is to avoid these problems worsening and aim to achieve reductions in levels of public intoxication and crime. The impact on noise, including transient noise from crowds outside of licensed venues, will also be an important issue, given the proximity of the Great Northern Tower and nearby hotels, as well as how the granting of any further licences impacts on existing issues of congestion, both on the footways as well as from traffic.

Notable clusters: Peter Street (from Mount Street) extending to Quay Street (junction with Byrom Street) and including the crossroads area with Deansgate.

Objectives

- Develop the attractiveness of the area for a wider audience, reducing perceptions of alcohol-related problems

- Improve management of public highway during peak periods, particularly at weekends, including promotion of staggered closing to avoid creating crowds on dispersal
- Increase diversity in the NTE and late-night economy periods, particularly of premises where the experience goes beyond alcohol
- Improved surveillance of the public realm by promoting effective door supervision, management of external spaces used by licensed premises, and co-operation between venues Initiatives to reduce vulnerability and improve women's safety
- Reductions to levels of public intoxication, as well as victim-based crime, including violence and thefts.

Special Policy

This policy shall have effect for applications for premises included in the defined Peter Street area as per the map shown.

Given the increased risks of alcohol-related crime and disorder in this area, where relevant representations have been made, our strict starting point in this area to venues where alcohol consumption is a primary activity shall be:

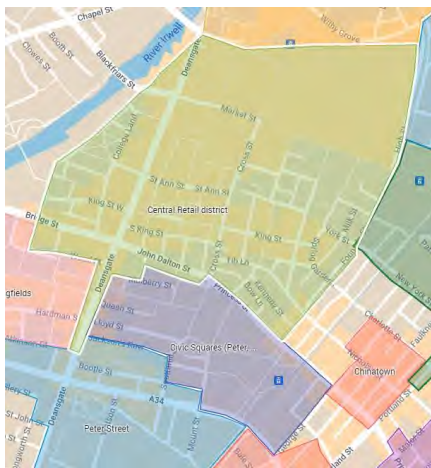
Pubs, clubs and bars, including other primarily drinking establishments

- **Twilight, evening economy:** Presumption in favour, having regard to standard of operational management plan(s) as set out in Section 5
- **NTE:** Considered on its merits having regard to the local area objectives, provided the applicant demonstrates compliance with the management standards set out in Section 5
- **Late-night economy:** The licensing authority will expect applicants to demonstrate that granting the licence would not exacerbate existing issues, and exceptional operational standards of management would be in place. Consideration will be given to any overwhelming local public support and clear demonstration of local risk assessment for proposed activities involving local stakeholder engagement.

In all cases representations are received, the authority will consider whether conditions will be appropriate to address the concerns raised or whether a refusal is justified on the basis that the licensing objectives would be undermined. The size or extent of the application or variation will not be treated as exceptional.

Central Retail District and Civic Squares

This area spans the heart of the city centre, encompassing key areas such as the Corn Exchange, Printworks, and Deansgate. This wide-ranging area incorporates late-night economy venues, particularly around the Printworks and Deansgate. There are prominent dining destinations at the Corn Exchange and King Street, including alfresco dining areas that host seasonal markets and events.



This area provides a considerable mix of spaces and it will be important to ensure that the calmer nature of alfresco dining in key parts is maintained in order to retain diversity of offer.

There have been historical challenges around Worthy Grove and Printworks, particularly in respect of the influence of alcohol. In addition to problems with violence and drunkenness, there have been traffic issues caused by private hire and cruising cars creating blockages along Worthy Grove, which

benefits from a marshalled taxi rank at weekends.

Bridge Street has increased in popularity in recent times with several new licensed premises attracting increased numbers to this area, combined with its proximity to Deansgate and Spinningfields. Careful consideration will need to be given to the capacity to effectively manage of the public highway, in relation to footfall and traffic congestion, as well as illegal parking and any demonstrable increases in issues such as crime, antisocial behaviour, litter and transient noise.

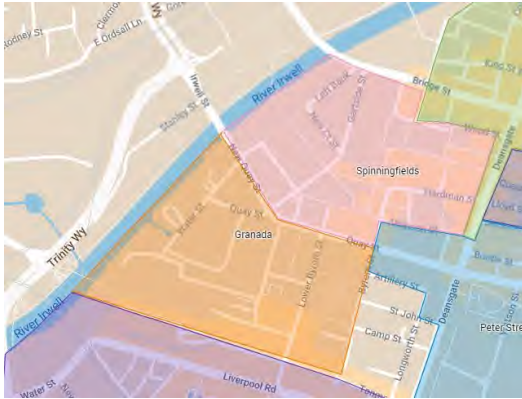
Notable clusters: King Street, Exchange Square, Printworks and Worthy Grove, Deansgate, Bridge Street.

Objectives

- Support the successful redevelopment of the Our Town Hall Project and the use of the civic squares and other public spaces to support events that will promote the visitor and cultural economy
- Encourage alfresco dining
- Develop the attractiveness of the area for a wider audience, reducing perceptions of alcohol-related problems
- Promote diversity across food and drink, retail and entertainment, as well as creative, artistic, heritage and performance industries.

Spinningfields and St John's

Spinningfields is a thriving commercial district with a range of popular bars, restaurants, shops, cafes, co-working spaces and office developments. The area has its own estate management company, including public security.



St John's (the former Granada site) is undergoing vast redevelopment and is home to the city's iconic new art and cultural events space, Aviva Studios, home to Manchester International Festival, as well as numerous new office and residential blocks, and a variety of hospitality venues. We encourage close communication both at the pre-application stage and on an ongoing

basis, with nearby residents to promote the successful development of a harmonious new neighbourhood for people to live, work and visit.

Objectives

- Support the development of Aviva Studios in its infancy
- Promote balanced development having regard to pre-established and new residential developments.

Castlefield

Castlefield, located at the south-west end of Deansgate, is the industrial and Roman heart of Manchester. It is home to a Roman fort, networks of canals, old mills, bars and restaurants, as well as a wide range of accommodation. There are pockets of licensed premises, which act as destinations, particularly along Liverpool Road and around the waterfront. Large-scale events are also held in Castlefield Bowl.



Many licensed premises along Liverpool Road sit underneath residential properties, and there have been concerns raised around behaviour, noise, and inconsiderate vehicular use along Liverpool Road; it is important that adjacent venues manage and endeavour to avoid such issues. Ensuring appropriate water safety provisions are in place will be an important consideration from venues next to and near waterways.

Notable cluster: Liverpool Road.

Objectives

- Manage balance of residential and commercial properties along Liverpool Road
- Promote water safety initiatives through all venues having appropriate safety equipment, risk assessments and training
- Avoid antisocial behaviour issues associated with customers of licensed premises, including noise and illegal parking.

Deansgate Locks

While limited in scope, at night Deansgate Locks has historically been a busy destination area due to several large, high-volume bars and clubs housed under the arches. The area is busy mainly during the NTE and late-night economy periods and is supported with a marshalled taxi rank. The high volume and alcohol-led nature of many of the venues, which predominantly appeal and cater to a young adult audience, has been associated with increased issues of drunkenness and vulnerability. However, recently, several of the venues have closed and others been more limited in their operation. Water safety is also an important consideration here given the direct proximity to the canal.



Objectives

- Develop the twilight and evening economies
- Reduce alcohol-related vulnerability and promote women's safety
- Promote water-safety initiatives through all venues having appropriate safety equipment, risk assessments and training
- Improve traffic management of public highway during peak periods, particularly at weekends
- Reduce levels of public intoxication, as well as victim-based crime, including violence and thefts.

Special Policy

Given the increased risks of alcohol-related crime and disorder in this area, where relevant representations have been made, our strict starting point in this area to venues where alcohol consumption is a primary activity shall be:

Pubs, clubs and bars, including other primarily drinking establishments

- **Twilight, evening economy:** Presumption in favour, having regard to standard of operational management plan(s) as set out in Section 5
- **NTE:** Considered on its merits having regard to the local area objectives, provided the applicant demonstrates compliance with the management standards set out in Section 5
- **Late-night economy:** The licensing authority will expect applicants to demonstrate that granting the licence would not give rise to a repeat of previous crime and disorder issues, whilst ensuring staggered closing times (to improve dispersal) and exceptional operational standards of management would be in place. Consideration will be given to

any clear demonstration of local risk assessment for proposed activities involving local stakeholder engagement.

In all cases representations are received, the authority will consider whether conditions will be appropriate to address the concerns raised or whether a refusal is justified on the basis that the licensing objectives would be undermined. The size or extent of the application or variation will not be treated as exceptional.

Village

Manchester has the United Kingdom's largest LGBT community outside London and is renowned for its Gay Village centred around Canal Street. It is an area recognised as one of the UK's liveliest LGBTQ+ hubs, providing a safe space for the city's LGBTQ+ community, including to socialise, with numerous bars, clubs, and restaurants.



Centred around Canal Street, the iconic Village area arguably provided the renaissance of independent scene bars back in the 90s, and the night-time economy has flourished ever since. Licensed premises operate through the day, particularly in the well-established alfresco areas along Canal Street, but the

wider Village operates well into the night with numerous bars, nightclubs, takeaways and restaurants. It is also home to the city's annual Pride festival, as well as other annual events.

The scale of the late-night economy has meant that this area experiences the highest levels of alcohol-related violence during later hours, and levels of victim-based crimes such as thefts create a demand for policing resources. The lateness of venues means the area can attract revellers who want to end their night here. There have also been several incidents of people requiring rescue from the canal under the influence of alcohol.

The area is supported by the voluntary [Village Angels](#), the flagship project of the LGBT Foundation's community-safety programme. Volunteers are on duty every Friday and Saturday from 9pm to 3am wearing distinctive hot pink uniforms. The Village also has a long-established trade body for licensees, the VLBA (Village Licensed Business Association), providing a forum for engagement and partnership.

Water safety will be an important consideration for venues next to and near water.

The Village is also a popular area to live and stay, with a long-established residential community, hotels, and the new Kampus neighbourhood development.

Objectives

- Enhance the area as a safe place for all of the LGBTQ+ community
- Develop the twilight and evening economies
- Increase diversity in the NTE and late-night economy periods, particularly of premises where the experience goes beyond alcohol
- Reduce alcohol-related vulnerability
- Promote water-safety initiatives through all venues having water-safety trained staff and access to emergency equipment
- Reduce levels of public intoxication, as well as victim-based crime, including violence and thefts.

Special Policy

This policy shall have effect for applications for premises included in the defined Village area as per the map shown.

The primary aim is to develop lower-risk venues, particularly through the evening economy, and reduce the levels of alcohol-related problems in the Village.

Night-time uses will be considered carefully, particularly in relation to how the venue will operate and the likely degree of alcohol provision. Given the scale of the existing late-night issues, applications will be expected to demonstrate that they will not harm licensing objectives.

Therefore, where relevant representations have been made, our strict starting point in this area will be the following approach:

Pubs, clubs and bars, including other primarily drinking establishments

- **Twilight, evening economy:** Presumption in favour, having regard to standard of operational management plan(s) as set out in Section 5
- **NTE:** Considered on its merits having regard to the local area objectives, provided the applicant demonstrates compliance with the management standards set out in Section 5
- **Late-night economy:** The licensing authority will expect applicants to demonstrate that the grant of the licence would not exacerbate existing issues, and that exceptional operational standards of management would be in place. Consideration will be given to any overwhelming local public support and clear demonstration of local risk assessment for proposed activities involving local stakeholder engagement.

In all cases representations are received, the authority will consider whether conditions will be appropriate to address the concerns raised or whether a refusal is justified on the basis that the licensing objectives would be undermined. The size or extent of the application or variation will not be treated as exceptional.

Piccadilly

Piccadilly is on the verge of a new regeneration programme aimed at creating a modern area that includes a friendly, lively and welcoming public space designed to balance the divergent functions



it serves. A new Operation Vulcan initiative between GMP and MCC aims to address long-standing issues with crime including drug dealing, vulnerability antisocial behaviour e.g. street drinking.

The area provides a major transport hub and serves as the gateway into the city centre from Piccadilly train station. Despite the high profile of the area, there are limited entertainment and social opportunities. Piccadilly Gardens provides a central events space in the city centre and hosts a food market for part of the week. It also provides a central open space for people to dwell, and the fountain appeals to many.

Objectives

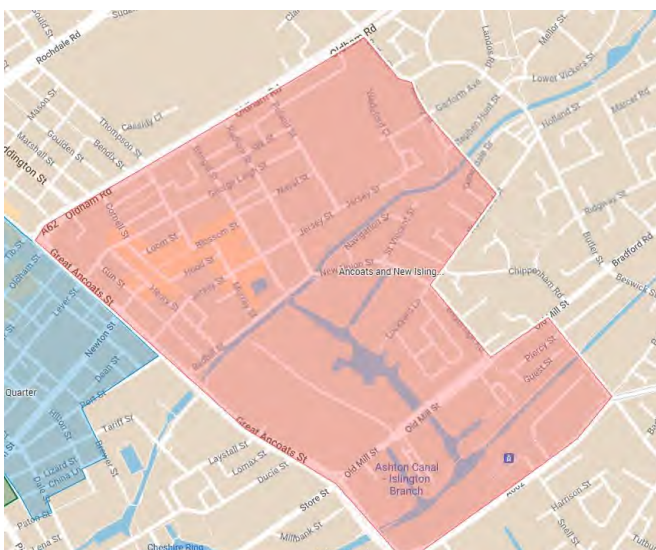
- Promote strong security standards and partnership working
- Reduce antisocial behaviour and litter
- Improve surveillance and staffing of the public realm to limit the opportunities for crime, and improve public safety by taking steps to increase the perception that people can be seen
- Improve the appearance and quality of the street scene, including cleanliness
- Improve the perception of safety and security
- Prevent unauthorised public consumption of alcohol
- Support changes to the redevelopment of the public realm and perception of the area.

Ancoats and New Islington

As part of the area's restoration, Ancoats and New Islington has been subject to controlled opening hours to help create an attractive community for businesses and residents alike, resulting in a vibrant daytime and evening economy. This approach has proved to be successful: Ancoats' growth and popularity have gone from strength to strength, with limited negative impact arising from the rapid growth of new venues.

This model is supported by residents, and the increasing redevelopment of the area continues apace, with the updated Poland Street Zone regeneration strategy bridging the city centre with the Etihad Campus.

The area is studded with highlights. Cutting Room Square is a natural focal point and the creation of outdoor seating on Blossom Street adds to its profile. The area is also home to Manchester's only Michelin star, New Islington Marina, and the Hallé St Peter's.



The heightened profile and appeal of the area draws large numbers into the area, some occasionally acting antisocially, particularly around Cutting Room Square, and it is important this is carefully managed.

The vision is to create an attractive community for businesses and residents alike, and a vibrant daytime and evening economy. Given the high density of residential development in the area, the focus is the promotion of the evening economy. Any night-time economy use must be complementary and not detract from creating a liveable environment.

The Poland Street Zone represents the next phases of development for the Framework area and covers the area bounded by Oldham Road, Radium Street, the Rochdale Canal, and Butler Street/Rodney Street (highlighted in the shaded area in the map) and is included in the refreshed Ancoats and New Islington Neighbourhood Development Framework .



Notable cluster: Cutting Room Square.

Objectives

- Maintain the balanced development of the area, while avoiding concentrations of alcohol-led venues
- Ensure waste-management bins are properly presented for collection
- Promote twilight transition into the evening economy and promote dining and cultural uses
- Deter antisocial street drinking in public places.

Special Policy

Our aim is to continue with the approach that has proved to be successful in the strategic development of the area.

Twilight and evening economy uses are encouraged. We aim to support continued diversity in the range of premises in Ancoats and New Islington, particularly the renowned dining scene. However, consideration will be given to avoiding concentrations of alcohol-led venues to avoid the increased risk of noise that can arise from numbers of people in high spirits, and alcohol-related antisocial behaviour.

Therefore, where relevant representations have been made, our strict starting point in this area will be the following approach:

Ancoats and New Islington Framework area (excluding Poland Street Zone)

Pubs, clubs and bars, including other primarily drinking establishments

- **Twilight, evening economy:** Presumption in favour, subject to compliance with steps and unless outweighed by demonstrable concerns raised in relevant representations that granting the licence would undermine the licensing objectives
- **NTE:** licensable activities will generally be permitted until 11pm (Sunday to Thursday) and midnight (Friday and Saturday)
- **Late-night economy:** Policy is to refuse except in exceptional circumstances.

Alcohol off-licences: consumption off the premises, including delivery services

- **Twilight, evening economy:** will generally be permitted
- **NTE:** licensable activities will generally be permitted until 11pm (Sunday to Thursday) and midnight (Friday and Saturday)
- **Late-night economy:** Policy is to refuse except in exceptional circumstances.

Hot-food takeaways and delivery services, including dark kitchens

- **Twilight and evening economy:** N/A.
- **NTE: licensable activities post-11pm (Sunday to Thursday) and midnight (Friday and Saturday) and Late-night economy:** Policy is to refuse except in exceptional circumstances.

Other venues:

- **Twilight, evening economy:** Strongly encouraged.
- **NTE: licensable activities post-11pm (Sunday to Thursday) and midnight (Friday and Saturday) and Late-night economy:** Policy is to refuse except in exceptional circumstances.

Poland Street Zone

- **Twilight, evening economy:** Strongly encouraged.
- **NTE: licensable activities post-10pm and Late-night Economy:** Policy is to refuse except in exceptional circumstances.

In all cases representations are received, the authority will consider whether conditions will be appropriate to address the concerns raised or whether a refusal is justified on the basis that the licensing objectives would be undermined. The policy to refuse set out above is strict and will only be overridden in genuinely exceptional circumstances. The size or extent of the application or variation will not be treated as exceptional.

Reasons for more restrictive approach for the Poland Street Zone:

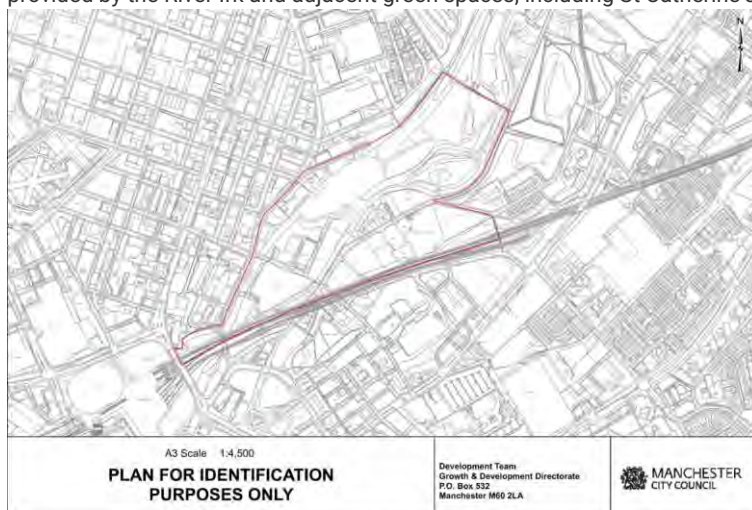
The aim is for the creation of a mixed living and working neighbourhood, with the intention for this area to be less commercial than the 'front of Ancoats', e.g. Cutting Room Square. Given the

density of residential and the proximity to commercial uses, a more restrictive approach is justified to prevent the risk of disturbance and nuisance during later hours. However, consideration will be given to the encouragement of retail and employment generating ground floor uses as the Poland Street Zone is developed out.

Therefore, it is intended that the commercial uses in this area will be aimed at Twilight (5pm-7pm) and Evening (6pm-10pm) economies.

Red Bank

[Red Bank](#) is an emerging new neighbourhood adjacent to the existing residential communities of the Green Quarter and Angel Meadow, located at the northern edge of the city centre. More than 4,000 new homes are planned to be delivered in this location over the next decade. The commercial uses within the neighbourhood should be consistent with what will be a predominantly residential environment, highlighting the proximity to the natural landscape provided by the River Irk and adjacent green spaces, including St Catherine's Wood.



Objectives

- Promote uses along Dantzic Street to create a vibrant local high street to serve the community
- Retail and food and beverage uses will promote Red Bank as a desirable neighbourhood to live in, providing active

streetscapes and animated public spaces.

- Incorporate uses that support both the daytime and evening economy
- Develop a destination and sense of identity as a new city centre quarter
- Night time uses to be allowed where appropriate and not detrimental to residential amenity

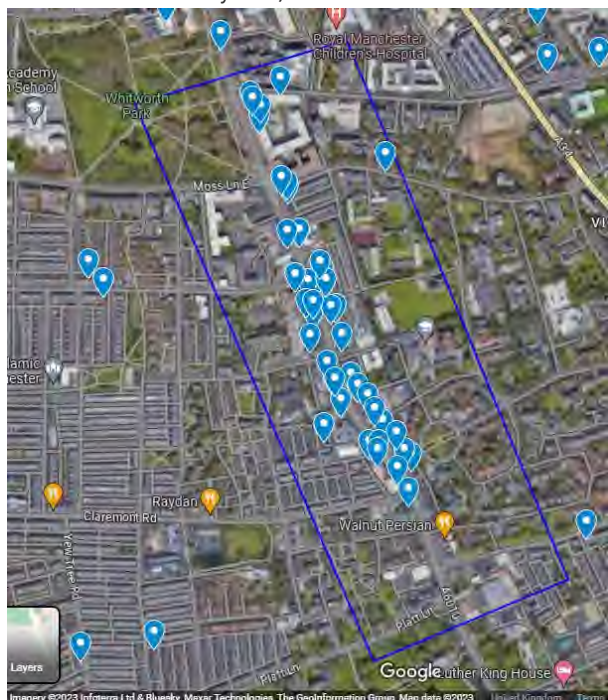
Any night time economy uses must be complementary to creating a thriving residential neighbourhood, Night time uses will therefore need to be justified and demonstrate minimum impact on 'residential amenity', that way it's clear that this is a residential focused part of the city and any commercial uses should be complimentary to that

Where relevant representations have been made, our strict starting point in these areas will be an exceptional case would need to be demonstrated for late-night economy uses; otherwise, the policy is to refuse such applications to prevent the risk of nuisance having regard to the residential-led nature of the area.

In all cases representations are received, the authority will consider whether conditions will be appropriate to address the concerns raised or whether a refusal is justified on the basis that the licensing objectives would be undermined. The policy to refuse set out above is strict and will only be overridden in genuinely exceptional circumstances. The size or extent of the application or variation will not be treated as exceptional.

The Curry Mile (Wilmslow Road)

Rusholme has some of the most distinctive characteristics of any place in Manchester; it is home to the traditional Curry Mile, on one of the main arterial routes in the city along Wilmslow Road.



Especially notable is the strong influence of Asian and Middle Eastern trade and its bustling and brightly lit late-night economy. It is a centre that attracts visitors from a wide catchment area beyond Manchester and is a valuable part of the city's identity.

However, the past decade has seen a displacement of the restaurant scene and a proliferation of shisha venues, several of which have been associated with antisocial behaviour and breaches of the Health Act 2006, which prohibits smoking indoors and substantially enclosed premises. While some hold licences to provide late-night refreshment and regulated entertainment, shisha smoking is not a licensable activity.

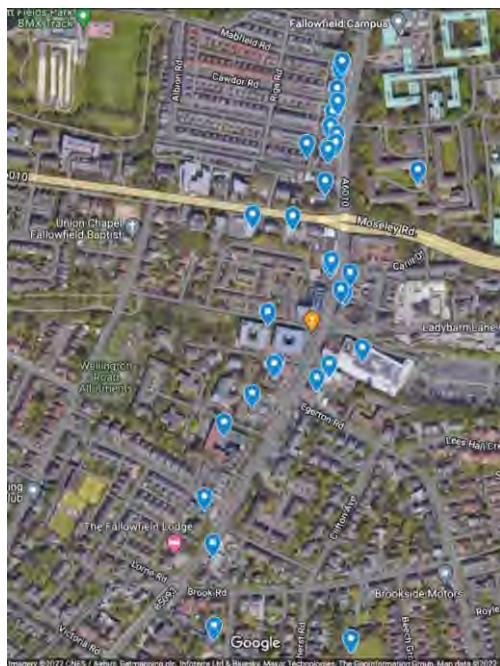
Objectives

- Enhance the historical cultural identity of the area

- Significantly improve the visual appearance of the street scene, particularly in relation to litter and antisocial behaviour
- Promote high standards of management
- Where appropriate, demonstrate compliance with the Health Act 2006.

Fallowfield Special Policy Area

Fallowfield has a diverse population of long-term residents living alongside a large transient population, particularly second-year and above living in privately-rented shared housing, as well as large university campuses of Owens Park and Oak House. The area is split between 3 wards: Fallowfield, Old Moat and Withington.



Although the number of bars has steadily declined over recent years, problems with antisocial behaviour persist, including public intoxication, vandalism, drug dealers and other opportunistic criminals being attracted to the area and there are frequent domestic disturbances, particularly in residential streets, with house parties an ongoing issue.

Given the predominance of younger people in the leisure economy, issues of women's safety, vulnerability, and harm reduction are primary considerations and the licensing authority would expect to see detailed proposals in operating schedules, insofar as they are relevant to the proposal, as well as existing licensees ensuring that their current operating policies and procedures are up to spec.

The apparent domination of the student-focused leisure market is a frustration for other residents in the local area, and there is a desire to see a more inclusive local economy. Whilst increasing numbers of students are choosing to live in the city centre, there are plans to increase campus capacities.

The area has a high number of late-night food takeaways. Litter from takeaway food wrappers and street drinking, including 'pre-loading', are local problems.

Notable cluster: Wilmslow Road (from junction with Mabfield Road to junction with Derby Road).

Objectives

- Widen the appeal of the district centre
- Attract enterprising bars and cafés that recapture spend and increase footfall in Fallowfield
- Create destination places and spaces for people to meet and dwell
- Significantly improve the visual appearance of the centre

- Reduce problems of alcohol-related antisocial behaviour
- Reduce issues of litter from hot-food takeaways and street drinking
- Improve the quality and diversity of the area and deliver temporary events, markets and pop-ups where appropriate
- Support an attractive evening economy and extended activity hours that do not have an adverse impact on residents
- Promote safety and vulnerability initiatives.

Special Policy

We aim to promote the development of the evening economy in Fallowfield, particularly through 'low impact' diverse venues, attractive to broader demographics rather than just the student community. This approach has proved to be successful in other areas of the city, notably Ancoats. Having regard to the ambitions of neighbouring Withington, and the synergies between the localities, it is logical to take a complementary and consistent approach in Fallowfield.

The licensing authority is satisfied that there are issues of litter locally arising from the operation of hot food takeaways, demonstrated through ongoing complaints and responses to the policy consultation. A restricted approach for off-licences is justified to reduce the availability of alcohol being drunk on the streets including "pre-loading" and as a supply source for local house parties, which have given rise to issues of antisocial behaviour and public nuisance to neighbours. The issues and risk of house parties reinforces the benefit of ensuring social options for the local student population, within regulated environments the licensing process can provide. We also aim to limit the availability of stronger-strength alcohol to street drinkers leading to anti-social behaviour in the immediate vicinity of the premises.

The licensing authority is satisfied, on receipt of representation received to the policy consultation and based on the crime data that there are issues arising in the area required to be addressed in relation to victim-based crime, anti-social behaviour and nuisance caused by people visiting licensed premises in this area, and the level of these issues undermine the crime prevention, public safety and prevention of nuisance objectives.

The policy aims to avoid these worsening and avoid the previous scale of experiences of alcohol-related issues in the late-night economy period resulting from late-night bars and the area becoming a "honey pot" destination for nightlife. Instead, the licensing authority aims to improve the wider sociability of the locality and to actively encourage businesses with appeal to broader demographics rather than just the student community, which delivers on the wider strategic aim set out in Section 3 to promote growth and ensure that licensed venue density reflects an appropriate mix of venue types, including non-alcohol-related entertainment options. Ultimately, careful consideration needs to be given to the nature of the business and the likelihood of its operation exacerbating local issues.

This policy applies to the area designated Fallowfield Special Policy Area designated below.

Therefore, where relevant representations have been made, our strict starting point in these areas will be the following approach:

Pubs, clubs and bars, including other primarily drinking establishments

- **Twilight, evening economy:** Presumption in favour, subject to compliance with steps and unless outweighed by demonstrable concerns raised in relevant representations that granting the licence would undermine the licensing objectives.
- **NTE and late-night economy:** Policy is to refuse except in exceptional circumstances.

Alcohol off-licences: consumption off the premises, including delivery services

- **Twilight, evening economy:** Applications will be considered on their merits having regard to the local area objectives, particularly where alcohol represents a small percentage of the overall products on sale, and there will be limitations on promotional activities. There will be a presumption against off-licences exclusively selling alcohol and a ban on window advertising and A-boards for alcohol.
- **NTE and late-night economy:** Policy is to refuse except in exceptional circumstances.

Hot-food takeaways and delivery services, including dark kitchens

- **Twilight and evening economy:** N/A.
- **Night-time economy post-11pm and late-night economy:** Policy is to refuse for service on the premises except in exceptional circumstances. For delivery-only, applications will be considered on their merits having regard to the local area objectives, LASP3 Delivery services (for alcohol and late-night refreshment) in Section 4 subject to strict compliance being demonstrated. There is the likelihood of nuisance from the operation of delivery vehicles given the proximity of the premises to residential properties.

Other venues

- **Twilight, evening economy:** Strongly encouraged.
- **NTE:** Presumption generally in favour, subject to compliance with steps set out in Section 5.
- **Late-night economy:** Policy is to refuse except in exceptional circumstances.

In all cases representations are received, the authority will consider whether conditions will be appropriate to address the concerns raised or whether a refusal is justified on the basis that the licensing objectives would be undermined. The policy to refuse set out above is strict and will only be overridden in genuinely exceptional circumstances. The size or extent of the application

or variation will not be treated as exceptional.



Withington Special Policy Area



The [Withington Village Framework](#), published in 2021, sets out the local aspirations for the development of the area. The vision for the area is to be a viable retail and leisure location with a good range of shops, community services, activities and an attractive evening economy by 2030. Withington is the only district centre that is also a conservation area.

The area is popular with students and so given the predominance of younger people in the leisure economy, issues of women's safety and vulnerability are primary considerations.

Notable cluster: Wilmslow Road (from Withington Library to Burton Road).

Objectives

- Widen the appeal of the district centre
 - Develop Withington Village as a local centre for cultural activities
 - Build on recent pop-up events, which have created a sense of vibrancy
 - Attract enterprising bars and cafés that promote a local economy and increase footfall in Withington
 - Create destination places and spaces for people to meet and dwell
 - Significantly improve the visual appearance of the centre
 - Preserve the conservation area, where buildings maintain a historic importance for the community
 - Improve the quality and diversity of the area, and deliver temporary events, markets and pop-ups where appropriate
 - Support an attractive evening economy and extended activity hours, while preventing any adverse impact on residents.

Special Policy

This policy shall apply in respect of the area shown on Withington Special Policy Area Map 2023.

This policy aims to give good operators the chance to flourish and add to Withington's vibrancy and evening economy whilst providing sufficient restraints to prevent operations likely to undermine the licensing objectives locally.

The approach will be to support the development of the evening economy, in particular. Therefore, the policy is to grant applications for operating during the twilight and evening economy periods. Other venues, such as those that are not alcohol-led night-time economy proposals, will be acceptable until midnight, although later hours until 1am will be more acceptable at the weekend. Drinking establishments in the NTE period will be carefully considered on their respective merits. Late-night economy venues will generally not be acceptable and will be expected to demonstrate they do not harm the licensing objectives.

A more restrictive approach for takeaways is justified to reduce conflict late at night and reduce the likelihood or worsening litter problems in the locality and encourage dispersal, and for off-licences to reduce the availability of alcohol being drunk on the streets, particularly given the proximity to local temporary accommodation for persons with complex needs, and “pre-loading” during the evening.

Therefore, where relevant representations have been made, our strict starting point in this area will be the following approach

Pubs, clubs and bars, including other primarily drinking establishments

- **Twilight, evening economy:** Presumption in favour, subject to compliance with steps and unless outweighed by demonstrable concerns raised in relevant representations that granting the licence would undermine the licensing objectives.
- **NTE:** Applications will be considered on their merits having regard to the local area objectives.
- **Late-night economy:** Policy is to refuse except in exceptional circumstances.

Alcohol off-licences: consumption off the premises, including delivery services

- **Twilight, evening economy:** Applications will be considered on their merits having regard to the local area objectives, particularly where alcohol represents a small percentage of the overall products on sale, and there will be limitations on promotional activities. There will be a presumption against off-licences exclusively selling alcohol and a ban on window advertising and A-boards for alcohol.
- **NTE and late-night economy:** Policy is to refuse except in exceptional circumstances.

Hot-food takeaways and delivery services, including dark kitchens

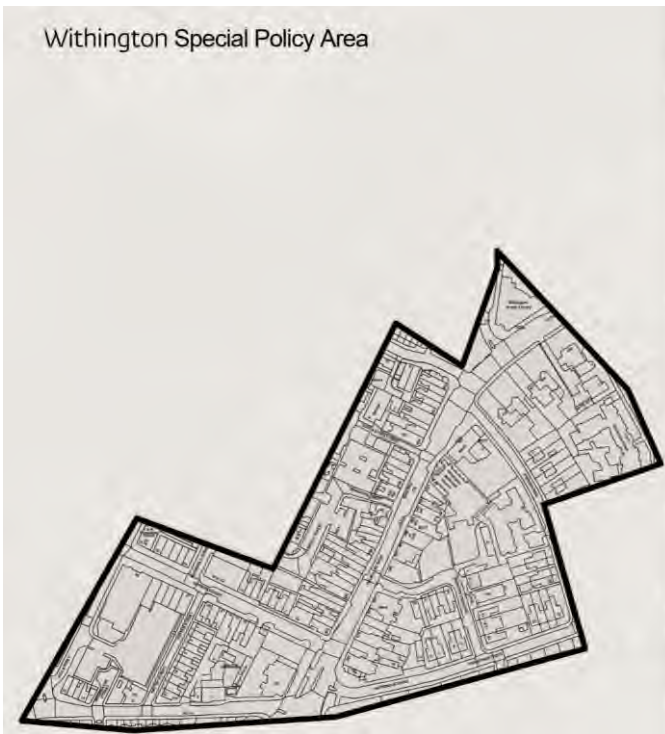
- **Twilight and evening economy:** N/A.
- **Night-time economy post-11pm and late-night economy:** Policy is to refuse for service on the premises except in exceptional circumstances. For delivery-only, applications will be considered on their merits having regard to the local area objectives, LASP3 Delivery services (for alcohol and late-night refreshment) in Section 4 and subject to strict compliance being demonstrated. There is the likelihood of nuisance from the operation of delivery vehicles given the proximity of the premises to residential properties.

Other venues:

- **Twilight, evening economy:** Strongly encouraged.
- **NTE:** Presumption in favour, subject to compliance with steps set out in Section 5.

- **Late-night economy:** Policy is to refuse except in exceptional circumstances.

In all cases representations are received, the authority will consider whether conditions will be appropriate to address the concerns raised or whether a refusal is justified on the basis that the licensing objectives would be undermined. The policy to refuse set out above is strict and will only be overridden in genuinely exceptional circumstances. The size or extent of the application or variation will not be treated as exceptional.

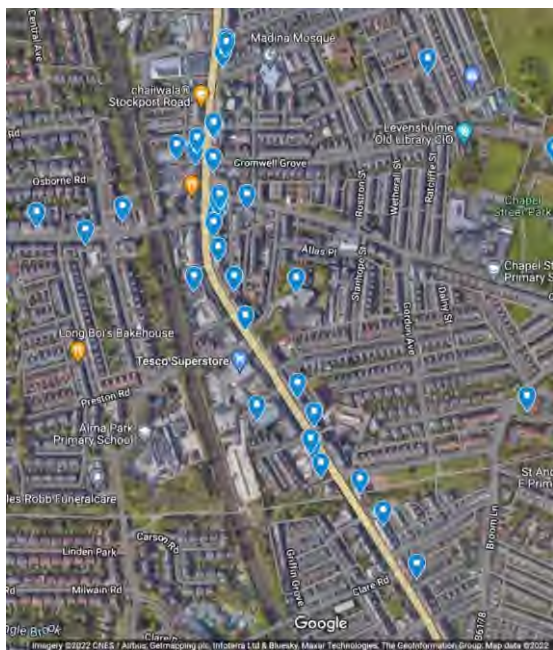


Other cluster areas

The following areas are highlighted clusters (see Glossary) of licensed premises in an area, rather than whole wards.

Whilst these areas are not tightly defined, our approach is intended to ensure that positive development is promoted having regard to 'Venue diversity, density and availability' in Section 3 of the Policy.

Stockport Road Levenshulme



The A6 (Stockport Road) runs through the heart of Levenshulme and hosts a variety of commercial activities, particularly a range of bars, restaurants and numerous late-night takeaways. The hot-food takeaways operate well into the night. The area has its own annual [community festival](#), involving a range of local businesses and bringing hundreds of free music, art, food and sport events to the neighbourhood each year.

Notable cluster: Stockport Road.

Objectives

- Support community activities, particularly during the twilight and evening economy periods
- Avoid increases in litter and ensure high standards of management, particularly in relation to delivery

services.

Moston Lane



Moston Lane is a busy commercial thoroughfare with several off-licences, takeaways and restaurants alongside other businesses. Despite seeking to shed its negative reputation, particularly in relation to the number of off-licence premises, the area still faces challenges associated with regulatory compliance and has seen enforcement required to tackle unlicensed activity.

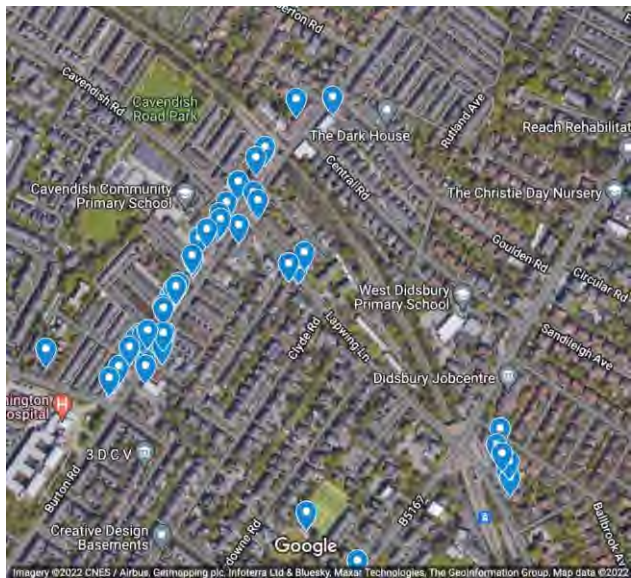
Notable clusters: Moston Lane between the junctions with Croft Hill Road and Clough Road, including Kenyon Lane to its junction with Hindle Street.

Objectives

- Promote high levels of compliance with regulatory requirements
- Avoid concentrations of off-licences and late-night food takeaways
- Promote the development of restaurants and venues that support the positive transition of the area away from the negative perception of being an area with alcohol-related issues.

West Didsbury village

This is a popular neighbourhood home to a host of licensed premises, particularly independent operators. The predominant cluster along Burton Road, including Lapwing Lane junction area. Secondary cluster on Lapwing Lane after junction with Palatine Road, although limited hours.



Withington Hospital is home to a monthly artisanal market and the local licensed economy is a hotbed of independent operators.

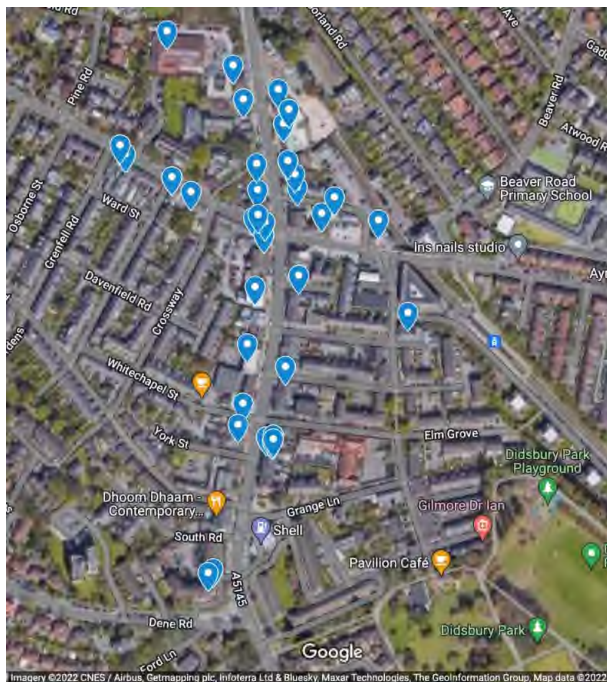
The area is densely residential and there are issues of cumulative impact arising from the number and density of venues, including transient noise and cars.

Objectives

- Improve the quality and diversity of the area and deliver temporary events, markets and pop-ups where appropriate
- Support an attractive evening economy and extend activity hours, ensuring there is no adverse impact on residents.

economy and extend activity hours, ensuring there is no adverse impact on residents.

Didsbury Village



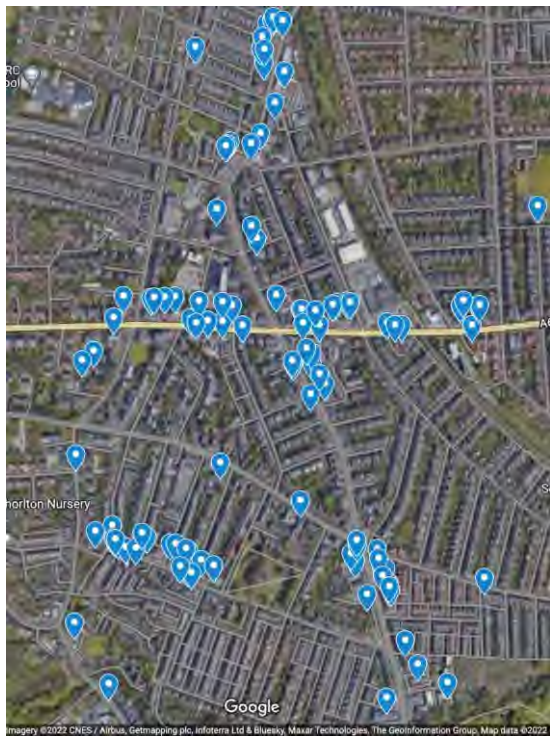
Didsbury was the original suburb in south Manchester to develop and establish an evening and night-time economy and become a destination. Over the years, the growth of night-time uses has matured into a range of good-quality restaurants and bars, in keeping with its reputation as one of the city's most desirable places to live.

Objectives

- Support an attractive evening economy and extend activity hours, ensuring there is no adverse impact on residents.

Chorlton village

Building on the success of Didsbury, Chorlton developed its own vibrant satellite night-time economy full of independent character and local identity, epitomised by a range of local business and community organisations.



The Chorlton Vision⁹ aims to promote a plan for new businesses that balances daytime and night-time uses, alongside retail and leisure services.

Chorlton has several individual clusters of varying degrees: Beech Road, Barlow Moor Road, Manchester Road, and along Wilbraham Road.

There has been a shift in the operation of some businesses, which now operate as shisha venues, bringing with it links to antisocial behaviour and impacts on residents.

Objectives

- Maintain the balanced development of licensed premises, while promoting the independent culture of the area
- Where appropriate, demonstrate compliance with the Health Act 2006.

⁹ [Property – Chorlton Vision](#)

7. Large events

This section applies to outdoor events, sports stadia, indoor event venues, and purpose-built entertainment arenas with an attendance capacity of 2,000 persons or over.

The licensing authority expects that such events will be subject to an appropriate event-planning process, with Event Management Plans comprising a range of operational documentation underpinned by comprehensive risk assessment and subject to realistic timescales.

Large scale events can place demands on the city's infrastructure, such as public transport and highways networks; neither of whom are responsible authorities, as well as the emergency services. The impact can be exacerbated where different events are operating concurrently in different parts of the city, both at temporary sites and dedicated event venues.

The licensing authority will expect that event organisers to ensure so far as is reasonably practicable, that events are programmed to minimise anticipatable clashes with other large-scale events, particularly those requiring emergency service provision.

In all cases, event organisers will be expected to ensure that there are appropriate safety and security resources in place, without reliance on emergency or council services. Nevertheless, we recognise that events will most effectively deliver where there is effective partnership and co-ordination in place with them.

The licensing authority will also expect event organisers to liaise with the Council's Licensing Team in relation to ensuring there is appropriate taxi and private hire arrangements in place as part of any transport plans.

Given the nature of event-management plans, which evolve through the event-planning process, the licensing authority expects operators to demonstrate how they will provide access to relevant documents for responsible authorities and other relevant agencies involved in the process, as well as any proposed safety and security advisory group process.

There is no statutory guidance applicable to licensing large-scale public events other than the Section 182 guidance, which establishes the licensing process is the same as for any other Premises Licence. However, there are several unofficial guidance documents that are relevant.

The licensing authority prefers guidance provided by the Sports Ground Safety Association, given that it is published by the official Government adviser on safety at sports grounds. Therefore, the following guidance documents will be used as reference points to the event-planning process, as far as they are relevant to the specific considerations of the event:

- Event Planning and Management: [Supplementary Guidance 03: Event Safety Management](#), SGSA (Sports Grounds Safety Authority)
- Event and venue infrastructure: [Green Guide](#), SGSA
- [Alternative Uses of Sports Grounds \(Sports Grounds and Stadia Guide No. 5\)](#) – SGSA.

While some parts of the Green Guide will not be directly relevant to entertainment events, as they are football matches, the licensing authority will take a pragmatic approach to how it is applied in practice.

In relation to temporary outdoor public events, the Purple Guide, published by the Event Industry Forum, will be a primary reference.

However, in all cases, the licensing authority will expect event organisers to plan and carry on events in line with industry good practice and have regard to appropriate guidance, such as the [A-Guide](#), National Arenas Association

The Council's Environmental Health service has also published guidance on [noise control for open-air concerts and events](#)

The Council has an Events Team, which is responsible for event space licences for several spaces across the city, including Heaton Park, Platt Fields Park, Castlefield Bowl, Albert Square, Piccadilly Gardens, and Exchange Square.

All event organisers are encouraged to engage with the Council's Events Team, so they can keep up to date with event activity across the city and influence the event-planning process.

8. Temporary Event Notices

Where Temporary Event Notices are given as part of a wider event, the licensing authority will expect the responsible authorities consulted to give careful consideration to how the proposed event and its operating plans and risk assessments integrate (1) with other concurrent temporary event notices related to the same event, and (2) with the overarching event organiser's event management plan. Where a responsible authority has concerns that a lack of integration would give rise to any adverse impact on the licensing objectives, they would be expected to submit a relevant representation.

Temporary Event Notices are limited to 499 persons. This figure includes all persons, e.g. Staff and performers, not just attendees. While the licensing authority expects all Temporary Event Notice givers to carefully monitor capacity to ensure this limit is not exceeded, the licensing authority strongly encourages any person giving a notice with a proposed capacity of 499 persons to show how they will ensure capacity is managed. This could be done by including supplementary information alongside the prescribed Temporary Event Notice form. There is no requirement for such documentation to be included, but it may help in avoiding concerns being raised in any objection to a Notice. In all cases, capacity must be managed to ensure overcrowding doesn't occur and that in the event of an emergency, there are emergency exits suitable for the capacity.

While the licensing authority does not have any discretion in issuing a counter notice when an objection is made against a late Temporary Event Notice, it encourages responsible authorities to show their concerns in relation to the event in their objection in the interests of transparency.

Use of multiple Temporary Event Notices

There must be a minimum of 24 hours between Temporary Event Notices held on the same premises by a premises user or held by that user and another person who is related to, associated with or in business with that user (Section 101, LA2003).

The licensing authority will expect any attempts by individual premises users to use multiple temporary event notices concurrently to be given scrutiny by the police and environmental health

The licensing authority would expect objection notices to be submitted for venues with a history of substantiated complaint and/or previous poor compliance to enable consideration by the Licensing Committee as to whether a counter notice should be issued.

Organisers of events where there will be over 499 persons in attendance should apply for a time-limited Premises Licence, to allow full consultation and consideration of the impact of an event on the promotion of the licensing objectives. Where objections are received against any multiple Temporary Event Notices that are at similar times or within 24 hours of one another, or events on premises that are alongside one another, a hearing will be held. This will give the users of the premises the opportunity to show how they will ensure that the licensing objectives will not be undermined and the maximum capacity not exceeded. This will be balanced against evidence provided by the police and/or Environmental Health.

Boxing and other combat sports

The licensing authority considers that it will generally not be appropriate for boxing or other combat sports to be authorised by way of a Temporary Event Notice and would expect a Premises Licence to be applied for to ensure that there is proper scrutiny of such activity by all responsible authorities and that the activity is subject to appropriate conditions and safeguards.

9. Designated Premises Supervisors

The Licensing Authority expects the Designated Premises Supervisor to carry out the day-to-day management activities of the premises. This is in line with the expectations of the Section 182 guidance. Where a Designated Premises Supervisor is not able to satisfactorily show they are able to do this, we will invite the Premises Licence holder to appoint an appropriate alternative person.

After the appointment of a Designated Premises Supervisor, if problems arise relating to their performance, the police can at any stage seek a review of a Premises Licence on any grounds relating to the licensing objectives.

The licensing authority will not normally impose conditions related to the management competency of Designated Premises Supervisors, except where it is considered appropriate that in the circumstances associated with particular premises, poor management competency could give rise to issues of crime and disorder, public safety and public nuisance.

In exceptional circumstances, the police may object to an individual being appointed as a Designated Premises Supervisor.

Following an objection by the police, if the licensing authority is satisfied that the appointment of a person as a Designated Premises Supervisor would undermine the crime prevention licensing objective, the policy is to refuse the appointment or to remove them as the Designated Premises Supervisor in circumstances where they are already in post.

10. Transfer of a Premises Licence

In exceptional circumstances where the chief officer of police believes the transfer may undermine the crime prevention objective, the police may object to the transfer. The Home Office (Immigration Enforcement) may object if it considers that granting the transfer would be prejudicial to the prevention of illegal working in licensed premises.

The authority has concerns over the frequently observed practice of an application for a transfer of a Premises Licence being made following an application for review of the same licence being lodged. Where such applications are made, the authority will require documented proof of the transfer of the business/lawful occupancy of the premises to the new proposed licence holder to verify that the business is now under new control.

11. Personal Licences

Where an applicant for a Personal Licence has an unspent conviction for a relevant offence, the licensing authority will consult with the police, who shall consider whether an objection is appropriate based upon a likely breach of the crime-prevention licensing objective.

Where the police have issued an objection notice, the policy is that, following a hearing, the licensing authority will refuse the application unless there are exceptional and compelling circumstances that justify granting it.

Personal Licences stay valid unless surrendered, suspended, revoked or declared forfeit by the courts. When a licensing authority has granted a personal licence and becomes aware that the licence holder has been convicted of a relevant offence or foreign offence or been required to pay an immigration penalty, a licensing authority may revoke the licence or suspend it for a period of up to six months. This is a discretionary power.

In exercising this discretion, consideration will be given to the nature of the offence and any passage of time.

Where the licensing authority is considering revoking or suspending a personal licence, we must give notice to the licence holder inviting the holder to make representations about the conviction, any decision of a court in relation to the licence, or any decision by an appellate court if the licence holder has appealed such a decision.

Where the Personal Licence holder is a Designated Premises Supervisor, the licensing authority will normally invite the Premises Licence holder to make representations about the Personal Licence holder before deciding whether to revoke or suspend the licence; this is not a legal requirement and may not be appropriate in all circumstances.

12. Reviews

At any time following the grant of a licence or Club Premises Certificate, any person or responsible authority may apply for a review of it.

Applications for review must relate to one or more of the licensing objectives and must not (where the review is made by any person who is not a responsible authority) be considered frivolous, vexatious or repetitious by the licensing authority.

A review application is also subject to a similar consultation period to that for a new licence or variation, during which relevant representations may be given. Reviews will be decided at a hearing by a Licensing Subcommittee.

At a review, the licensing authority may take the following steps (if any) where such steps are considered appropriate for the promotion of the licensing objectives:

- a) Modify the conditions of the licence
- b) Exclude a licensable activity from the scope of the licence
- c) Remove the Designated Premises Supervisor
- d) Suspend the licence for a period not exceeding three months
- e) Revoke the licence.

In cases where there is evidence that the crime prevention objective is being undermined, revocation of the licence will be seriously considered by the authority, even in the first instance.

However, in all cases, the licensing authority will expect reviews to be submitted when they are needed and would expect to see level of engagement beforehand.

There is a right of appeal to the Magistrates' Court against the decision of the Licensing Subcommittee, and if an appeal is lodged by the licence holder, the original decision of the licensing authority will not take effect until the appeal is decided or withdrawn. There is an exception to this in the case of a Summary Review brought only by the police.

Summary Reviews

Summary Reviews (also known as Expedited Reviews) can be undertaken when the police consider that the premises concerned are associated with serious crime or serious disorder (or both). The Summary Review process, set out under Sections 53A–53D of the 2003 Act, allows interim conditions to be quickly attached to a licence and a fast-track licence review.

Within 48 hours of receipt of the chief officer's application, the licensing authority must also consider whether it is necessary to take interim steps, pending the determination of the review, to address the immediate problems with the premises, in particular the likelihood of serious crime and/or serious disorder.

The interim steps that the licensing authority must consider taking are:

- Modification of the conditions of the Premises Licence
- Exclusion of the sale of alcohol by retail from the scope of the licence
- Removal of the Designated Premises Supervisor from the licence
- Suspension of the licence.

Modification of the conditions of the Premises Licence can include the alteration or modification of existing conditions or the addition of any new conditions, including those that restrict the times at which licensable activities authorised by the licence can take place.

The focus for interim steps shall be on the immediate measures necessary to prevent serious crime or serious disorder occurring.

The licensing authority, in deciding when its decision on interim steps should take effect, will consider the practical implications of compliance in relation to the premises. Careful consideration will be given to interim steps that require significant cost or permanent or semi-permanent adjustments to premises and that would be difficult to remove if the outcome of the subsequent full review was to withdraw or modify those steps. For example, making structural changes, installing additional CCTV or replacing all glassware with safer alternatives may be valid steps, but might be disproportionate if they are not likely to be considered necessary following the full review (or any subsequent appeal).

Ability to reinstate conditions relating to live music upon review

The licensing authority may reinstate or impose conditions for live music following a review of a Premises Licence or Club Premises Certificate relating to premises authorised to supply alcohol for consumption on the premises, where it can be demonstrated that live music has undermined the promotion of the licensing objectives and such action is considered to be appropriate.

13. Compliance and enforcement

Regulatory support for the sector can be frustrating and time-consuming. We recognise that few operators want to break the law or endanger people. Our aim is to promote compliance within the night-time sector and carry out our regulatory activities in accordance with the first provision of the [Better Regulation Delivery Office's Regulatory Code](#) ('Regulators should carry out their activities in a way that supports those they regulate to comply and grow').

We aim to ensure the social economy can survive and thrive. We recognise that the smallest operators without resources need the most support from regulators. Licensing officers can help

by explaining any policy requirements, giving pre-application advice, and advising on response times; they can also help with mediation, and signpost to training opportunities. Representatives from different authorities will also routinely attend local area licensing network meetings with businesses.

Where regulatory action is required, a stepped approach will be taken in a consistent, transparent and proportionate manner. This will involve working with licensees in partnership to resolve matters, either informally or through a documented action plan, rather than moving straight to enforcement, except in urgent cases. Any enforcement action will always be taken in line with the Council's [corporate enforcement policy](#).

A review will only be applied where the efforts to support compliance are not reciprocated, or in serious circumstances where lesser action is not considered appropriate.

Responsible authorities will aim to give licensees early warning of any problems in an attempt to work in partnership with the trade to resolve issues (e.g. joint-agency action planning and voluntary initiatives). It is expected that the trade reciprocates this spirit of co-operation to achieve the promotion of the licensing objectives.

As a licensing authority, we promote partnership between the responsible authorities and relevant agencies, such as the Security Industry Authority (SIA) through our Licensing Multiagency Partnership. Enforcement activities and issues arising from licensed premises are also routinely reviewed and visits to licensed premises carried out. These may be proactive visits, responses to complaints and identified issues, or just as part of regular engagement. Programmed inspections and co-ordinated multi-agency operations will also be undertaken on a risk basis, driven by measurable intelligence such as crime reports, complaints, and enforcement demands.

Once away from the licensed premises, a minority of consumers will behave badly. There are ways both within and outside the licensing regime to address such issues. For example:

- Planning control
- Positive measures to create a safe and clean town-centre environment in partnership with local businesses, transport operators and other departments of the local authority, including best practice schemes such as Best Bar None, Pubwatch and BIDs
- Community Protection Notices
- Provision of CCTV surveillance in town centres and taxi ranks; provision of public conveniences open late at night; street cleaning and litter patrols; powers of local authorities to designate parts of the local authority area as places where alcohol may not be consumed publicly
- Confiscation of alcohol from adults and children in designated areas; police enforcement of the general law concerning disorder and antisocial behaviour, including the issuing of fixed penalty notices
- Prosecution for the offence of selling alcohol to a person who is drunk (or allowing such a sale)
- Raising a contribution to policing the late-night economy through the Late Night Levy; Early Morning Alcohol Restriction Orders.

Suspension of licence for non-payment of fees

The licensing authority is required to suspend a Premises Licence or Club Premises Certificate if the annual fee has not been paid when it is due. Where a Premises Licence or Club Premises Certificate has been suspended, no licensable activities can be lawfully carried out at the premises until the annual fee has been paid. The suspension shall be lifted immediately upon payment of the fee and licensable activities may then be resumed.

If an annual fee has not been paid by the due date, the licence holder shall be notified accordingly by the licensing authority and given notice of the date the suspension shall take effect.

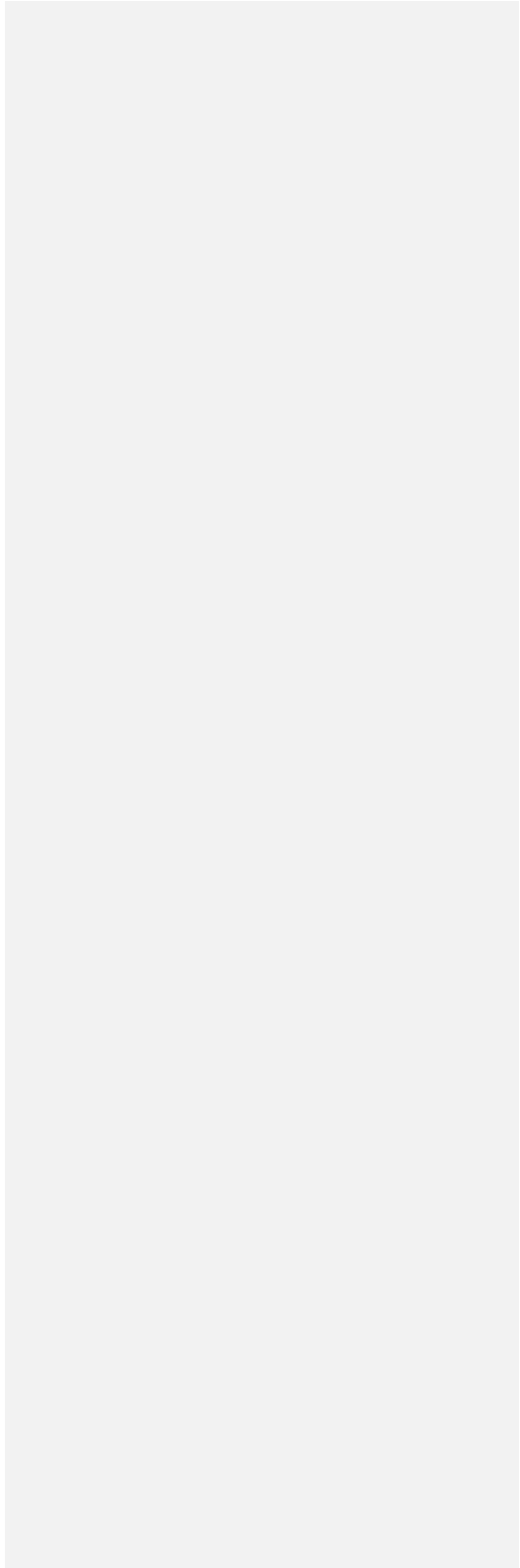
Where payment has not been made by the due date because of a genuine administrative error, or because the licence holder disputed liability for the fee before or at the time of the due date, there shall be a grace period of 21 days to resolve the matter before the licence is suspended.

14. Shadow Licences

A Shadow Licence is commonly understood to refer to a Premises Licence granted on the same (or similar) terms to a pre-existing licence, typically held as a contingency measure by the property owner to preserve the licensing position in the event of action being taken against the original licence or its lapsing.

Where an application for a Shadow Licence is made, the licensing authority will expect there to be a clear distinction made regarding the circumstances in which that licence will function instead of the original.

Similarly, the licensing authority would expect any application for a review of a premises where there is a Shadow Licence to be accompanied by a concurrent application for review of the Shadow Licence to avoid the review process being undermined.



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APPENDICES

Appendix A: The licensing process

A useful breakdown of the licensing process can be found on the GOV.UK website:

[Alcohol licensing – GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/alcohol-licensing)

In summary, businesses, organisations and individuals who want to sell or supply alcohol, provide regulated entertainment, or [late-night refreshment](#) in England and Wales must have a licence or other authorisation from a licensing authority – usually a local council. The law and policy governing this area are overseen by the Home Office.

The types of businesses and organisations that need licences might include:

- Pubs and bars
- Cinemas
- Theatres
- Nightclubs
- Late-opening cafes
- Takeaways
- Village and community halls
- Supermarkets.

The types of licences required are defined as follows:

Any business or other organisation that sells or supplies alcohol on a permanent basis needs to apply for a [Premises Licence](#). The licence will specify the activities permitted, the hours they can be carried out, and the operational conditions the operator must comply with.

A [Personal Licence](#) allows a person to sell alcohol on behalf of any business that has a Premises Licence or a Club Premises Certificate. Premises licensed to sell alcohol must have a designated Premises Supervisor (DPS) who holds a Personal Licence; this person is expected to be in day-to-day control of the business and provides a focal contact point. The one exception is a community premises that have successfully applied to waive the DPS requirement under Section 41D of the Act. Anyone who does not hold a Personal Licence must be authorised to sell alcohol by a Personal Licence holder. There is no such requirement for the supply of alcohol in a qualifying members' club.

Qualifying members' clubs (such as the Royal British Legion, working men's clubs and rugby clubs) need to apply for a [Club Premises Certificate](#) if they plan to sell or supply alcohol.

Once granted, the holder of a Premises Licence may apply for a variation of their licence to change any of the permitted hours, licensable activities, or conditions. For non-contentious changes, there is a simplified 'minor variation' process.

A Premises Licence holder may apply to vary the person specified on the licence as the Designated Premises Supervisor.

A new operator may apply to transfer a Premises Licence to their name, subject to the existing licence holder providing their consent, except in certain circumstances.

Where problems arise in respect of a licensed premises, where these cannot (or would not be appropriate to) be resolved informally, there are [enforcement powers](#) available to the police and the licensing authority. There is also a process to apply for the review of a licence, which can be made by any person as well as the responsible authorities. The police can apply for an Expedited Review (also known as a Summary Review) in cases of serious problems.

Any person may give the licensing authority a Temporary Event Notice (TEN) to carry on licensable activities at any place. There are limits to the number of TENs that can be given and to their duration. Ten working days' notice must be given for a TEN. Where between five and nine working days' notice is given, this is classed as a Late TEN. The difference is that where an objection is made against a TEN, the licensing authority will hold a hearing to consider whether to issue a counter-notice, thereby prohibiting the licensable activities from being permitted. However, where an objection to a Late TEN is received, the licensing authority must issue a counter-notice.

Premises Licence applications (including variations) are subject to a public consultation process, during which the application must be publicly advertised, and any person can submit written representations relevant to the licensing objectives.

Only the police and Council's Environmental Health service can object to a Temporary Event Notice. Only the police can object to the transfer of a licence or variation of the designated Premises Supervisor.

Exemptions from the licensing requirements for late-night refreshment

Paragraph 2A of Schedule 2 of the 2003 Act (as inserted by the Deregulation Act 2015) gives licensing authorities powers to exempt premises, in certain circumstances, from the requirement to have a licence to provide late-night refreshment.

The powers allow a relevant licensing authority to exempt the supply of late-night refreshment if it takes place:

- a) On or from premises wholly situated in a designated area
- b) On or from premises of a designated description
- c) During a designated period (beginning no earlier than 11pm and ending no later than 5am).

A licensing authority can only exempt types of premises set out in the regulations. These are:

- Motorway service areas
- Petrol stations
- Local authority premises (except domestic premises) unless there is an event taking place at which more than 500 people are present
- Schools (except domestic premises) unless there is an event taking place at which more than 500 people are present
- Hospitals (except domestic premises)

- Community premises (church, chapel, village, parish or community hall or other similar building) unless there is an event taking place at which more than 500 people are present
- Licensed premises authorised to sell by retail alcohol for consumption on the premises between the hours of 11pm and 5am.

The licensing authority has not exempted any premises to have a licence to provide late-night refreshment.

Consumption of alcohol in licensed outdoor areas

The popularity of, and demand for, alfresco dining and drinking has reached new heights since the COVID-19 pandemic. As a response to social-distancing limitations and the appeal of open-air environments, many businesses have incorporated outdoor areas within their operating model.

There are two main types of outdoor places from which alcohol will be consumed:

- a) An outdoor place that is covered by the Premises Licence for on-sales
- b) An outdoor space that is not covered by the Premises Licence and is therefore an off-sales premises (e.g. on a highway).

Where the outdoor place is on the public highway, the use of furniture must be licensed separately, either by way of a pavement licence or a licence under the Highways Act 1980 (typically referred to as a 'tables and chairs licence').

For the public to consume alcohol in these outdoor areas, you must have a Premises Licence that authorises the sale of alcohol. To enable businesses to make use of outdoor space for dining and the sale of alcohol, the Government has introduced a [temporary automatic extension](#) to the terms of most Premises Licences to allow the sale of alcohol for consumption off the premises. This permits off-sales to be made at a time when the licensed premises are open for the purposes of selling alcohol for consumption on the premises, subject to a cut-off time of 11pm or the closure time of an existing outside area, whichever is earlier. Measures also temporarily suspend existing licence conditions insofar as they are inconsistent with the new off-sales permission.

Appendix B: The Licensing Unit and Responsible Authorities

Below are the contact details for the Licensing Unit for the submission of applications and advice or enquiries about licensed premises.

Licensing Unit (Premises), Premises Licensing, Manchester City Council, Level 1, Town Hall Extension, PO Box 532, Manchester M60 2LA

premises.licensing@manchester.gov.uk

Tel: 0161 234 4512

The Responsible Authorities in Manchester for the purposes of Section 13(4) of the Licensing Act 2003 are:

Licensing authority

The Principal Licensing Officer, Premises Licensing, Manchester City Council, Level 1, Town Hall Extension, PO Box 532, Manchester M60 2LA

premises.licensing@manchester.gov.uk

Tel: 0161 234 4512

Chief Officer of Police

Greater Manchester Police (GMP) Licensing Partnership Team, Level 1, Town Hall Extension, Lloyd Street, Manchester M2 5DB

Email: centrallicensing@gmp.police.uk

Tel: 0161 856 3363

Greater Manchester Fire Authority

The Fire Safety Technical and Consultation Manager, Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service Headquarters, 146 Bolton Rd, Swinton, Pendlebury, Manchester M27 8US

<https://www.manchesterfire.gov.uk/>

Email: consultations@manchesterfire.gov.uk

Tel: 0161 608 4040Public Health Authority

Director of Public Health, Manchester Department of Public Health, Department of Public Health,
Level 4, Town Hall Extension, Manchester City Council, M2 5DB

PHregulatory@manchester.gov.uk

Health and Safety (local authority premises, hospital premises and some university premises)

Health and Safety Executive, Grove House, Skerton Road, Manchester M16 0RB

Tel: 0161 952 8200

Health and Safety at all other premises

Environmental Health (Premises Licences), 1 Hammerstone Road, Gorton, Manchester M18 8EQ

EnvH.Licensing@manchester.gov.uk

Tel: 0161 234 4854

Environmental Health

Licensing and Out of Hours Team, Level 1, Town Hall Extension, Manchester M60 2LA

Outofhourscompliance@manchester.gov.uk

Tel: 0161 234 4854

Planning

Manchester City Council Planning Department (Premises Licences), PO Box 463, Town Hall,
Manchester M60 2LA

planning@manchester.gov.uk

Tel: 0161 234 4516

Trading Standards

Trading Standards Service, 1 Hammerstone Road, Gorton, Manchester M18 8EQ

trading_standards@manchester.gov.uk

Tel: 0161 234 1555

Body designated to advise on the protection of children from harm

Manchester Safeguarding Children Board, c/o Licensing Officer, PO Box 532, Manchester City
Council, Level 4, Town Hall Extension, Manchester M60 2LA

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mscb@manchester.gov.uk

Tel: 0161 234 3330

The Inland Navigation Authority (in relation to vessels on the Bridgewater Canal and Manchester Ship Canal only)

Manchester Ship Canal Company, Peel Dome, Trafford Centre, Manchester M17 8PL

www.shipcanal.co.uk

Appendix C: Connected key strategies

This policy delivers on key components of the Manchester Strategy and has strategic links with several other policies and strategies.

Many of these strategies may not be directly related to the promotion of the licensing objectives, but have an indirect impact upon them. Co-ordination and integration of such policies, strategies and initiatives is therefore important.

[The Manchester Strategy](#) sets out how we intend to make Manchester the place people want to live, work, play and do business in 2025. It is based on five themes:

- A thriving and sustainable city
- A highly skilled city
- A progressive and equitable city
- A liveable and low-carbon city
- A connected city.

[GM Night-Time Economy Strategy 2022–24](#) - The strategy outlines the proposed focus of the night-time economy adviser, and the GM night-time economy panel's work for the next three years. The strategy is divided into seven priorities: safety, diversity, workers, transport, national and international partnerships and campaigns, regeneration, and business and sector support.

Community Safety Strategy – The Community Safety Partnership has one overriding objective – to make Manchester a safe place to live, work and visit. The work of the Partnership is underpinned by the Our Manchester Strategy, which places emphasis on working with residents, partners and communities to improve safety across the city.

[2022: Our Year](#) This publicised that children should not be denied opportunities to engage in cultural and entertainment activities, where there is no good reason to do so. Equally, we will ensure that children are appropriately protected from any harm, including physical, moral or psychological harm.

The [Manchester Water Safety Partnership](#) works together to help make Manchester's waterways safer, with a key focus on the city centre. Sadly, there have been several fatalities in Manchester waterways where young people had been enjoying a night out in the city centre.

We will support this work by:

- Continuing to support and inform the partnership on licensing matters
- Facilitating and promoting free water-safety training for the staff of licensing premises
- Imposing appropriate requirements on venues in proximity to water, such as requiring the provision of safety equipment, risk assessments, and training
- Ensuring water-related incidents associated with licensed premises are appropriately addressed through compliance and enforcement activities.

A thriving social and cultural economy contributes towards the successful delivery of other strategies, including:

[Manchester Cultural Ambition 2016–26](#) By increasing routes into employment in creative industries and supporting the conditions for growth of the creative and cultural sector.

[Greater Manchester Cultural Strategy](#) This strategy sets out the long-term ambitions for culture, heritage and the creative industries in Greater Manchester for the next five years, where the individual strengths of all ten GM districts can come together for the benefit of everyone.

[Manchester Youth Offer](#) By providing support for skills and training opportunities for young people, including skills for life.

[Manchester: A Great Place to Grow Older](#) By supporting skills and training opportunities for older people. Music has a unique position as a facilitator in social inclusion, such as through choirs, orchestras and community events; this is important as the population ages, as loneliness in older adults can increase.

[Developing a More Inclusive Economy: Our Manchester Local Industrial Strategy](#) Supporting development of a more inclusive economy by encouraging growth in good-quality and sustainable employment.

[Powering Recovery: Manchester's Recovery and Investment Plan](#) This is the Council's strategy for how Manchester will emerge reinvigorated from the economic shock of the COVID-19 pandemic and other challenges, such as the uncertainties of Brexit.

[Build Back Fairer in Greater Manchester: Health Equity and Dignified Lives](#) (The Marmot Review) This states that to achieve a permanent reduction in health inequalities GM needs to focus on the social determinants of health. These are factors outside healthcare that affect health, including: income, poverty and debt, work and unemployment.

[Manchester Work and Skills Strategy 2022–27](#) This sets out how we will use learning and employment to meet the Our Manchester Strategy vision of being a more highly skilled city, and how we will help create a more inclusive and zero-carbon economy in Manchester where more of our residents are connected to our city's success.

Equality and inclusivity

The public sector equality duty is a duty on public authorities to consider how their policies or decisions affect people who are protected under the Equality Act.

The [Equality Act 2010](#) places a legal obligation on public authorities to have due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation; to advance equality of opportunity; and to foster good relations between persons with different protected characteristics. The protected characteristics are age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, and sexual orientation.

The licensing authority will not seek to duplicate [existing legal requirements](#) in relation to equality issues. However, we expect that all licensed premises have:

- Inclusive and transparent policies (for example, admittance policies may clearly stipulate adherence to a dress code and refusal if someone presents as intoxicated; however, they

must not prevent admittance based on perceived attractiveness, size, or against any of the protected characteristics)

- Robust complaints procedures that make it easy for customers who feel they have been discriminated against to raise their concerns and understand how this will be investigated or managed
- Comprehensive training on equality and inclusion for all staff. It is important that any training is regularly refreshed.

[Our Manchester Disability Plan](#)

Licensees need to comply with and actively contribute to the standards set in the Equality Act 2010. Disabled people want to access the same community and city facilities that everyone else can and we will encourage this through promoting accessible venue layouts.

Appendix D: Premises operational policies and procedures

This policy sets out several expectations of applicants, and Section 4 proposes operational plans and policies that may be expected to be in place. This section sets out suggested approaches to delivering some of these. Operators are not limited to the guidance in this section and are encouraged to develop and implement best practice.

Local consultation

We encourage applicants for licences to engage and communicate with local stakeholders. In doing so, it is recommended to record:

1. The relevant stakeholders identified
2. Issues raised by stakeholders during consultation, including:
 - a. Outcomes and any resolutions (e.g. modifications to the application, undertaking, proposed conditions) in response.
If you have given undertakings, describe them, including the persons or organisations you gave them to. (Do not include any person's name – use a general description.)
 - b. For any issues where you were not able to resolve issues, concerns and objections raised by stakeholders.
Any details of why not and describe any undertakings, concessions or modifications to your proposed application that you offered to stakeholders that were not accepted.
 - c. The impact you think your proposed licence will have on the local community.
3. If you will be delivering alcohol or late-night refreshment outside of your local community, include information about these areas and the impact you think your proposed licence will have on these areas. (Include any potential negative impacts as well as benefits for stakeholders).
4. Keep neighbours updated of any changes to management and contact details
5. Hold regular ongoing meetings

Plan of Management

The plan should be succinct but outlines how the operations at your venue will be managed. Section 5 sets a range of operational considerations that may cross over into contents of the Plan of Management. Additionally, it could have details of any local engagement, as well as copies of relevant policies, procedures and risk assessments, including:

- Fire risk assessment for the venue
- Smoking policy
- Dispersal policy
- Calculation of the safe occupancy of the venue

- Harm-reduction policies, including welfare and vulnerability procedures
- Alcohol Management Plan
- Security plans, including how any 'designing out crime' principles, such as Secured by Design, are implemented to reduce or eliminate risks through the design or redesign of the premises and the immediate surrounding area.
- Emergency plan
- Noise-management plan
- Disabled access and facilities statement
- Training procedures

Alcohol Management Plan

An Alcohol Management Plan provides a framework for patrons and staff alike in understanding the responsible service principles adopted by your venue.

A good Alcohol Management Plan is a statement of actions to be taken by your venue and can cover such things as:

- Not serving minors or intoxicated patrons
- Not conducting irresponsible alcohol promotions
- Ensuring good-quality food is always available
- Promoting safe transport options to patrons
- Offering discounted non-alcoholic drinks
- Your venue's approach to dealing with problem patrons
- Restricting the types of drinks sold after midnight
- The type of business; however, its primary focus should be the responsible service of alcohol.

Your Alcohol Management Plan should also include details of how these practices will remain current (including ongoing staff training, and how often the Alcohol Management Plan will be reviewed). It is important that your Alcohol Management Plan includes what controls are in place to ensure your operations will be run responsibly and does not unduly impact on the quiet and good order of your neighbourhood.

Some key areas you may wish to include are:

- Policy/procedures regarding responsible service – what are the obligations of your staff in serving alcohol?
- Policy/procedures regarding running responsible alcohol promotions
- Policy/procedures to manage intoxication
- Policy/procedures to manage vulnerability and spiking incidents
- Policy/procedures to manage underage access to alcohol
- Policy/procedures to ensure the security and safety of customers, staff and your local community, including emergency evacuation
- Details of security arrangements, if necessary (how many, when, for how long etc)

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- Transport options available to customers and staff, especially for intoxicated customers
- The principal activity that you will conduct on the premises
- The provision of food (types, when it will be available etc)
- Details of the maximum number of customers permitted on your premises
- Policies and procedures to manage employees, including details of how staff are trained
- A waste management plan, including processes for managing litter in and around the business
- A complaint-handling procedure
- Minimising the impact of amplified/outdoor entertainment on the surrounding locality.

Your Alcohol Management Plan should:

- Be dated and include clear headings and page numbers (e.g. 1 of 4)
- Include the contact details of your local Licensing Police
- Be easily accessible by staff.

Your Alcohol Management Plan should not:

- Include wording that may conflict with conditions imposed on your premises licence
- Include trading hours that may conflict with hours imposed on your premises licence.

Alcohol server training

Alcohol-led venues will be expected to ensure that all bar staff are skilled in and responsible for:

- Identifying intoxicated and underage patrons
- Managing unruly patrons and incidents
- Understanding legislative provisions for service to intoxicated and underage patrons
- Requesting age identification
- Reducing patron frustration and agitation by effectively managing behaviour
- Prevention of proxy sales.

All staff at the premises receive comprehensive induction training prior to being authorised to sell alcohol, as well as regular refresher training that records the details of the training content, the date, the name and qualifications (if any) of the trainer, and the signatures of the trainer and trainee. Training to include:

- The nature of alcohol and its effects, as well as unit awareness
- What affects how quickly a person becomes drunk
- How over-service of alcohol impacts on the four objectives of the Licensing Act 2003
- The penalties for selling alcohol to a person who is drunk
- How to make a refusal
- How to record a refusal
- How to recognise drunkenness from a checklist of visible signs
- How to monitor for companions buying alcohol on behalf of a person who is drunk
- What to do with a vulnerable person and how to identify a medical emergency
- The premises policy to ensure that the premises operate legally and responsibly to prevent, identify and manage drunkenness

- Evidence that the trainee has gained knowledge/understanding of the training (for example, a test or quiz, completed and signed by the trainee).

Disabled access and facilities statement

This plan should set out how accessible the venue is for disabled people. It is particularly important to consider that not all disabilities are obvious, and that disability extends beyond people with mobility difficulties and wheelchair users. Disabilities include:

- People with mental health problems and/or psychological difficulties
- People who are blind or partially sighted
- People with learning difficulties/disabilities
- People who are deaf or hard of hearing
- People who use British Sign Language
- People with long-term illnesses
- People with an acquired brain injury.

We encourage applicants for a Premises Licence to include a disabled access and facilities statement with their application. All premises are expected to provide accessible venue layouts that make venues welcoming and open to all, and the layout of the premises must enable the safe evacuation of all persons in the event of an emergency.

Other relevant considerations include:

- **Accessible entrances:** Ensure that all venues have wheelchair-friendly ramps, wide doorways, and level entrances, allowing for easy access for individuals with mobility impairments.
- **Disability Awareness Training:** Provide mandatory training for all staff members to educate them on disability etiquette, accessibility, and communication, ensuring that they can accommodate patrons with various disabilities effectively and respectfully.
- **Accessible Restrooms:** Install accessible restrooms with grab bars, wider doorways, and lower sinks, ensuring patrons with mobility impairments have the necessary facilities to use comfortably.
- **Clear signage:** Use large, easy-to-read signage in high-contrast colours, placed at an appropriate height, to help individuals with visual impairments navigate the venue easily.
- **Inclusive communication:** Offer alternative communication methods, such as Braille menus, large-print materials, and visual aids for patrons with hearing or visual impairments.
- **Accessible seating:** Provide an adequate number of accessible seating options, such as movable chairs and tables, allowing patrons with wheelchairs or other mobility aids to easily navigate and enjoy the space.
- **Quiet zones:** Designate specific areas within the venue as quiet zones, providing a more comfortable environment for patrons with sensory sensitivities or individuals who prefer lower noise levels.

- Assistance animals: Welcome assistance animals, such as guide dogs, and train staff to be knowledgeable about the role they play in supporting individuals with disabilities.
- Sensory-friendly events: Host regular sensory-friendly events that cater for patrons with sensory sensitivities, by reducing noise levels, dimming lights, and minimising strong scents.
- Website and online presence: Ensure that the venue's website and online presence are fully accessible, following Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.1, so that patrons with disabilities can access information about the venue, including accessibility features and upcoming events.
- Transport and parking: Collaborate with local transport providers to ensure accessible transportation options to and from the venue. Provide designated accessible parking spots close to the entrance, with clear signage and sufficient space for wheelchair users.
- Continuous improvement: Establish a feedback mechanism for patrons to report accessibility issues, and regularly review and address this feedback to make continuous improvements to accessibility in the venue.

Pre-opening checks

- All emergency doors must not be so locked or fastened that they cannot be easily and immediately opened by any person who may require to use them in an emergency.
- Any chains, padlocks or other fastenings must have been completely removed.
- Panic bolts and latches must be checked to ensure that they can be opened easily.
- There must be no obstructions, such as parked cars outside the doors or rubbish inside or outside exit doors.
- Escape routes must not be obstructed by furniture or rubbish.
- Any fire hazard, such as wastepaper or litter, must be removed.
- All fire exit signs must be lit and clearly visible, e.g. not obstructed by curtains or posters.
- Fire doors must be kept closed, as the purpose of a fire door is to make sure that fire is contained behind the door while customers and staff escape.
- Fire-fighting equipment, such as fire extinguishers and hose reels, must be in the positions stated by the fire authority and must be ready to use.
- Emergency lighting – emergency exits must be well lit, and checks should be made to ensure that exit routes, stairways and fire signs are properly lit. Exit signs must always be clearly visible.
- Public address/fire alarm systems – all public address systems and/or fire alarms must be checked and in working order.
- At the start and end of duty there must be security briefings to exchange information and intelligence.

Appendix E: Relevant information for residents and other persons on engaging in the licensing process

Residents and businesses can play a vital role in the licensing process, as it will be they who are most likely to be directly affected. This section provides useful information on understanding how to find out about applications and submit any comments (representations) in respect of them. Representations do not have to be objections and can be made in support of an application.

Without limitation, members of the local or broader community may have concerns in relation to such matters as:

- a. Undue disturbance to the neighbourhood of the proposed licensed premises caused by the operation of the premises and/or the conduct of patrons
- b. Alcohol-related antisocial behaviour or crime
- c. Alcohol-related hospitalisations and health problems
- d. Increases in pedestrian and motor-traffic numbers
- e. Road safety (including but not limited to incidents involving motorists, cyclists and pedestrians affected by alcohol)
- f. Contribution to domestic violence associated with alcohol consumption
- g. Litter and other pollution associated with the operation of the premises.

Other stakeholders may wish to identify the benefits of an application, which may include, without limitation:

- a. Increased social and recreational opportunities
- b. Addressing a shortage of entertainment venues in the relevant local or broader community
- c. Increased opportunities for live music and other artistic pursuits
- d. Increased employment and economic activity in the hospitality or tourism industries
- e. Employment in, or other opportunities for, the arts, community or cultural sectors
- f. Other benefits identified

When framing submissions, stakeholders should consider the likely effect that granting the application would have on the promotion of the four licensing objectives. The authority can only consider submissions that are relevant to them. Where this is not viable in cases where a party wishes to support an application, letters of support should be directed to the applicant, who may provide them as supplementary documentation in support of their application. In all cases, representations should relate to the impact arising from the operation of that premises.

1. The representation should explain why this proposal in this place at these hours will fail to promote the licensing objectives. (Therefore, it is important to read the whole of the application.)

2. The representation should link to the licensing objectives, e.g. 'the application will fail to promote the crime prevention objective because...'
3. The representation should refer specifically to any parts of this licensing policy that bear on the application.
4. The representation should explain whether the objection would be met if the proposal were to be revised (hours, conditions) and, if not, why not.
5. The representation should contribute relevant information, e.g. the proximity of residential areas or other sensitive uses, or a mounting problem of cumulative impact in the area.
6. The representation should avoid all contentious language and deal strictly with the issues.

All parties making relevant representations (including responsible authorities) are strongly encouraged to demonstrate any issues of concern and should avoid speculation and suggestion that cannot be shown happening either locally or through comparative examples. Responsible authorities are well placed to provide evidence of complaints and enforcement activity.

Further useful information and guidance can be found on the Council's website at www.manchester.gov.uk/licensing and at <https://www.gov.uk/alcohol-licensing>

Finding out about the application

Applicants for new licences and variations to existing licences are required to advertise the application in two ways, by:

1. Placing a notice at or on the premises
 - On A4 (or larger) pale blue paper (or on white paper, in the case of an application for a minor variation)
 - Printed legibly in black ink or typed in a font of at least 16 point
 - Placed prominently at or on the premises where it can be conveniently read from the exterior of the premises
 - Placed every 50 metres on the external perimeter of the premises abutting any highway (where applicable).
2. Placing a notice in a newspaper (not applicable for a minor variation)
 - Newspaper circulation must be in the vicinity of the premises (or if there isn't a local paper, in a local newsletter or circular)
 - Advertisement will be at least once in the ten days following the application being given to the licensing authority.

Both notices are required to give a brief description of the application.

A notice will also be published through the MyArea section on the Council's website (www.manchester.gov.uk) outlining key details in respect of an application, including:

- The name of the applicant or club
- The postal address of the applicant or club

- The postal address and, where applicable, the internet address where we keep our licensing register and where and when the record of the application may be inspected
- The date by which representations from responsible authorities or other persons should be received and how these representations should be made
- That it is an offence to knowingly or recklessly make a false statement in connection with an application, and the maximum fine (i.e. 'unlimited') for which a person is liable on summary conviction for the offence.

Additionally, the Licensing Unit provides email notifications of applications received by the licensing authority on a ward-by-ward basis. You can receive notifications by contacting the Licensing Unit (see Appendix 1), providing a valid email address, and confirming the wards you wish to receive notifications for. While the Licensing Unit will normally advise of all applications within the ward, the Council is not legally required to do so. This information is provided as a courtesy to members and residents and there may be occasions when notice is not provided. Therefore, it is good practice to regularly check the Council's register of licence applications and notices on premises in your local area.

The provision of representations to applicants and requesting anonymity

The expectation is that all submissions and supporting documents in their original form will be provided for the applicant. However, we will not publicly publish the names, emails, phone numbers and residential apartment or street numbers of those who have made submissions in a personal capacity. Residential street names will be retained to identify the proximity of the submitter to the relevant premises.

If, for good reasons, persons making submissions do not wish their identities to be disclosed or the submissions published, they should advise the authority at the time of making submissions and explain why. The authority will consider whether there are good reasons to withhold this information. As an alternative to requiring anonymity, people may approach local councillors in case they are prepared to submit a representation in their own capacity. However, whether they do so is at their discretion.

Rejection of representations

We may reject representations if it appears the representations are frivolous (lacking in seriousness) or vexatious (made repeatedly on the same or similar grounds). Where a representation is not accepted because it is frivolous or vexatious, we will give reasons why that is the case in writing. In such cases, our officers will make the determination, giving interested parties the benefit of the doubt where appropriate.

Decisions as to whether representations are irrelevant, frivolous or vexatious must be made objectively and not on the basis of any political judgement. Accordingly, our officers will make the decisions on whether representations or applications for licence reviews should be referred to the licensing committee or sub-committees, giving the maker of the representation the benefit of the doubt. Where representations are rejected, the person making that representation will be given a written reason as to why that is the case.

Where a representation is made that is not relevant to the promotion of the licensing objectives, we will aim to notify the person submitting it as soon as we can and direct them to relevant guidance, save where the consultation period has already ended.

Councillors can use their position to ensure that representations are made by their constituents, e.g. residents and businesses, residents' associations and Chambers of Commerce.

They can use their powers to object in their own right. Obviously, objections should not be made for political motives.

If you have concerns regarding premises and do not wish to submit a representation yourself, an alternative is to contact your local councillor to enquire whether they will make a representation. However, it is a matter for members whether they accept, and it is recommended that such requests are made in writing so that any request can be clearly demonstrated.

Additionally, if you have made a representation, you can nominate any person, including a local councillor, to represent you at the hearing to determine the application. It is your responsibility to ensure that the nominated person is available and willing to represent you. As above, any request should be made in writing so that the licensing authority can be satisfied that the person has been nominated by you prior to any hearing.

Problems with existing premises

[Section 15](#) of this Licensing Policy provides details of the enforcement approach by Manchester City Council, and there are a range of enforcement measures available for agencies that can be used depending on which is most appropriate for the issues to be addressed.

Any person who is experiencing noise problems related to licensed premises should report the issue online at www.manchester.gov.uk

At weekends, or at night (between 6pm and 9am) you can report the noise issue by phone to our Compliance Team on 0161 234 5004.

Issues of fighting, offensive behaviour or criminal behaviour should be reported to [Greater Manchester Police](#), using 999 where in progress or urgent.

To report issues with sales of age-restricted items to underage persons, you will need to report the matter via the [Citizens Advice Bureau](#) or to our Trading Standards officers on 0161 234 5004.

The licensing authority encourages licensed premises, residents and businesses to work together to achieve the promotion of the licensing objectives, and it can be constructive for residents to approach the manager of the licensed premises in the first instance. Alternatively, any problems can just be reported to the licensing authority for them to address with the premises on your behalf.

Additionally, any person can apply for a review of a licence (see [Section 14](#)).

Petitions

While there is no prescribed format for petitions and the licensing authority has no power to prescribe the form of petitions, it is suggested that individuals may find the following format useful for petitions submitted in respect of a licence application.

Each page should include:

- The premises' name and address
- The details of the application
- The prayer of the petition, i.e. what the basis of it is
- The full name and address (in print) and signature of each person supporting the petition.

Appropriate weight will be given to petitions having regard to the above.

Petitions in respect of an application shall only be accepted if submitted by a responsible authority, a person who has made a relevant representation, or by the applicant. Where a petition is received, it shall be considered as support for the representation (or application) it was submitted with; the licensing authority will not consider each signatory as a representation and so shall not contact each individual signatory.

Appendix F: Film classifications

Where a Premises Licence authorises the exhibition of films, the licence must include a condition requiring the admission of children to films to be restricted in accordance with:

- Either the BBFC (British Board of Film Classification); or
- Where the film is not classified by the BBFC, any recommendations made by the licensing authority.

In accordance with the guidance issued under Section 182 of the Licensing Act 2003, the licensing authority shall concern itself primarily with the protection of children from harm when classifying films. It will not use its powers to censor films, where there is clear cause to believe this is required to promote the licensing objectives.

The licensing authority considers the classification system used by the BBFC to be nationally understood and accepted. Therefore, it will use this system as a reference point for determining its recommendation(s) on the restriction of access of children to the film(s). However, it should be noted that the licensing authority is not obliged to follow these guidelines.

Requests for certification by the licensing authority should be made at least 28 days in advance of the proposed screening date and submitted to the Licensing Unit. Requests should include:

- A physical copy of the film or link to a viewable copy online
- Details of any existing classification issued by an existing classification body, whether within or outside the UK
- A synopsis identifying the material within the film considered by the exhibitor to be likely to have a bearing on the age limit for the audience for exhibition of the film

- Any recommendation(s) that may have been made by the filmmaker for the intended audience for exhibition of the film
- Proposed age certification by the applicant.

Appendix G: Decision-making scheme of delegation

Matter to be dealt with	Licensing Committee	Licensing Subcommittee (Hearing Panel)	Officers
Application for a Personal Licence		If a police objection made and not withdrawn	If no unwithdrawn objection made
Application for personal licence with unspent convictions		If a police objection made and not withdrawn	If no unwithdrawn objection made
Application for Premises Licence / Club Premises Certificate		If relevant representation made and not withdrawn	If no unwithdrawn relevant representation made
Application for provisional statement		If relevant representation made and not withdrawn	If no unwithdrawn relevant representation made
Application to vary premises licence (under s34 of LA2003) / club premises certificate (under s84 of LA2003)			
Application to vary designated premises supervisor		If a police objection made and not withdrawn	All other cases
Request to be removed as designated premises supervisor			All cases
Application for the transfer of a premises licence		If a police objection made and not withdrawn	All other cases
Applications for interim authorities		If a police objection made and not withdrawn	All other cases
Application to review premises licence / club premises certificate		All cases	

Decision on whether a representation is irrelevant, frivolous, or vexatious			All cases
Decision on whether a ground for review is irrelevant, frivolous or vexatious			All cases
Decision to object when local authority is a consultee and not the relevant authority considering the application		All cases	
Determination of an objection to a temporary event notice		All cases	
Determination of application to vary premises licence at community premises to include licence condition		If a police objection made and not withdrawn	All other cases
Determination of minor variation (under s41B of LA2003)			All cases
Decision whether or not to give consideration to revoke or suspend a personal licence, and to give notice to the licence holder following convictions or immigration penalties.			All cases
Decision to revoke or suspend a personal licence following convictions or immigration penalties		All cases	
Decision on whether there has been a material change of circumstances in cases of representations against any interim steps taken pending review			All cases

Note: Where no representations are received in respect of an application, the licensing officer will deal with the application under delegated authority without the need for a hearing.

Appendix H: Glossary

This section explains the key terms used in the policy statement. These terms are all defined in the Licensing Act 2003 ('the Act') and Guidance.

This glossary is only intended to clarify the general meaning of each of the terms. The list is not exhaustive nor are the definitions legally comprehensive.

Agent of Change

The Agent of Change principle has been incorporated into the National Planning Policy Framework since 2018 and outlines that the entity responsible for introducing a change into the built environment carries the onus of mitigating the impacts of that change. Applied to city living and the night-time economy, Agent of Change would imply that a developer responsible for building a residential complex needs to 'design in' reasonable noise mitigation (e.g. sound insulation). Conversely, a late-night venue seeking to extend venue space or hours of live performance would need to ensure noise impacts are managed.

Amplified music

Amplified music means music or sound emitted from an amplification device, whether electrical, battery-powered or otherwise. This may include music amplified by speakers, sound systems, jukeboxes, radios, tape recorders, CD and DVD players, television sets and home-entertainment systems.

Antisocial behaviour

See <https://www.gmp.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/asb/asb/antisocial-behaviour/what-is-antisocial-behaviour/>

Applicant

An applicant is a person making an application for a Premises Licence or Club Premises Certificate.

Where a Premises Licence holder wishes to amend the licence, in most cases the Act allows for an application to vary to be made, rather than requiring an application for a new Premises Licence.

British Board of Film Classification (BBFC)

This is the national body responsible for the classification of cinema films and videos.

CCTV

Closed Circuit Television

Club Premises Certificate

This is an authorisation needed by clubs to carry on certain activities (e.g. selling alcohol to members and their guests). It may be granted to clubs that meet the specific requirements set out in Part 4 of the 2003 Act (regarding membership, that the club is established and conducted

in good faith and with special conditions where the club supplies alcohol to its members). These commonly include ex-services clubs, such as the Royal British Legion, Conservative, Labour, and Liberal clubs, working men's clubs, miners' welfare institutions, and sports and social clubs. The application process is the same as for a Premises Licence; for example, there are similar provisions about advertising applications and making representations. However, a key difference is that, unlike a Premises Licence, there is no requirement to identify a Designated Premises Supervisor to allow the supply of alcohol under a Club Premises Certificate.

Cluster

Night-time venues tend to cluster together. A good cluster is well serviced with a variety of options for activity and connectivity. Different clusters become prominent at various times of night and are increasingly understood and experienced as entertainment destinations.

We acknowledge three varieties of nightlife clusters that have differing planning and management requirements:

1. **Planned Cluster:** A self-sufficient planned arrangement of venues and spaces collectively targeting night-time leisure (e.g. Deansgate Locks, Printworks, Parris Wood)
2. **Organic Cluster:** An unplanned grouping of venues around appropriate public spaces and facilities, often led by a cultural focus or leisure theme (e.g. Peter Street, the Gay Village, Cutting Room Square, Burton Road, Beech Road)
3. **Emerging Cluster:** A cluster currently growing in popularity as a destination, and progressively gathering additional cluster characteristics (e.g. First Street, King Street, Oldham Street)

Conditions

Any limitations or restrictions attached to a licence or certificate. Essentially, they are the steps or actions the holder of the Premises Licence or the Club Premises Certificate will have to take, or not take, when licensable activities are taking place at the premises.

Councillor

An elected member of the Council.

CSE

Child Sexual Exploitation.

Dark kitchen

Hot-food delivery businesses, where meals are typically ordered online and there is no access to the public.

Designated Premises Supervisor (DPS)

The Designated Premises Supervisor (commonly referred to as the 'DPS') is a Personal Licence holder specified in the Premises Licence. All premises licensed to sell alcohol will have an identified Personal Licence holder, known as the Designated Premises Supervisor. Their purpose

is to ensure there is always one specified individual who can be identified as a person in a position of authority on the premises.

District centres

This is a term taken from Manchester's Core Strategy to define localities. Manchester's centre hierarchy forms the city centre: 17 district centres and 24 local centres. All district centres, while at the same level in the hierarchy, perform a role and function reflecting the needs of their local community. Local centres are important in providing sustainable smaller-scale shopping and community facilities for local residents.

Door supervisors

Door supervisors are responsible for the safety and security of customers and staff in venues such as pubs, bars, nightclubs, other licensed premises, and at public events.

Guidance/Section 182 Guidance

Section 182 of the Licensing Act 2003 provides that the Secretary of State must issue, and from time to time may revise, guidance to licensing authorities on the discharge of their functions under the 2003 Act. The guidance is provided for licensing authorities carrying out their functions. It also provides information for magistrates hearing appeals against licensing decisions and has been made widely available for the benefit of operators of licensed premises, their legal advisers and the public. It is a key mechanism for promoting best practice, ensuring consistent application of licensing powers across the country, and for promoting fairness, equal treatment and proportionality.

Irresponsible promotions

An irresponsible promotion is one that encourages the sale or supply of alcohol for consumption on the premises and carries a significant risk of leading or contributing to crime and disorder, prejudice to public safety, public nuisance or harm to children.

Late-night refreshment

The provision of late-night refreshment means the supply of hot food or hot drink to the public, for consumption on or off the premises, between 11pm and 5am, or the supply of hot food or hot drink to anyone between 11pm and 5am, on or from premises to which the public has access. However, there are several exemptions in Schedule 2 of the Licensing Act 2003 (e.g. vending machines in certain circumstances, where the hot food or hot drink is supplied free of charge, or where it is supplied by a registered charity).

Licensable activities

Licensable activities are the sale of alcohol, the supply of alcohol by or on behalf of a club to, or to the order of, a member of the club, the provision of regulated entertainment, and the provision of late-night refreshment. If you carry on any of these activities, you are likely to need an authorisation (a Premises Licence, a Club Premises Certificate, or a Temporary Event Notice).

Licensee

Generally, licensee refers to the holder of a Premises Licence, but also includes in this policy an applicant for a Premises Licence or applicant for a provisional statement unless otherwise stated.

Licensing Act 2003

The Licensing Act 2003 became law on 24 November 2005. The Licensing Act 2003 (the Act) introduced a single licence scheme for licensed premises that:

- Supply alcohol
- Provide regulated entertainment
- Provide late-night refreshment.

Licensing authority

This refers to Manchester City Council as the body responsible for licensing under the Act.

Licensing objectives

Licensing authorities must carry out their functions with a view to promoting four licensing objectives. Each objective is of equal importance. These are:

- The prevention of crime and disorder
- Public safety
- The prevention of public nuisance
- The protection of children from harm.

Licensing Policy

See Statement of Licensing Policy

Licensing register

Every licensing authority must keep a register holding a record of all Premises Licences, Club Premises Certificates and Personal Licences issued by it and Temporary Event Notices received by it, as well as various other matters set out in Schedule 3 of the 2003 Act. Full details of the information that must be contained in the licensing authority register can be found on the DCMS (Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport) [website](#). You can inspect the licensing authority's register of licences during office hours without charge.

Licensing Subcommittee

The Council's Licensing Committee delegates several of its functions to one or more Licensing Subcommittees. These comprise three members of the full Licensing Committee.

Mandatory conditions

The 2003 Act provides for mandatory conditions to be included in every licence and/or Club Premises Certificate relevant to the supply of alcohol, exhibition of films, and provision of door supervisors. See Section 10 of the Section 182 Guidance for details.

Minor variation

Small variations that will not impact adversely on the licensing objectives are subject to a simplified 'minor variations' process. Variations to extend licensing hours for the sale or supply of alcohol for consumption on or off the premises between the hours of 11pm and 7am; or increase the amount of time on any day during which alcohol may be sold or supplied for consumption on or off the premises are excluded from the minor variations process and must be treated as full variations in all cases.

NITENET

This is a radio communication network linking licensed premises in the city centre.

Operating schedule

The operating schedule is the part of the application form for a Premises Licence or Club Premises Certificate where the applicant sets out various details about how they propose to operate the premises when carrying on licensable activities. Among other things, it must include a description of the proposed licensable activities, the proposed opening hours and times for licensable activities, the proposed duration of the licence or certificate, and a statement of the steps the applicant proposes to take to promote the licensing objectives (e.g. arrangements for door security to prevent crime and disorder). The significance of the operating schedule is that if the application for the Premises Licence or Club Premises Certificate is granted, it will be incorporated into the licence or certificate itself and will set out the permitted activities and the limitations on them.

PACT kits

Public Access Trauma first aid kits. Created by experts in medicine, first aid and counter-terrorism policing, Public Access Trauma (PACT) first aid kits are designed to save lives by being kept in public places to which the public have access. These first aid kits, for use by any person regardless of their level of training, support the treatment of life-threatening injuries and will significantly enhance an organisation's first aid preparedness, increase the first aid resilience among the public and, ultimately, improve the survivability of a person with life-threatening injuries.

Personal Licence

A Personal Licence authorises an individual to supply alcohol, or authorise the supply of alcohol, in accordance with a Premises Licence or a Temporary Event Notice. Not everybody who works in licensed premises will need to hold a Personal Licence; however, all premises licensed to sell alcohol will have an identified Personal Licence holder, known as the Designated Premises Supervisor. In addition, all supplies of alcohol under a Premises Licence must be made or authorised by a person who holds a Personal Licence.

Premises Licence

A Premises Licence authorises the use of premises for licensable activities.

Provisional statement

This 'statement' can be applied for where premises are being or about to be constructed for licensable activities. It will give the owner some reassurance about whether a licence would be granted if the premises were built as set out in the application for the provisional statement. However, a provisional statement is not an authorisation, so the relevant permission must still be obtained to carry on licensable activities.

Public Space Protection Order (PSPO)

Public Space Protection Orders are used by local authorities to deal with the problems of antisocial alcohol drinking in public places. Once a PSPO is in place the police can use their confiscation powers to enforce the restriction. It is not an offence to consume alcohol within a designated area, but failure to comply with an officer's requests to stop drinking and surrender alcohol without reasonable excuse is. This power has been replaced by Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs), which were brought in under the Antisocial Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014. A PSPO specifies an area where activities are taking place that are or may likely be detrimental to the local community's quality of life. PSPOs impose conditions or restrictions on people using that area. See [Public Space Protection Orders \(PSPOs\) | Manchester City Council](#) for further information

Qualifying clubs

Qualifying clubs are those clubs that meet the specific requirements set out in Part 4 of the 2003 Act (regarding membership, that the club is set up and conducted in good faith, and special conditions where the club supplies alcohol to its members). These are clubs where members join for a particular social, sporting or political purpose and then combine to buy alcohol in bulk for its members (see examples under Club Premises Certificate above). Such clubs carry on activities from premises to which public access is restricted and where alcohol is supplied other than for profit.

Regulated entertainment

The provision of regulated entertainment means the commercial or public provision of entertainment facilities or the commercial or public provision of any of the following sorts of entertainment:

- The performance of a play
- An exhibition of a film
- An indoor sporting event
- Boxing or wrestling entertainment
- A performance of live music
- Any playing of recorded music
- A performance of dance
- Entertainment of a similar description to live music, recorded music or dance.

Schedule 1 of the Licensing Act 2003 has further specific rules about where the definition of regulated entertainment applies. These rules concern the intended audience and whether the

regulated entertainment is for profit. Section 16 of the Section 182 Guidance provides an overview of the circumstances in which entertainment is licensable and when it is exempt.

Relevant entertainment

This is any form of adult entertainment defined and licensed under the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982. It is defined as any live performance or any live display of nudity that can reasonably be assumed to be provided solely or principally for the purpose of sexually stimulating any member of the audience (whether by verbal or other means). Examples include lap dancing, pole dancing, table dancing, strip shows, peep shows, and live sex shows.

Relevant representation

The term 'relevant' refers to representations (see above) that are considered valid by the licensing authority. The representations must be made within 28 days after the day on which the application is given, and if made by a person other than a responsible authority, must be made seriously (*i.e.* must not be frivolous or vexatious).

Representation

These are written representations about the likely effect of the grant of an application for, a variation to, or a review of, a Premises Licence or Club Premises Certificate, on the promotion of the licensing objectives. Any persons, such as residents, businesses and responsible authorities, including Environmental Health, can make representations. Representations can be in support of or against an application.

Responsible authorities

Responsible authorities include public bodies that must be notified of applications and are entitled to make representations to the licensing authority in relation to the application for the grant, variation or review of a Premises Licence or Club Premises Certificate. Any representations must be about the likely effect of granting the application on the promotion of the licensing objectives. Responsible authorities include the following for the area in which the premises are situated:

- The licensing authority
- The chief officer of police
- The fire authority
- The planning authority
- The health authority
- The Health and Safety authority
- The Environmental Health authority
- The body recognised as being responsible for the protection of children from harm:
- Inspectors of Weights and Measures (Trading Standards officers)
- In respect of vessels only: i) The Environment Agency; ii) The British Waterways Board; iii) The Maritime and Coastguard Agency; and (if different from these) iv) The relevant navigation authority/authorities for the place(s) where the vessel is usually moored or berthed or any waters where it is proposed to be navigated at a time when it is used for licensable activities.

Review

Interested parties, including residents, can request a review of a particular Premises Licence when problems occur that are related to the licensing objectives. Following the review, the licensing authority can consider a range of responses, such as suspending or revoking the licences, excluding certain licensable activities, or changing conditions attached to a licence. However, it can only take these actions where they are appropriate to address the problem and promote one or more of the four licensing objectives.

There is also an Expedited Review process, which is only available for the police to use. This process enables the licensing authority to consider the imposition of interim steps in advance of the review hearing.

Risk assessment

The overall process of identifying all the risks to and from an activity and assessing the potential impact of each risk.

Sexual entertainment venue

A sexual entertainment venue is separately licensed under the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 to provide 'relevant entertainment' (see above) before a live audience for the financial gain of the organiser or the entertainer, subject to some exemptions.

SGSA

Sports Grounds Safety Authority

Statement of Licensing Policy

Every licensing authority will publish a Statement of Licensing Policy every five years. This will set out the general approach the licensing authority will take when making licensing decisions.

Temporary Event Notice

This is the notice that organisers of small-scale temporary events must give to make it a 'permitted temporary activity'. This notice must be in a prescribed form. There are certain limitations imposed on this system.

Variation

An application made to amend the licensable activities, hours and/or conditions of a premises licence or club premises certificate. Minor amends can be applied for by way of a 'minor variation' (see above).

Appendix I: Crime and Antisocial Behaviour data (by policy area)

Victim-based crime, 12-month periods, October to September, 2019 to 2022

Occurred between 10pm and 6am; not including offences flagged as domestic abuse.

Crime totals and crime density by square kilometre of area.

Location	2019/20 total	2020/21 total	2021/22 total	2019/20 incident density	2020/21 incident density	2021/22 incident density
Printworks/Exchange Square/Victoria	233	183	501	938	736	2014
Ancoats and New Islington Regeneration Framework	146	156	206	293	312	413
Northern Quarter	457	294	750	1991	1281	3263
Central Retail District	406	290	622	1348	963	2067
Piccadilly Gardens	441	402	468	4107	3745	4362
Spinningfields	56	39	90	560	392	903
Civic Squares (Peter, Albert, Lincoln)	103	70	127	1179	802	1447
Granada (now St John's)	22	8	36	198	74	326
Chinatown	55	39	118	2370	1680	5124
Peter Street	503	228	1049	3604	1633	7508
Village	487	314	1135	5857	3782	13662
Castlefield	95	64	122	327	222	422
Deansgate Locks	301	103	394	6735	2295	8826
First Street	16	12	28	439	333	794
Deansgate Square	80	60	114	1386	1034	1957
Oxford Road	763	506	1068	703	467	984
Rusholme	233	247	370	626	663	995
Levenshulme	114	149	166	210	276	306
Fallowfield	116	207	256	458	819	1010

Location	2019/20 total	2020/21 total	2021/22 total	2019/20 incident density	2020/21 incident density	2021/22 incident density
Chorlton	159	157	218	130	129	179
Withington	162	179	194	379	417	453
Burton Road	96	74	91	209	161	198
Didsbury	38	41	72	138	151	264
Northenden	51	36	51	197	139	196

Broad Victim-based crime types by area

Zone	Crime type	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	Total
Ancoats and New Islington Regeneration Framework	Acquisitive crime	107	87	128	322
Ancoats and New Islington Regeneration Framework	Criminal damage/Arson	17	27	27	71
Ancoats and New Islington Regeneration Framework	Offence against person	20	36	47	103
Ancoats and New Islington Regeneration Framework	Theft from person	3	5	4	12
Burton Road	Acquisitive crime	77	58	48	183
Burton Road	Criminal damage/Arson	8	7	13	27
Burton Road	Offence against person	11	9	27	48
Burton Road	Theft from person	0	0	3	3
Castlefield	Acquisitive crime	58	21	69	148
Castlefield	Criminal damage/Arson	13	9	13	35
Castlefield	Offence against person	19	29	35	83
Castlefield	Theft from person	5	5	5	15
Central Retail District	Acquisitive crime	169	103	209	480
Central Retail District	Criminal damage/Arson	23	34	42	99
Central Retail District	Offence against person	119	118	274	511

Zone	Crime type	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	Total
Central Retail District	Theft from person	95	35	97	228
Chinatown	Acquisitive crime	11	12	22	45
Chinatown	Criminal damage/Arson	1	2	5	8
Chinatown	Offence against person	27	18	74	119
Chinatown	Theft from person	16	7	17	39
Chorlton	Acquisitive crime	91	89	123	303
Chorlton	Criminal damage/Arson	19	24	23	66
Chorlton	Offence against person	44	43	71	157
Chorlton	Theft from person	4	2	2	8
Civic Squares (Peter, Albert, Lincoln)	Acquisitive crime	31	8	35	74
Civic Squares (Peter, Albert, Lincoln)	Criminal damage/Arson	6	10	10	27
Civic Squares (Peter, Albert, Lincoln)	Offence against person	38	32	64	134
Civic Squares (Peter, Albert, Lincoln)	Theft from person	27	20	19	66
Deansgate Locks	Acquisitive crime	48	18	61	127
Deansgate Locks	Criminal damage/Arson	7	2	7	16
Deansgate Locks	Offence against person	105	53	251	409
Deansgate Locks	Theft from person	140	29	75	245
Deansgate Square	Acquisitive crime	22	21	45	88
Deansgate Square	Criminal damage/Arson	6	5	7	18
Deansgate Square	Offence against person	25	22	41	88
Deansgate Square	Theft from person	26	12	21	59
Didsbury	Acquisitive crime	20	20	37	77
Didsbury	Criminal damage/Arson	7	11	13	32
Didsbury	Offence against person	10	10	22	42
Didsbury	Theft from person	0	0	1	1
Fallowfield	Acquisitive crime	35	58	89	183
Fallowfield	Criminal damage/Arson	11	31	29	71
Fallowfield	Offence against person	55	98	119	272
Fallowfield	Theft from person	15	20	19	54
First Street	Acquisitive crime	4	3	10	16
First Street	Criminal damage/Arson	2	1	2	5

Zone	Crime type	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	Total
First Street	Offence against person	8	6	15	29
First Street	Theft from person	2	2	2	6
Granada (now St John's)	Acquisitive crime	15	3	23	40
Granada (now St John's)	Criminal damage/Arson	0	1	5	6
Granada (now St John's)	Offence against person	6	3	6	15
Granada (now St John's)	Theft from person	1	1	3	5
Levenshulme	Acquisitive crime	47	65	87	198
Levenshulme	Criminal damage/Arson	17	20	19	56
Levenshulme	Offence against person	46	59	58	163
Levenshulme	Theft from person	4	6	2	12
Northenden	Acquisitive crime	30	18	16	64
Northenden	Criminal damage/Arson	7	6	22	35
Northenden	Offence against person	13	12	12	38
Northenden	Theft from person	0	0	0	0
Northern Quarter	Acquisitive crime	168	105	253	526
Northern Quarter	Criminal damage/Arson	45	37	30	111
Northern Quarter	Offence against person	167	126	336	629
Northern Quarter	Theft from person	77	27	131	235
Oxford Road	Acquisitive crime	266	149	319	734
Oxford Road	Criminal damage/Arson	66	40	78	184
Oxford Road	Offence against person	225	245	483	953
Oxford Road	Theft from person	207	72	187	467
Peter Street	Acquisitive crime	142	61	271	474
Peter Street	Criminal damage/Arson	8	17	31	56
Peter Street	Offence against person	119	86	462	667
Peter Street	Theft from person	235	64	284	583
Piccadilly Gardens	Acquisitive crime	99	62	98	259
Piccadilly Gardens	Criminal damage/Arson	29	20	24	72
Piccadilly Gardens	Offence against person	224	258	260	742
Piccadilly Gardens	Theft from person	89	62	86	237
Printworks/Exchange Square/Victoria	Acquisitive crime	73	54	107	233

Zone	Crime type	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	Total
Printworks/Exchange Square/Victoria	Criminal damage/Arson	21	32	23	77
Printworks/Exchange Square/Victoria	Offence against person	115	88	297	500
Printworks/Exchange Square/Victoria	Theft from person	24	9	74	106
Rusholme	Acquisitive crime	78	105	163	345
Rusholme	Criminal damage/Arson	24	18	36	77
Rusholme	Offence against person	115	92	150	357
Rusholme	Theft from person	17	32	22	71
Spinningfields	Acquisitive crime	33	15	37	85
Spinningfields	Criminal damage/Arson	2	3	6	11
Spinningfields	Offence against person	14	18	37	69
Spinningfields	Theft from person	6	3	10	19
Village	Acquisitive crime	111	60	214	385
Village	Criminal damage/Arson	9	10	21	40
Village	Offence against person	197	161	620	977
Village	Theft from person	170	84	280	534
Withington	Acquisitive crime	88	71	73	233
Withington	Criminal damage/Arson	21	34	29	84
Withington	Offence against person	49	69	83	201
Withington	Theft from person	5	4	9	18

Antisocial behaviour incidents, 12-month periods, October to September 2019 to 2022

Occurred between 10pm and 6am; incidents not including COVID-19-related flags, totals and incident density.

Location	2019/20 total	2020/21 total	2021/22 total	2019/20 incident density	2020/21 incident density	2021/22 incident density
Printworks/Exchange Square/Victoria	96	53	89	386	213	358
Ancoats and New Islington Regeneration Framework	51	60	40	102	120	80
Northern Quarter	199	129	109	866	562	475
Central Retail District	102	56	87	339	186	289
Piccadilly Gardens	178	107	102	1,659	997	951
Spinningfields	8	9	14	81	91	141
Civic Squares (Peter, Albert, Lincoln)	32	12	23	366	137	263
Granada (now St John's)	13	4	5	116	36	45
Chinatown	11	9	8	477	390	347
Peter Street	89	52	133	637	372	952
Village	137	58	140	1,649	698	1,685
Castlefield	43	34	36	149	118	124
Deansgate Locks	68	23	62	1,522	515	1,388
First Street	12	4	4	337	112	112
Deansgate Square	26	40	28	448	690	483
Oxford Road	203	173	194	187	159	179
Rusholme	118	94	79	317	253	212
Levenshulme	50	39	30	92	72	55
Fallowfield	42	45	33	166	178	130
Chorlton	46	42	39	38	34	32
Withington	79	68	38	184	159	89
Burton Road	24	20	7	52	43	15
Didsbury	27	16	11	98	58	40
Northenden	14	6	9	54	23	35

Antisocial incidents including COVID-19-related flags, totals and incident density

Location	2019/20 total	2020/21 total	2021/22 total	2019/20 incident density	2020/21 incident density	2021/22 incident density
Printworks/Exchange Square/Victoria	99	62	89	398	249	358
Ancoats and New Islington Regeneration Framework	82	76	40	165	152	80
Northern Quarter	231	153	109	1006	666	475
Central Retail District	104	62	87	346	206	289
Piccadilly Gardens	185	112	102	1724	1044	951
Spinningfields	8	9	14	81	91	141
Civic Squares (Peter, Albert, Lincoln)	32	12	23	366	137	263
Granada (now St John's)	14	5	5	125	45	45
Chinatown	11	11	8	477	477	347
Peter Street	91	57	133	651	408	952
Village	143	60	140	1721	722	1685
Castlefield	59	46	36	204	159	124
Deansgate Locks	69	26	62	1545	582	1388
First Street	13	4	4	366	112	112
Deansgate Square	42	71	28	724	1224	483
Oxford Road	219	201	194	202	185	179
Rusholme	129	113	79	347	304	212
Levenshulme	56	46	30	103	85	55
Fallowfield	55	66	33	217	261	130
Chorlton	55	54	39	45	44	32
Withington	116	83	38	271	194	89
Burton Road	35	21	7	76	46	15
Didsbury	29	19	11	106	69	40
Northenden	15	6	9	58	23	35

Victim-based crime counts, October 2021 to September 2022

Area	5pm to 7pm	6pm to 10pm	9pm to 1am	Midnight to 6am
Printworks/Exchange Square/Victoria	118	255	297	344
Ancoats and New Islington Regeneration Framework	71	134	125	149
Northern Quarter	112	226	403	556
Central Retail District	467	567	353	462
Piccadilly Gardens	264	387	346	310
Spinningfields	25	43	59	57
Civic Squares (Peter, Albert, Lincoln)	38	76	83	86
Granada (now St John's)	8	23	22	23
Chinatown	11	26	59	92
Peter Street	64	176	459	855
Village	35	99	357	970
Castlefield	27	78	84	80
Deansgate Locks	14	38	153	324
First Street	5	14	15	21
Deansgate Square	20	39	54	88
Oxford Road	231	423	474	854
Rusholme	84	194	239	239
Levenshulme	57	101	108	115
Fallowfield	48	116	157	178
Chorlton	93	169	155	132
Withington	82	140	125	133
Burton Road	31	66	55	67
Didsbury	35	89	64	51
Northenden	14	39	30	40

Antisocial behaviour counts, October 2021 to September 2022

Area	5pm to 7pm	6pm to 10pm	9pm to 1am	Midnight to 6am
Printworks/Exchange Square/Victoria	33	53	48	69
Ancoats and New Islington Regeneration Framework	16	39	28	25
Northern Quarter	25	54	57	83
Central Retail District	63	93	48	58
Piccadilly Gardens	33	75	56	76
Spinningfields	3	9	8	10
Civic Squares (Peter, Albert, Lincoln)	20	25	17	14
Granada (now St John's)	1	3	6	3
Chinatown	5	5	4	6
Peter Street	8	23	58	102
Village	11	18	45	113
Castlefield	9	18	27	19
Deansgate Locks	2	5	17	51
First Street	1	2	1	4
Deansgate Square	11	18	17	19
Oxford Road	36	75	95	148
Rusholme	23	55	58	49
Levenshulme	12	24	20	20
Fallowfield	12	20	22	23
Chorlton	12	23	30	23
Withington	22	40	30	21
Burton Road	11	12	6	3
Didsbury	21	23	13	4
Northenden	5	10	8	6

Maps of area crime and antisocial behaviour analysis

