



Resources and Governance Scrutiny Committee

Date: Thursday, 7 March 2024

Time: 10.00 am

Venue: Council Antechamber, Level 2, Town Hall Extension

Everyone is welcome to attend this committee meeting.

There will be a private meeting for committee members only at 9:30am on Thursday, 7 March 2024 in Room 2006, Level 2, Town Hall Extension.

Access to the Antechamber

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

There is no public access from any other entrance.

Filming and broadcast of the meeting

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

Membership of the Resources and Governance Scrutiny Committee

Councillors - Simcock (Chair), Andrews, Brickell, Connolly, Davies, Evans, Kilpatrick, Kirkpatrick, Lanchbury, Rowles, Stogia and Wheeler

Agenda

1. Urgent Business

To consider any items which the Chair has agreed to have submitted as urgent.

2. Appeals

To consider any appeals from the public against refusal to allow inspection of background documents and/or the inclusion of items in the confidential part of the agenda.

3. Interests

To allow Members an opportunity to [a] declare any personal, prejudicial or disclosable pecuniary interests they might have in any items which appear on this agenda; and [b] record any items from which they are precluded from voting as a result of Council Tax/Council rent arrears; [c] the existence and nature of party whipping arrangements in respect of any item to be considered at this meeting. Members with a personal interest should declare that at the start of the item under consideration. If Members also have a prejudicial or disclosable pecuniary interest they must withdraw from the meeting during the consideration of the item.

4. Minutes

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meetings held on 8 February 2024 and 26 February 2024.

4a. Minutes of Resources and Governance Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 8 February 2024 5 - 20

4b. Minutes of Resources and Governance Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 26 February 2024 21 - 28

5. Major Contracts Update To Follow

6. Progress made with Council Motions over the last 12 months 29 - 78
Report of the City Solicitor.

This report updates the Committee and confirms the progress made in respect of motions that have been passed before Manchester City Council over the last 12 Months.

7. Our New Finance and HR System To Follow

8. Manchester Energy Network 2024/25 Business Plan 79 - 88
Report of the Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer.

This report provides an overview of the operation and delivery of heat and power Manchester Energy Network since trading commenced in July 2021. The report also outlines priorities for

the Network for the 2024/25 financial year, with a business plan for the next 12 months being brought forward under an accompanying Part B report.

9. Overview Report

89 - 102

Report of the Governance and Scrutiny Support Unit.

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

10. Exclusion of Press and Public

The officers consider that the following item contains exempt information as provided for in the Local Government Access to Information Act and that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information. The Committee is recommended to agree the necessary resolutions excluding the public from the meeting during consideration of this item.

11. Manchester Energy Network 2024/25 Business Plan

To Follow

Information about the Committee

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

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

The Council wants to consult people as fully as possible before making decisions that affect them. Members of the public do not have a right to speak at meetings but may do so if invited by the Chair. To help facilitate this, the Council encourages anyone who wishes to speak at the meeting to contact the Committee Officer in advance of the meeting by telephone or email, who will then pass on your request to the Chair for consideration. Groups of people will usually be asked to nominate a spokesperson. The Council wants its meetings to be as open as possible but occasionally there will be some confidential business. Brief reasons for confidentiality will be shown on the agenda sheet.

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

Smoking is not allowed in Council buildings.

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Further Information

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

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This agenda was issued on **Wednesday, 28 February 2024** by the Governance and Scrutiny Support Unit, Manchester City Council, Level 2, Town Hall Extension, Manchester, M60 2LA

Resources and Governance Scrutiny Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, 8 February 2024

Present:

Councillor Simcock (Chair) – in the Chair
Councillors Andrews, Brickell, Connolly, Davies, Evans, Kilpatrick, Kirkpatrick, Lanchbury, Stogia and Wheeler

Also present:

Councillor Akbar, Executive Member for Finance and Resources
Councillor White, Executive Member for Housing and Development
Councillor Leech

Apologies: Councillor Rowles

RGSC/24/13 Urgent Business

In opening the meeting, the Chair advised that he had agreed to bring forward an item of urgent business relating to a recent Key Decision which Councillor Leech was considering calling in. The Key Decision related to the approval of capital expenditure of £1,302,000 for the acquisition of leasehold investment in Holt Town.

The Chair invited Councillor Leech to explain his concerns regarding this decision. Councillor Leech explained that when the decision was first published, he requested further information on when and how much the Council had previously sold the lease for to ensure that the decision reflected value-for-money. He stated that he received a response 4 working days later to clarify his request and that the information was provided on the morning of the day when the call-in period would end. Councillor Leech stated he felt this length of time was unacceptable and that he had been unable to garner the necessary support for a call-in due to the length of time taken to provide the requested information. He stated that he had been told that a report would not be ready to provide to the committee today had he called the decision in, which he did not agree with, and expressed his opinion that Scrutiny Committees should be chaired by Opposition members. He did, however, state that he had since received the information he requested and that this was satisfactory enough not to warrant calling the decision in.

The Chair acknowledged Councillor Leech's concerns and commented that officers involved in making Key Decisions should be prepared to respond to questions from members in a timely manner.

The Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer, who was the decision-maker, apologised to Councillor Leech and recognised that it was unacceptable to receive such a late response to a call-in query. She explained that the contact officer for this decision had been on annual leave when Councillor Leech's enquiry was sent and that she and the City Solicitor would discuss with colleagues in the Senior Management Team to ensure that arrangements were in place going forwards to

provide timely responses to queries. She assured members of the strategic importance of the Holt Town regeneration project and that she believed the acquisition to constitute good value for money and that it was in line with the Council's aspirations. She concluded by reaffirming the value of the scrutiny and democratic process.

RGSC/24/14 Interests

Councillor Connolly declared a personal interest in item 9.

RGSC/24/15 Minutes

Decision:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 11 January 2024 be approved as a correct record.

RGSC/24/16 Elections Act Duties Progress Report

The committee considered a report of the Chief Executive which outlined the planning and governance arrangements for the implementation of existing and new duties within the Elections Act 2022.

Key points and themes within the report included:

- Providing an introduction and background to the Elections Act 2022;
- Progress with the duties implemented in May 2023, such as voter ID and accessibility;
- Community engagement and communications for elections in 2023 and 2024;
- Governance and capacity, including the GM-wide Strategic Elections function, the Council's Elections Act Steering Group and additional staff resources within the core elections team;
- New duties which have come into force since the May 2023 election, such as online absent voting applications, changes to postal vote handling rules, changes to overseas voting and parliamentary boundary changes;
- Ongoing preparations for a UK Parliamentary election;
- The establishment of an Elections Act Forum and the development of the Elections Outreach Pack; and
- Changes expected to be implemented after May 2024 elections.

Some of the key points and queries that arose from the committee's discussions included:

- Querying whether reference in the report to a 'tactical voting device' was correct;
- If the Electoral Commission's national campaign to publicise the Voter ID scheme had begun;
- Requesting that the Elections Outreach Pack be recirculated to all members;

- Whether a British Sign Language video could be created as part of the communications campaign and shared with the Deaf Centre;
- Issues with Royal Mail postage deliveries and the impact this could have on applications for postal and proxy votes and Voter Authority Certificates (VAC);
- Whether there were any issues with disability access during the May 2023 elections and if there needed to be any changes to polling stations as a result of this;
- How much money could be expected from government grants;
- If any additional groups had been added to the Outreach Pack;
- How public engagement would be impacted by the pre-election period;
- How confident officers were that the government would provide sufficient funding to cover the full costs of the implementation of the Elections Act;
- How social media would be used to engage young people and first-time voters;
- How changes to overseas voting rights would work in practice;
- What the requirements were for photo ID in polling stations and whether a National Insurance number was required;
- Whether any work had been undertaken to understand how many people chose not to vote in the May 2023 elections because of a lack of ID;
- Noting delays to postal vote applications through the government overseas voting portal, and querying how confident officers were that residents would be able to register for and receive a postal vote on time if a snap general election was called;
- The current wait time for deciding on overseas voting applications;
- Whether there had been any changes to the candidate nomination form as a result of the Elections Act 2022 and whether members could have sight of the nomination form; and
- Noting new rules restricting the handling of postal votes and querying how polling station staff would be trained to identify political campaigners.

The City Solicitor introduced the report and stated that there would be local and Greater Manchester mayoral elections in May 2024 and a general election at some point before January 2025, although the date of this had not been announced by the government. She reassured the committee that she and the Elections team were mindful of the need to prepare for these elections and this was underway. She stated that the report highlighted some areas which the Council was concerned about and where it was ensuring that additional resources were in place, given the additional requirements imposed under the Elections Act 2022. She explained that work was ongoing with communities to raise awareness of the new requirements, including those introduced in 2023 such as voter ID, and to ensure that as many residents as possible were enfranchised.

The Elections and Electoral Register Policy Officer stated that the Council had committed to a major engagement campaign to raise awareness of the new requirements under the Elections Act 2022 and that 10 factsheets had been developed. He stated that there had been significant engagement with community groups and this was ongoing. He explained that officers would be going out into the community, and in libraries for example, and that paper copies of the Elections Outreach Pack would be available for those without digital access. He reiterated that

all members had received the Elections Outreach Pack by email and that any comments would be welcomed.

On behalf of the committee, the Chair commented that the introduction of voter ID was an example of the government trying to solve a problem that did not exist at a total cost of £700k. He also highlighted that 589 people in Manchester had been unable to vote in the election in May 2023 because they did not have any or the correct form of ID.

It was confirmed that reference in the report to a 'tactical voting device' was an error and should instead read 'tactile voting device'.

In response to the committee's queries regarding communications, the Head of Strategic Communications stated that the Electoral Commission's national campaign began on 8 January 2024. He explained that the style and format of this was slightly different to the campaign ran in 2023 and it was not known how wide-reaching the campaign would be. He stated that the Council had provided feedback to the government on the need for the campaign to be more targeted but provided assurances that the national campaign would be supported across the Council's channels.

Assurances were provided that the campaign content was being shared with the Deaf Centre through Community Health Equity Manchester (CHEM).

The Head of Strategic Communications explained that social media would be used to engage with young people through targeted geographical adverts and in-app adverts. Social media channels such as Facebook and TikTok would be used. He stated that this communication campaign had started and that messages would change in line with different phases of the elections process.

The Elections Outreach Pack would also be resent to all members.

With regards to how issues with the postal service were being addressed, the Electoral Services Corporate Delivery Manager explained that she was due to meet with Royal Mail following this meeting and that she would seek assurances that election-related mail would be delivered with priority. She stated that postal vote packs were sent first class and that poll cards were mailed as part of a priority scheme. She highlighted that there had not been any negative feedback regarding delivery of polling cards or postal vote packs in 2023 but that the Elections team would monitor the situation as and when things were due to be delivered.

The Elections Corporate Delivery Manager advised that there were some issues with accessibility to polling stations in 2023 but these had been addressed. She explained that polling stations were reviewed every year and assessed on accessibility and that officers undertook inspections prior to the delivery of poll cards.

In response to a query regarding funding for implementation of the Elections Act 2022, the committee was informed that the Council had received some grants from government and that it was awaiting the outcome of a Justification Led Bid (JLB). The Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer stated that there was a shortfall of

approximately £500k and it was not yet known how much of the remaining costs would be met by the government. She stated that the process for reclaiming elections expenses was onerous but that the Council had tried to ensure that there was a contingency for elections within the budget.

The Elections and Electoral Policy Officer explained that additional community groups were included in the Elections Outreach Pack when the service was made aware, and he invited members to provide information on any groups that might wish to be involved.

The committee was also advised that public engagement would take place until nominations open for candidates in March.

The Electoral Services Manager explained that overseas voters could register at their last registered address or where they were last residing. She stated that the government had provided guidelines for what constituted as a character of good standing and the Electoral Services Unit was currently using this as the basis for approving overseas voting applications. She stated that applications had only been submitted since 16 January 2024, so officers were still learning about the process.

It was stated that the communications campaign focused heavily on acceptable forms of ID for voters, and this was also included on poll cards and inside polling stations.

In response to a member's query regarding how many people chose not to vote in the May 2023 elections because of a lack of ID, the Elections Corporate Delivery Manager stated that this information was not kept by the Elections team and would be resource-intensive to generate. She stated that political parties could look at the marked polling station registers which were released following all elections to gather this information.

Assurances were also provided that the Unit had additional resources to prepare for an influx of queries and applications when a general election was called. The Elections Corporate Delivery Manager stated that there was methodology which could be used to indicate turnout of the local and mayoral elections, and this could be used to understand staffing needs for a general election. The Council also had a bank of additional staff who could be utilised if needed.

The Electoral Services Manager explained that the current turnaround time for applications submitted through the government portal was 14 days to contact and receive a response from the applicant. She stated that all applications had been processed and that 44 applications were currently on hold whilst awaiting further information from the applicant.

Members were informed that there were no significant changes to the electoral nomination pack as a result of the Elections Act 2022. The Elections Corporate Delivery Manager explained that there would be a briefing for candidates and agents in late February which would provide detail on the nominations pack, any changes, and a guide to completing the form. She explained that the nomination form was available to download from the Electoral Commission website and agreed that an

updated version and Manchester's guide as to how to complete could be circulated to all members.

In response to a question from the Chair, the City Solicitor explained that there were a significant number of staff employed in polling stations on Election Day which meant it would be difficult to train specifically to spot political agents. She stated that the emphasis of training would be on voter ID. She commented, however, that rosettes would be an indication of a political agent or candidate.

In concluding the item, the Chair wished officers luck in delivering the elections in May and the general election.

Decision:

That

1. the report be noted;
2. the Elections Outreach Pack be recirculated to all members; and
3. a copy of the candidate nomination form be circulated to all members in advance of the Candidates and Agents Briefing.

RGSC/24/17 A new Our Manchester Strategy 2025-2035

The committee considered a report of the Assistant Chief Executive which described the background to and process of creating a new Our Manchester Strategy.

Key points and themes within the report included:

- Providing an introduction and background to the Our Manchester Strategy, which identified aims and objectives for the future of the city and how this would be achieved;
- Progress made against the current Strategy;
- Issues and areas for improvement, which would be included in the new Strategy;
- The development process and timeline for the new Strategy;
- How citywide engagement would be undertaken; and
- Next steps, including an update to all Scrutiny Committees in July 2024 on the outcome of the engagement process.

Some of the key points and queries that arose from the committee's discussions included:

- If the list of high-profile achievements in the report was definitive, and suggesting that being named a UNICEF Child-Friendly City be included;
- If the Strategy could be shared with deaf organisations;
- How the refreshed Strategy would address health inequalities;
- What engagement would be undertaken with educational institutions and businesses;
- How the Strategy would stay relevant for the full 10 years;

- The importance of making residents aware of the Strategy;
- If public engagement would be impacted by the pre-election period;
- If any consideration had been given to colours and fonts in line with accessibility requirements;
- Whether trade unions would be consulted on the refreshed Strategy;
- Noting that the report stated there were 72,000 more workers in Manchester, and seeking clarification on the definition of a worker;
- The sources for statistics included in the report, which differed from Census data;
- Whether the achievements listed in the report were as a direct result of the strategies implemented by the Council or the effect of wider demographic change;
- Requesting that members be provided with a list of the residents groups to be consulted, to ensure a comprehensive list;
- The challenges facing the hospitality and nighttime economy sector and the need to involve these in the development of the refreshed Strategy;
- Whether figures on homelessness included people temporarily living with family or friends; and
- How the consultation would understand and address the importance of balancing the different needs of different communities and groups.

The Assistant Chief Executive stated that the Our Manchester Strategy was an overarching strategy for the city and was being refreshed for 2025-2035. He explained that the Strategy provided a framework for other strategies and policies and included 5 broad themes, which would be redeveloped for the new Strategy. The report highlighted how the city had changed since the implementation of the current Strategy, including successes and challenges which would be included in the refreshed version. He explained that there would be a significant focus on engagement by conversing directly with residents and making use of public activities already planned. A digital survey was ongoing, and engagement would be targeted and inclusive with a strong focus on cultural competency. There would be face-to-face engagement and paper copies of the survey for those without digital access and officers would work closely with Neighbourhoods colleagues and ward members to identify local opportunities and issues. A further report would be brought to the committee in July 2024 with the outcomes of the engagement sessions and the emerging themes for the Strategy, with the draft Strategy scheduled to be considered by the committee in November.

The Chair commented that he had shared the consultation with residents in his ward and had received feedback that this was easy to use.

In response to a question regarding the list of high-profile achievements in the report, the Assistant Chief Executive stated that these were examples rather than an exhaustive list. He also explained that UNICEF and the Child-Friendly City work would be aligned with the new Strategy and meetings had already taken place with officers involved in this work. Activities with Manchester Youth Council, young carers and schools across the city were already planned as part of the public engagement exercise to ensure that young voices were heard.

Officers also agreed to look into creating British Sign Language resources at the request of a member.

The Assistant Chief Executive acknowledged the different health inequalities faced by residents in different areas and of different demographics in Manchester. He explained that addressing these inequalities was the objective of the Making Manchester Fairer action plan and he expected this to be a common theme within consultation responses. He stated that the Strategy would try to summarise the important areas and issues across the city and would help to inform other strategies and action plans, such as Making Manchester Fairer.

The committee was advised that the Council had effective business networks in place already and the Council would work with these to reach and engage with different sectors.

The Strategy and Economic Policy Manager stated that the Strategy would remain relevant because it would be pitched in a meaningful way and would have tangible objectives. He noted that the Strategy needed to have a broad focus with detail on specific areas of work.

Officers acknowledged the need for residents to be aware of the Strategy and its objectives and explained that engagement would be targeted in communities and that consultation events would be held in areas of high footfall, such as shopping centres and libraries in local communities. Work would also be undertaken with partners and the voluntary sector to ensure a wide range of input.

It was confirmed that public engagement on the Strategy could continue during the pre-election period.

The Assistant Chief Executive also advised that there had been some initial thought given to the colours and fonts to be used in the new Strategy. He noted that this would be a slight change from the current Strategy but stated that it was important to maintain the branding of the overall Strategy.

Assurances were also provided that trade unions would be consulted with.

In response to a query regarding the increased number of workers in the city, it was clarified that this referred to the number of jobs created in Manchester since the implementation of the current Strategy, but that this include people who worked in Manchester but were not residents. The Assistant Chief Executive advised that the Census data was viewed as unreliable for the purposes of the Strategy as some citizens were unaccounted for. He advised that figures around employment had been taken from labour market statistics. He explained that in the development of the new Strategy, deep dives would be taken into some areas and an analysis would be undertaken on the impact of the current Strategy.

In response to a request from a member, it was agreed to share a list of residents' groups which would be consulted with. The Assistant Chief Executive also invited members to provide information of any other groups in their areas who might wish to be involved.

A member suggested that officers worked with colleagues in Business Rates to engage with hospitality and nighttime economy businesses during the collection period and the Assistant Chief Executive agreed to consider this with the Business Rates and Work and Skills teams. The Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer stated that a link to the consultation could be included in the annual billing communications to businesses.

The Strategy and Economic Policy Manager explained that consultation responses could be broken down by sector to provide greater insight into areas and industries that could be struggling most with the cost-of-living and inflation pressures.

The Assistant Chief Executive advised that the number of households in temporary accommodation mentioned in the report referred to those in Council-administered accommodation but endeavoured to confirm this after the meeting.

Officers acknowledged the possibility of tensions between different themes, but the purpose of the Strategy was to provide a blend of ambitions for the city which would inform different strategies and action plans to address specific issues.

Decision:

That the Committee

1. notes the report;
2. requests that members be provided with a list of all residents' groups to be consulted with; and
3. requests further information on the source(s) of statistics included in the report.

RGSC/24/18 Revenue Budget Update and Corporate Core Budget 2024/25

The committee considered a report of the Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer which set out the latest forecast revenue budget position and the next steps and provided a high-level overview of the updated budget position.

Key points and themes within the report included:

- After the application of approved and planned savings and the use of c.£17m smoothing reserves in each of the three years, the budget is balanced for 2024/25 and the remaining gap reduced to £29m in 2025/26 and £41m by 2026/27, assuming that savings of £21.4m are delivered next year;
- An overview of financial challenges facing the Council;
- Changes to the budget position following the Autumn Statement and Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement;
- The updated Medium-Term Financial Plan;
- 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;

- Support for residents;
- ICT investment;
- 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;
- 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

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

- Commending staff for their work in developing a balanced budget for 2024/25;
- Emphasising the importance of the Household Support Fund (HSF) being continued, despite a lack of confirmation from government;
- Noting that the Council cannot add to its reserves;
- Noting the cumulative loss of budget cuts since 2010;
- How many children on free school meals would be impacted by the end of HSF;
- Recognising the lateness of government finance settlements and the uncertainty that this affords the Council;
- The importance of income generation;
- Requesting further information on the financial position of the airport; and
- How confident the Director of ICT was in being able to recruit to the service.

The Executive Member for Finance and Resources introduced the item and stated that the Government's approach to the Local Government Finance Settlement had been chaotic and only announced just before Christmas. He said the final announcement when announced had resulted in a cut of 84% in the Services Grant and this equated to a £6.1m loss for Manchester. He stated that this had resulted in an outcry from local authorities and MPs from all political parties. He stated that this situation needed to be understood in the context of fourteen years of austerity and Government funding cuts and unfunded pressures such as inflation and population growth.

The Executive Member for Finance and Resources added that the Government then swiftly announced an additional £500m for Social Care, however Local Authorities were still facing a £4bn budget gap nationally, resulting in a number of Local Authorities serving a Section 114 notice and it was anticipated that more would follow. He commented that despite this, Manchester had set a balanced budget and this had been achieved through diligent planning and management that had witnessed the strategic investment in preventative initiatives; using financial reserves prudently and investment in activities that were important for Manchester residents.

The Executive Member for Finance and Resources stated that although Manchester had been able to deliver a balanced budget this year, the Council's financial position is expected to become even more challenging. The projected budget gap, even after using reserves for 25/26 was £29m in 2025/26 and rising to £41m by 2026/27.

The Executive Member for Finance and Resources concluded by stating that the Government had continually failed to listen to Local Authorities.

The Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer confirmed that Key Decisions relating to the collection fund had been made and that the final Finance Settlement has been received from government, meaning that the overall budget position was confirmed.

She explained that the Finance Settlement contained a £1.5m return of the Council's share of the business rates levy relating to 2023/24 and would be reported in the Global Monitoring report. There was also a slightly higher than expected increase in public health grant of £1.265m which would be passported to Public Health and £5.5m from the Social Care Grant, which would be used to fund growing pressures across social care and to ensure the right preventative measures were in place.

She stated that, since November, in the absence of any additional Government funding being available, the Council had to identify an additional £10m from reserves and one-off funding since to meet the rising costs of social care. She stated that whilst the extra £5.5m grant was helpful, it was not sufficient to meet those additional costs but would reduce the overall drawdown on reserves which would be required to support the gap in 2025/26 and beyond. It was stated that there was no guarantee that this additional grant would continue beyond 2024/25 and the Council needed to plan beyond then and would continue to press for a more sustainable funding solution for children's and adult's social care.

It was also confirmed that the £110k increase in the services grant would be used to support the inflation provision.

The Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer confirmed that the Council would set a balanced budget for 2024/25 but stated that she, like many in local government, remained very concerned about the position for 2025/26 and beyond.

In response to queries regarding the Household Support Fund (HSF), the Executive Member for Finance and Resources echoed comments and stated that the government failed to recognise that the cost-of-living crisis was ongoing for many residents. He stated that the Council would use some of its own funds to mitigate the loss of HSF but it would be unable to continue providing free school meals for children. The Directorate Head of Finance confirmed that this would affect around 40,000 children.

The Executive Member for Finance and Resources confirmed that the Council's general reserve fund could not decrease lower than £25m and reiterated the need to be financially prudent. He echoed comments regarding the cumulative impact of budget cuts since 2010 and commented on the impact of this on residents, citing pressures on home-to-school transport as an example of this.

In response to a member's point regarding the need to begin work on the budget process sooner as a result of government's failure to provide settlements in a timely manner, the Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer explained that officers took a long-term approach to devising the budget and that work for next year's budget would

begin in April 2024. The Executive Member for Finance and Resources also called for multi-year finance settlements from central government.

The Deputy City Treasurer explained that the Council received £120m from sales, fees and charges and stated that the Council tried to keep fees incurred directly by residents' low. He highlighted that these fees and charges were used to support frontline services.

In response to a question regarding the return on investment in Manchester Airport, the Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer stated that she could not comment on this given the sensitive nature of regulated business. She explained that the Medium-Term Financial Plan did not account for this return.

The Director of ICT recognised challenges in recruiting to the service and explained that significant work had been undertaken to recruit and retain staff, including amending job descriptions; advertising more widely; and ensuring opportunities for progression.

Decision:

That the report be noted.

RGSC/24/19 Housing Revenue Account 2024/25 to 2026/27

The committee considered a report of the Strategic Director (Growth & Development), Strategic Director (Neighbourhoods) and Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer which presented details on the proposed Housing Revenue Account (HRA) budget for 2024/25, and an indication of the 2025/26 and 2026/27 budgets.

Key points and themes within the report included:

- Providing an introduction and background to the HRA and the Council's statutory duty;
- The current year's budget position at period 9;
- The Budget Strategy for 2024/25-2026/27;
- Current budget assumptions;
- A proposed rent increase of 7.7% for 2024/25;
- Management of the housing stock and property numbers;
- Repairs and maintenance;
- The forecast overall reserves position at the start of 2024/25;
- The key assumptions used to develop next year's budget; and
- The outlook for the 30-year HRA business plan in light of the budget proposals.

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

- Changes to legislation regarding fire assessments in buildings over 11 metres in height;

- The cap on the number of existing properties that the Council can purchase directly;
- Whether any consideration had been given to moving from communal to individual heating sources;
- If maintenance works were included as part of garage leases;
- Recognising that some money would have been wasted as a result of miscommunication between different trades providing repairs;
- Increases in the number of disrepair claims;
- Recognising how the HRA was constantly put under strain by central government introducing new regulations without providing additional funding; and
- Welcoming increased engagement with residents and suggesting that these groups be engaged with as part of the refreshed Our Manchester Strategy.

The Executive Member for Housing and Development explained that the HRA was used to fund works such as retrofitting; developing new homes; implementing fire and building safety regulations; and estate management. He informed the committee that rents would increase from April 2024 in line with the government policy of Consumer Price Index (CPI) plus 1%, which was 7.7%. He stated that the Council set aside £1m in 2023/24 to support residents with rent increase and the cost-of-living crisis and that £300k would be set aside for 2024/25 to continue helping ease financial pressures for residents.

In response to a question regarding recent changes to fire safety legislation, the Executive Member for Housing and Development acknowledged that the changes were required following the Grenfell tragedy. He stated that the Council managed a number of high-rise properties over 11 metres and that cladding and sprinklers had been assessed. He stated that further certainty and clarity was required and the Council would continue to monitor the regulations closely.

The Executive Member for Housing and Development recognised the need to build the Council's housing stock, which had reduced due to Right-to-Buy schemes and cited recent new-build developments in Collyhurst and Newton Heath. He explained that the HRA was used to purchase existing properties and buy-backs from Right-to-Buy properties where applicable.

The Directorate Head of Finance explained that a cap on the number of existing properties that the Council could buy came into effect in 2022/23 and intended to encourage a new supply of housing. He stated that this was a phased reduction of 50% of stock in 2022/23-2024/25 and would reduce to 40% and 30% in subsequent years. He explained that the cap did not have an immediate impact on the Council's housing stock given recent and planned developments, but it would be reviewed as the phased reduction continued.

The Director of Housing Operations informed members of a government inquiry into the financial sustainability of delivering social housing and he looked forward to the recommendations arising from this.

It was also stated that the Council had embarked on a comprehensive stock condition survey of every social housing property.

The Director of Housing Operations also confirmed that responsibility for the maintenance of garages leased by the Council would be stipulated within individual contracts but funding for repairs was taken from the HRA.

Members were also advised that a new engagement strategy had been devised to improve communication with residents, which included a focus on resident experience and repairs. The Director of Housing Operations stated that recent feedback had commended improvements in communication, which the committee welcomed. He also stated that there was a 13% year-on-year increase in satisfaction with repairs.

In response to a query regarding increases in the number of disrepair claims, the Director of Housing Operations stated that the Council was not an outlier in this area. He stated that there was a significant investment programme for home improvements and that it was prudent to have provisions for disrepair claims. He commented that the Council worked with residents and awarded compensation where appropriate.

The Executive Member for Finance and Resources echoed a member's comment about the strain placed on the Council and the HRA by the policies and regulations imposed by central government without any additional funding to implement these changes. He stated that it was the right thing to maintain the HRA when many local authorities did not, but that this led to challenges. He also stated that he would lobby a future government to commit to providing additional funding for social housing.

The Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer stated that the HRA was intended to be self-financing, but this concept had been undermined by the depletion of housing stock and the inability to replace; requirements around regulation changes and the associated costs of this; and the impact of inflation and the rent cap. She stated that these challenges meant there would need to be difficult trade-offs in what could and could not be afforded in future years. She reiterated, however, that statutory requirements would be prioritised.

Decision:

That the report be noted.

RGSC/24/20 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.

In response to a member's query regarding an update on the Our Town Hall project, the Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer reaffirmed a commitment to providing an update to the committee in the new municipal year. The Chair also requested an update on Factory International in the new municipal year.

Decision:

That

1. the report be noted, and
2. update reports on Our Town Hall and Factory International be added to the committee's 2024/25 work programme.

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Resources and Governance Scrutiny Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday, 26 February 2024

Present:

Councillor Simcock (Chair) – in the Chair
Councillors Andrews, Brickell, Connolly, Davies, Evans, Kilpatrick, Kirkpatrick, Lanchbury, Rowles and Stogia

Also present:

Councillor Craig, Leader of the Council
Councillor Rahman, Statutory Deputy Leader
Councillor Midgley, Deputy Leader
Councillor Akbar, Executive Member for Finance and Resources
Councillor Bridges, Executive Member for Early Years, Children and Young People
Councillor Hacking, Executive Member for Skills, Employment and Leisure
Councillor Igbon, Executive Member for Vibrant Neighbourhoods
Councillor Rawlins, Executive Member for Environment and Transport
Councillor T Robinson, Executive Member for Healthy Manchester and Adult Social Care
Councillor White, Executive Member for Housing and Development
Councillor Hitchen, Chair of the Communities and Equalities Scrutiny Committee
Councillor Reid, Chair of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee
Councillor Leech

Apologies: Councillor Wheeler

RGSC/24/21 Interests

Councillor Connolly declared a personal interest in item 5k.

RGSC/24/22 The Council's Budget 2024/25

The committee considered reports of the Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer which provided updates on the Council's financial position following scrutiny of the draft budget proposals and directorate budget plans by all Scrutiny Committees.

The committee received a statement from the Leader of the Council on the Executive's budget proposals. She thanked officers for their hard work in achieving a balanced budget for 2024/25 and acknowledged the challenges in doing so. She stated that the government had previously indicated that they were receptive to the fact that local government finances were in crisis and that they recognised their role in helping to address the £4bn funding gap forecasted over the next two years but this was not reflected in the Local Government Finance Settlement which allocated only a small amount of funding for the Council. She explained that the proposed budget took these issues into consideration but that the Local Government Finance Settlement did not provide enough funding. She stated that Manchester would have had double the amount of spending power if it had received the average budget cuts

since 2010 but she highlighted that the Council had lots to be proud of, including its long-term view of investing in communities and supporting residents.

The committee received a statement from the Executive Member for Finance and Resources on the Executive's budget proposals and the key issues underlying the budget process. He echoed the Leader's comments and praise of officers and acknowledged the difficulty in achieving a balanced budget in the context of 14 years of austerity; the government's failure to recognise the role of local government; and in-year budgetary pressures on adult's social services, children's services and homelessness despite significant work to reduce demand. He explained that Manchester had lost £443m in funding as a result of cuts to local government finances with a further reduction of £32m expected in future years and that the Council would have had an additional £74.5m per year if it had been subject to the average budget cuts across local government, which he accredited to ideological political choices. He highlighted how 8 local authorities had issued Section 114 notices in recent years, of which 3 of these notices had been issued in the previous 6 months and stated that Manchester was in a better position than many councils as a result of taking tough, long-term decisions.

Each Executive Member then summarised key points within the relevant directorate budget proposals.

The Chair then invited Chairs of other Scrutiny Committees to highlight any issues arising from individual directorate budget plans. The Chair of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee highlighted challenges with the Children and Education Services directorate budget, particularly with regards to funding for high needs blocks in schools. She recognised the hard work of officers and the importance of early help work but stated that this would be difficult to continue after 2024/25 if the government did not continue to provide the Household Support Fund (HSF).

The Chair then invited questions from the committee and the following queries and key points were raised:

- Emphasising the need for multi-year Local Government Finance Settlements;
- Welcoming work on the Aviva Studios at Factory International, which had brought communities together;
- Noting that the budget proposed a reduction of 43 full-time equivalent (FTE) positions, and querying how many of these were currently vacant;
- What reassurances could be provided that the Council was not excessively using reserves;
- Commending the work of the procurement team dealing with the Council's energy contracts, who the Chair had recently met; and
- Recognising that the Council had defended many of its services and invested heavily against a background of 14 years of budget cuts.

In response to a query regarding vacancies, the Deputy City Treasurer advised that there were approximately 800 vacancies across the Council, of which 500 had been vacant for more than 12 months and had been difficult to fill. He explained that a review had been undertaken to identify if any vacant posts could be deleted.

The Executive Member for Finance and Resources echoed a member's call for multi-year finance settlements and explained that this was the sixth year of receiving an annual settlement, which did not enable the Council to plan ahead. The Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer explained that officers took a long-term view when setting the budget and that reserves were used to smooth the budget position but she acknowledged that this was getting increasingly difficult. The Leader of the Council stated that there had been a noticeable change with regards to how smoothing reserves were used and that consideration would need to be given to how reserves were used given the forecasted budget gap of £90m by 2026/27. She provided assurances, however, that the use of reserves was well thought through.

Decision:

That the Resources and Governance Scrutiny Committee endorses the budget proposals as presented for approval by Full Council at its meeting on 1 March 2024.

RGSC/24/23 Housing Revenue Account 2024/25 to 2026/27

The committee received a statement from the Executive Member for Housing and Development regarding the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) calculations for 2024/25 to 2026/27 and its use. The Executive Member for Housing and Development explained that there would be a rent increase of 7.7% in 2024/25 which was set by the government. He stated that there were challenges in balancing the HRA due to pressures with the Right to Buy scheme and the need to improve the Council's housing stock, but work was ongoing to improve energy efficiency of the current stock and to build more social housing in areas such as Collyhurst. He also explained that £1.1m had been allocated to supporting Council tenants with the cost-of-living crisis in the 2023/24 budget and this would be continued in 2024/25 with £300k allocated to mitigate against pressures caused by rent increases and the cost-of-living.

Decision:

To endorse the proposals as recommended for approval at Council on 1 March 2024.

RGSC/24/24 2024/2025 Budget Consultation Results

The committee considered a report of the Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer and the Head of Strategic Communications which provided a summary of the results of the 2024/2025 budget and council tax consultation.

Key points and themes within the report included:

- The consultation had run from 31 October to 27 December 2023 and sought feedback on a proposed 2.99% increase in council tax and a proposed 2% Adult Social Care (ASC) precept;
- This was undertaken through an online questionnaire on the Council's website and paper questionnaires in libraries across the city. Paper copies of the consultation form were also issued to Councillors;
- The questions asked and responses;

- Analysis of responses;
- Demographic analysis; and
- Equality data.

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

- The reasons why 35% of respondents to the Budget Consultation viewed becoming a zero-carbon city as a least important priority; and
- Whether respondents to the consultation were more likely to be those who would benefit from changes to council tax, and what could be done to widen participation.

In response to queries regarding the budget consultation, the Deputy City Treasurer stated that most respondents supported an increase in council tax to support vulnerable residents. The Leader stated that there was a wide variety of respondents to the consultation and that these were often those least in receipt of Council services. She also stated that many residents favoured investment over tax cuts.

The Deputy City Treasurer explained that the Council's Communications team used different channels to reach a wide audience when consulting on the budget. He stated that the Council was pleased with the response rate this year compared to previous years and that the responses were beginning to reflect national polling.

In response to a query regarding why some respondents viewed becoming a zero-carbon city as a least important priority, the Leader explained that this could be because respondents considered the immediate issues affecting them rather than long-term ambitions or concerns.

Decision:

That the report be noted.

RGSC/24/25 Budget 2024/25 Anti-Poverty and Equalities Impact Assessment

The committee considered a report of the Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer which detailed how the approach to Equality Impact Assessments and Poverty Impact Assessments was embedded in the budget setting and business planning processes. It also detailed the budget setting process for 2024/25 and the impact this will have on equalities and poverty.

Key points and themes within the report included:

- Each service developed their own service plan for the year which detailed the steps to be taken to tackle inequalities;
- A wide range of data, intelligence and insight about communities in the city and different neighbourhoods and localities was used to inform decisions and service priorities;
- Support provided in children's early help, reablement services and investment in the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) sector;

- The proposals recommended to Council which had been identified as requiring an Equality Impact Assessment;
- Increased Investment and support for people experiencing poverty; and
- The collective impact of proposals and ongoing management.

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

- Welcoming the support offered by the Cost-of-Living Advice Line and investment in the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) sector; and
- How many households could be lifted out of poverty if the government removed the two-child benefit cap.

It was clarified that, as of July 2023, 7000 households in Manchester would be lifted out of poverty if the two-child benefit cap was removed.

Decision:

That the report be noted.

RGSC/24/26 Details of Proposed Budget Amendments (if any)

The Chair next invited Councillor Leech to present his budget amendment. In doing so, Councillor Leech proposed the following:

1. To allocate a budget of **£770,000**, subject to consultation, to enable the Council to deliver a Council Tax rebate to Manchester residents in receipt of the maximum Council Tax support equivalent to increasing the maximum support from 85% to 87.5%; to be funded through the transfer from the General Fund Reserve.
2. To allocate a budget of **£75,000**, subject to consultation, to enable the Council to deliver a Council Tax rebate to Manchester residents in receipt of the maximum Council Tax support equivalent to the increase that they would be expected to pay to cover the increased precepts for the Police and Fire services and to cover the increase of the Mayoral General precept; to be funded through the transfer from the General Fund Reserve.
3. To allocate a budget of **£1,000,000** to invest additional resources into highways maintenance, to tackle the backlog of road and pavement repairs and gully repairs, to save money on future accident trip claims and to reduce the ongoing day to day maintenance costs on gully clearing and repairs; to be funded from the Budget Smoothing Reserve.
4. To allocate a budget of **£350,000** to invest additional resources into CCTV to tackle flytipping hotspots by improving detection rates and increasing enforcement and reducing instances of flytipping and to add or replace unsuitable bins in specific problem spots where existing bin capacity results is insufficient; to be funded from the Budget Smoothing Reserve.

5. To allocate a budget of **£105,000** to invest additional resources into CCTV enforcement vehicles to tackle specific parking enforcement hotspots; to be funded from the On-street Parking Reserve.
6. That a review be carried out on the cost-effectiveness of the parking enforcement income generated by the leasing of additional CCTV enforcement vehicles.

All proposals in this amendment were spending commitments for 2024/2025 only.

The Chair then invited the Executive Member for Finance and Resources to comment on the proposed amendment from Councillor Leech. He stated that local government finances had worsened from 2010 under the Conservative-Liberal Democrat coalition government and emphasised that reserves were to be used prudently for preventative strategies and initiatives to reduce demands on key services. He further stated that the Council had increased the maximum Council Tax Support to 85% and adjusted the Universal Credit excess bands to align with this. It was highlighted that £5.5m had been retained to support those residents most in need and it was stated that the Council was doing all it could to provide support considering the budget constraints it faced.

The Leader emphasised the support available to those most in need and that the Executive continued to focus on providing vital services for residents and investing in key priorities.

Some further clarity was sought on Councillor Leech's amendment and he explained that the additional resources for CCTV enforcement proposed in the amendment was to be used in problem areas and was in addition to the investment already allocated by the Council.

The Executive Member for Vibrant Neighbourhoods provided assurances in response to the amendment that the Neighbourhoods service continued to identify ways to improve cleanliness and to tackle flytipping and emphasised the need for reserves to be used prudently.

The Executive Member for Environment and Transport explained that there were currently less than 500 highways repairs to undertake and that the service continued to undertake the planned maintenance programme. She highlighted that the on-street parking reserve was not a form of guaranteed income and that enforcement measures were needed to generate income.

The Chair queried whether members should be nervous about the proposal in the amendment to use an additional £2m of reserves in 2024/25. In response, Councillor Leech disagreed and explained that the proposals within the amendment proposed would not result in the General Reserve Fund decreasing below the acceptable threshold in three years and that many of the proposals were on a spend-to-save basis and would result in long-term financial savings to the Council. In contrast, the Executive Member for Finance and Resources stated that the General Reserve Fund was forecasted to decrease below £20m by the end of 2023/24 and that an additional

£10m had been allocated to the reserves since November 2023 to account for demands in adult's and children's social care. He stated that the reserves needed to be replenished by £3m next year based on the proposed budget. He also advised that the Council could not predict future demand on reserves.

Decision:

That the committee recommends that Council does not agree to the amendment proposed by Councillor Leech.

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Manchester City Council Report for Information

Report to: Resources and Governance Scrutiny Committee – 7 March 2024

Subject: Progress made with Council Motions over last 12 months

Report of: City Solicitor

Summary

This report updates the Committee and confirms the progress made in respect of motions that have been passed before Manchester City Council over the last 12 Months.

Recommendations

To note this update report and the progress made on the motions agreed by Council.

Wards Affected: All

Environmental Impact Assessment - the impact of the issues addressed in this report on achieving the zero-carbon target for the city	The motions that have been before council includes a motion
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Manchester Strategy outcomes	Summary of how this report aligns to the OMS
A thriving and sustainable city: supporting a diverse and distinctive economy that creates jobs and opportunities	The motion passed on the 2 February promoted Trans gender rights.
A highly skilled city: world class and home grown talent sustaining the city's economic success	Council motions are seeking to assist in developing a world class city. Addressing issues around poverty.
A progressive and equitable city: making a positive contribution by unlocking the potential of our communities	A number of the motions passed seek to unlock the potential of our communities including promoting youth services and looking at equalities issues across the City.
A liveable and low carbon city: a destination of choice to live, visit, work	The motions passed through Council address both climate issues for the City.

A connected city: world class infrastructure and connectivity to drive growth	The Motions passed by Council seek to address the issues around connectivity through addressing t poverty issues.
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Background documents (available for public inspection):

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

- Council meeting Summons (agenda) and minutes for meeting 29th March 2023
- Council meeting Summons (agenda) and minutes for meeting on 17th May 2023
- Council meeting Summons (agenda) and minutes for meeting on 12th July 2023
- Council meeting Summons (agenda) and minutes for meeting on 4th October 2023
- Council meeting Summons (agenda) and minutes for meeting on 29th November 2023
- Council meeting Summons (agenda) and minutes for meeting on 31st January 2024

All are available at <https://democracy.manchester.gov.uk>

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 This report is provided to update members on the progress of the motions that have been passed by full Council since March 2024 and following previous report to this Committee by the City Solicitor. In the City Solicitor's department a tracker is maintained of Council motions passed during the course of the year, progress on the actions taken is monitored at SMT. A number of the motions have requested a call on the government to take action and have raised serious issues of concern to Manchester residents and the Council.
- 1.2 The tracker is attached with an update for each of the motions, passed over the last 12 months with the progress made to date.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 The consideration and resolution of motions, and amendments to motions, is an important part of the Council's decision making processes. They are a significant part of the meetings of the full Council throughout the year and are a normal part of the business of Council meetings, with the exception of the Annual Meeting. Proposing and debating motions allows Councillors to participate directly in policy development and policy making enabling democracy in action.
- 2.2 The Council's procedures for debating and deciding motions are set out in Part 4 Section A of the Council's Constitution. They allow a motion to be considered at a meeting of the Council if it is supported by any five Councillors. Amendments to motions that are to be considered can be proposed by any two councillors. To be passed and adopted, motions and amendments generally require the support of a majority of the members present and voting at the meeting.
- 2.3 The decisions on motions, the resolutions of the Council, are recorded in the minutes of the Council meeting. After each meeting the resolutions are considered by the members of the Council's senior management and any necessary plans of action agreed and acted upon. Progress with these is then tracked on a periodic basis by SMT. Appended to the report is the schedule that is being maintained by the SMT to record the actions and track progress on Council resolutions.
- 2.4 In consideration of the tracker the committee will note the progress made in respect of a number of the motions and the progress monitored by this and other scrutiny committees

3.0 Recommendations

- 3.1 For the Committee to note the contents of the report and to continue to receive regular updates.

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Meeting	Motion	SMT Lead	Lead Executive Member	Action Taken	Reference at Executive or Scrutiny
31 st January 2024	<p>Post Office Scandal and Lies</p> <p>All of Manchester and the country have been horrified at the lies and injustices perpetrated by the Post Office against 900 postmasters.</p> <p>At the height of the scandal from 2010 – 2012 the Postal Affairs Minister was Sir Ed Davey. The record shows that he refused to meet with postmaster Alan Bates who let the campaign for justice.</p> <p>The City Council calls on Ed Davey:</p> <p>I) To apologise to Mr. Bates II) To apologise to the 900 postmasters whose lives were shattered by the lies and criminal harassment of the Post Office</p> <p>Moved by: Cllr. Pat Karney Seconded by: Cllr. Debbie Hilal Signed by: Cllrs: Irene Robinson, Richards, Curley, Craig, Flanagan, Rahman, Hitchen</p>	Fiona Ledden	Leader	Series of letters to Ed Davey	N/A
31 st January 2024	<p>Save the Housing Support Fund: Stop Government cutting vital support for families</p> <p>This Council notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Since 2010, cuts and decisions have led to rising levels of poverty in the UK, 	Fiona Ledden	Leader	<p>Series of Letters from the Leader:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Core cities - LGA - Ministers 	Budget Scrutiny looking at the support for those in poverty

	<p>made event worse by the Cost-of-Living Crisis.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In Manchester, we have long worked hard to increase opportunities and reduce poverty. Despite our best efforts over 40% of our children live in poverty. With over 41,000 residents likely to be living with disposable income of less than £30 a month and a further 60,000 who potentially have less than £124 disposal income a month, the situation is acute. - This council works hard to support those in need and last year alone the council spent over £50 million to support residents in hardship and reduce poverty Examples include our freephone Cost of living advice line, our food support response service and free school meals for children in the school holidays. - The Government is now threatening to scrap the Household Support Fund in March 2024. In Manchester we use this to provide support to around 60,000 residents in the form of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o 40,000 children and young people receiving free school meals holiday support; o 12,500 vulnerable households receiving cost of living support payments; o 6,000 children and young people accessing additional Holiday Activity 			<p>The Council has maintained its budget to support our most vulnerable residents through Cost of Living for 2024-25 financial year, albeit modest without HSF. In line with Making Manchester Fairer principles some of the funding will be used to tackle underlying causes and the delivery of key actions of the Anti-Poverty Strategy.</p> <p>The Cost of Living helpline and online advice through Helping Hands is in place supported by cross-service working to meet the needs of our poorest households including support with benefits, debt advice, food</p>	<p>RAGOS 8/2/24 Budget Reports sent looking at support for families</p>
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	<p>Fund support;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o 400 care leavers receiving an income top up; o Valuable support to charities working in our communities. <p>- This support makes a real difference to some of Manchester’s most vulnerable residents in managing cost of living pressures.</p> <p>This Council is concerned that across Manchester families are living under the threat of losing this vital lifeline, and that many charities and voluntary groups in Manchester depend on HSF to deliver emergency cost of living support to families who are at risk of financial hardship.</p> <p>This Council resolves:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To restate the fact that political choices have seen levels of poverty rise in the UK. - To call on the Government to provide urgent clarity and reassurance to these families and community groups reliant on this funding and extend the Household Support Fund beyond its current end date of March 2024. - That the Leader of the Council is requested to write to the Government to restate Manchester’s deep worry that this lifeline for many will be scrapped. - To campaign alongside the LGA, Labour MPs and community groups to save 			<p>support and close working with schools, GP practices.</p>	
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	<p>the HSF. Proposer: Councillor Midgely Seconder: Councillor Marsh Signatories: Councillors: Akbar, Bridges, Craig, Igbon, Rahman, Mahadi Mahamed, Irene Robinson, Butt and Taylor</p>				
31 st January 2024	<p>Extension of the Franchise - Our Home Our Vote Residence - Based Voting</p> <p>Motion This Council notes:- - That all our residents, no matter their nationality, bring significant value to our area. - The 2021 Census showed that 31% of Mancunians were born abroad and 12% are from the European Union (EU). They live, work, study, make use of public services, and call Manchester their home. - Many of our foreign-born residents from EU and Commonwealth countries can vote in our local elections. However, our residents born in non-EU and non-Commonwealth countries cannot. - Scotland and Wales have implemented residence-based voting rights where all residents with lawful immigration status have the right to vote in local and devolved national election. - A poll conducted by Number Cruncher showed that 63% of people agree that</p>	Fiona Ledden	Leader	Letters sent by Leader	N/A

	<p>all residents should have the right to vote in local elections in England and Northern Ireland.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- The current complexity in voting eligibility causes confusion and will reduce voter turnout in local elections amongst migrant voters, a group which already has a disproportionately lower voter registration rate compared to British voters. <p>This Council Further Notes:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- We welcome the positive comments by Sir Kier Starmer around voter residency when he said in 2021 that he is in "favour of voting rights for everybody who has contributed to our society." And the policy was subsequently accepted into Labours policy forum.- This Council has consistently campaigned against the unfair electoral changes that have disenfranchised the 2 million citizens without the correct photo identification.- We applaud the recent investigation by the Sunday Mirror Newspaper into how the "Tories are rigging the General Election rules" and the observation from the Independent Electoral Commission that the Government is "telling the umpire how to enforce the rules of the game." <p>This Council Resolves:-</p>				
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To support the cross-party Migrant Democracy's campaign for Residence Based Voting Rights and call on Manchester Labour MPs to continue to show their support - To continue to campaign against the to suppress votes in this country by enforcing facial identification requirements for the general election, whilst appointing overseas coordinators to make it easier to vote from overseas. - To call on all Councillors to stand up to the attacks on our electoral system by this Tory government and call on all Councillors who support residency-based voting rights to vote Labour for a Labour government to implement them. 				
29 th November 2023	<p>Notice of Motion - Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) Awareness</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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</p>	David Regan	Cllr Robinson	In response to the five elements of the motion set out below, the Director of Public Health has convened a FASD Round Table which will be held on Monday 26 th February 2024. The Round Table will have input from national and	Health Scrutiny Continue to consider this issue

	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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</p>			<p>regional experts. A local action plan for Manchester and actions to be taken forward by the NHS Greater Manchester Integrated Care Board will be agreed.</p> <p>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. Explore how services can become more FASD-friendly and aware. Work with health services to act on</p>	
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	<p>depression, anxiety, loneliness, poor academic outcomes, suicide, homelessness and criminality.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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).</p> <p>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.</p>			<p>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.” Work with schools and other organisations in providing appropriate training courses. Explore possibilities for the provision of further support for children and adults seeking an FASD diagnosis.</p>	
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	<p>This Council calls on its Officers to:-</p> <p>(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.</p> <p>(2) Explore how services can become more FASD-friendly and aware.</p> <p>(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.”</p> <p>(4) Work with schools and other organisations in providing appropriate training courses.</p> <p>(5) Explore possibilities for the provision of further support for children and adults seeking an FASD diagnosis.</p> <p>Proposed by Councillor Alijah, seconded by Councillor Azra Ali and supported by Councillors Akbar, Doswell, Foley, Hilal and T Robinson</p>				
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	<p>Minutes:</p> <p>Councillor Alijah submitted the following motion, which was seconded by Councillor Doswell.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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</p>				
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	<p>strengths which, if a person with FASD is given support, may be developed and realised, such as creativity.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>				
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	<p>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).</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Manchester council should:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">(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				
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<p>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.”</p> <p>(4) Work with schools and other organisations in providing appropriate training courses.</p> <p>(5) Explore possibilities for the provision of further support for children and adults seeking an FASD diagnosis.</p> <p>On the motion being put to the vote, the Lord Mayor declared it carried unanimously.</p> <p>Resolution</p> <p>This Council agrees to:-</p> <p>(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.</p> <p>(2) Explore how services can become more FASD-friendly and aware.</p> <p>(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</p>				
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	<p>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.”</p> <p>(4) Work with schools and other organisations in providing appropriate training courses.</p> <p>(5) Explore possibilities for the provision of further support for children and adults seeking an FASD diagnosis.</p> <p>Resolution</p> <p>That the Council:-</p> <p>(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.</p> <p>(2) Explore how services can become more FASD-friendly and aware.</p> <p>(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</p>				
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	<p>should be considered at all transition stages in the person's life.”</p> <p>(4) Work with schools and other organisations in providing appropriate training courses.</p> <p>(5) Explore possibilities for the provision of further support for children and adults seeking an FASD diagnosis.</p>				
4 th October 2023	<p>Call on the council to become a Co-operative Council</p> <p>Proposer – Cllr Hughes Seconder – Cllr Reid</p> <p>Supported by – Cllrs Brickell, Johns, Midgley, Shilton Godwin, Simcock, Rawlins, Whiston and Wills,</p> <p>The Council notes:</p> <p>That there are nearly 7,000 independent co-operative businesses across the UK, each owned and democratically run by their customers, employees, suppliers or members of their local community.</p> <p>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.</p>	Angela Harrington	Cllr Hacking	<p>The Council provides funding for Flourish through its Work & Skills budget to provide start-up & support for women led social enterprises. Flourish in conjunction with MACC is looking at what more is needed to support the growth of the sector in the city.</p> <p>There have been 4 successful recruitment fairs at City Library over the past year, connecting unemployed residents to vacancies across</p>	Economy & Regeneration Scrutiny, Mar 24 Update on the delivery of the Work & Skills Strategy

	<p>The number of people who own and control the UK's co-operatives 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.</p> <p>This Council believes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. 			<p>different job roles and sectors in Manchester. A commitment to SV has seen the creation of over 2,000 jobs across different developments in North Manchester with more of the residents in the area connected to the opportunities</p> <p>Signed up to Co-operative Council network the new economic strategy focuses one inclusive strategy.</p> <p>Part of our joint GM work we are trailing the inclusive ownership hub and funding co-operatives as part of the foundational economy innovation fund.</p> <p>Cllr Hacking is setting up an Executive Group in</p>	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• That the Council has the opportunity to “choose co-operative” when considering the future of local services, giving residents and communities more of a say in their area. <p>Therefore, we call on the Council to become a Co-operative council by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">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. Hold a meet the buyer event for local co-operatives to engage with the Council.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.			the new municipal year.	
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	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 				
4 th October 2023	Against the Closure of Staffed Ticket Offices.	Fiona Ledden	Leader	Series of letters and joint campaigns led to	N/A

	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>This Council is aware that:-</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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</p>			<p>the government changing their approach.</p>	
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<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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%).</p> <p>This Council notes: -</p>				
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	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>The presence of staff is vital for ensuring the railway is accessible to all.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Ticket office staff are trained and experienced in dealing with difficult incidents and the presence of staff deters abusive and anti-social behaviour.</p> <p>Ticket office staff provide support and assistance to passengers during times of disruption or in response to</p>				
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	<p>emergencies and their role often includes carrying out safety and security checks at the station throughout the day.</p> <p>We further note that:</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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 cross Gorton, Levenshulme, Withington, Burnage and East Didsbury (with support from Cllr Hilal) have been regularly lobbying to save their stations.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Currently the consultation has closed and the Government must give certainty to staff, passengers and the public.</p>				
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	<p>Therefore this Council commits to:-</p> <p>(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</p> <p>(2) Thanking all Manchester Councillors who took action coordinated by Labour party, the unions and other organisations.</p> <p>(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</p> <p>(6) 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</p>				
4 th October 2023	<p>Significantly Expand the use of Selective Licencing</p> <p>This motion asks Manchester City Council to use the full extent of its powers to improve conditions for renters in Manchester.</p> <p>In 2020, Manchester City Council launched a revised Private Rented Sector Strategy with aim to see</p> <p>“Manchester’s Private Rented Sector provide a high quality, low carbon, affordable and sustainable offer so that</p>	Neil Fairlamb	Cllr White	2 reports were considered by the Economy and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee in December 2023 setting out the evaluation of the final 3 pilot schemes. The report setting out the evaluation of	Economy and Regeneration Scrutiny December 2023

	<p>Manchester’s residents have a good choice of quality homes in clean, safe and vibrant neighbourhoods.”</p> <p><i>This strategy has now been updated by our ambitious Housing Strategy for the City, updated and agreed in July 2022.</i></p> <p><i>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.</i></p> <p>One of the actions we have taken is to introduce Selective Licensing.</p> <p>‘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.</p> <p><i>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.</i></p> <p><i>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.</i></p> <p><i>1,547 licenses were issued in the first four selective licensing schemes in Moston, Crumpsall, Moss Side and Old Moat.</i></p>			<p>the final 3 pilot selective licensing schemes and the report recommending the next phase in the roll out of selective licensing (phase 4). The Economy and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee agreed with the findings of the evaluation and supported the recommendations set out in the report to the Executive in January 2024, which sought permission to undertake consultation on the next phase of Selective Licensing as well as for Executive authority to be delegated to the Director of Neighbourhoods in consultation with the Executive Member for Housing and Regeneration when</p>	<p>Executive in January 2024</p>
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	<p>These schemes are now live in the following wards:</p> <p>May 2022 – April 2027</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ben Street: Clayton and Openshaw • Hyde Road: Gorton and Abbey Hey • The Ladders: Gorton and Abbey Hey • Trinity: Harpurhey <p><i>1,018 licenses have been issued to date in these 4 areas</i></p> <p>August 2023 – August 2028</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Matthews Lane, Levenshulme • Great Western Street/Claremont Rd, Moss Side and Whalley Range • Laindon/Dickenson Rd & Birch Lane, Rusholme • The Royals, Longsight <p><i>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.</i></p> <p><i>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.</i></p> <p><i>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</i></p>			<p>it comes to approving the designation of the Selective Licensing areas identified in the report. The Executive considered and approved the report in January 2024</p> <p>Preparation for the consultations is underway with the consultations to take place in early May 2024.</p> <p>In line with Greater Manchester's devolution trailblazer agreement, DLUHC has now updated the general approval for selective licensing (SL) in Greater Manchester to remove the requirement for approval from the secretary of state</p>	
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	<p><i>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.</i></p> <p><i>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.</i></p> <p>This Council notes:-</p> <p><i>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.</i></p> <p>And</p> <p>This Council is also aware that:-</p> <p><i>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</i></p>			<p>for large schemes. From discussions with colleagues at GMCA they have advised that although the council has to ask the Mayor of GM for his views he does not have to express a view nor can he prevent us from licensing 20% of our stock if we wish to do so. The general approval hasn't been updated yet on the Government pages so we are working on the basis of the letter from DLUHC. The council will have regard to this updated position and consider as part of our future plans for further licensing schemes.</p> <p>It is important to remember that a robust case has to be made to introduce selective</p>	
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	<p><i>issues with rogue landlords and tackle issues with the poorest level and quality of private rented housing.</i></p> <p><i>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.</i></p> <p>This Council therefore resolves to extend the reach of Selective Licensing by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>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</i> <i>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.</i> <i>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</i> 			<p>licensing against strict criteria set by government. This is extremely resource intensive and as such the approach and programming of future phases of Selective Licensing needs to have cognisance of the resources available. The council will also continue to look at using the most appropriate tools to manage conditions in the private rented sector including HMO and Additional Licensing as well as Selective licensing</p>	
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	<p><i>consultation and the Executive will consider that in full as part of the evaluation process for all schemes, both previous and current.</i></p> <p>4) <i>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.</i></p>				
4 th October 2023	<p>Call for a General Election now</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>	Fiona Ledden	Leader		N/A

	<p>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. In addition, not just the health but the future of our children is jeopardised by the rollback of climate policies announced in September.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>				
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<p>29th March 2023</p>	<p>Notice of Motion - Skills for Manchester</p> <p>Proposer: Cllr Taylor Seconder: Cllr Wilson Supported by: Cllrs Benham, Richards and Whiston</p> <p>Manchester is a place where businesses large and small want to operate and provide jobs for our workforce. Our growth as a city has helped attract a younger, more diverse and higher-skilled population. However, businesses are still struggling to find the right skills that they need and for the jobs of the future.</p> <p>As a city we must tackle the challenges that this skills gap presents to us otherwise we will cease to grow and build the inclusive economy that our residents deserve.</p> <p>According to the Institute for Public Policy Research - State of the North Report 2022, just one in six people aged 16-64 in the North of England hold at most a level 1 qualification, compared to just over one in seven in England as a whole. If Government truly wants to level up, then they need to invest in our education and skills system to help us address this challenge.</p> <p>For too long, central government has not taken a holistic view of skills and education. There is a disconnect between skills and jobs, and between Whitehall and our local labour market in Manchester. Our local businesses, employers, education and skills partners and local leaders understand the local labour market and know what is required to plug the skills gap. However, further devolution is needed to make a success of addressing the challenges which we currently face.</p>	<p>Becca Heron - Paul Marshall</p>	<p>Leader</p>	<p>Series of letter to lobby the government to call for these changes to funding.</p>	<p>Economy Regeneration Scrutiny</p>
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	<p>Following the publication of the Levelling Up White Paper last year, Greater Manchester was recognised as a ‘trailblazer’ Combined Authority, and negotiations began with central government on further devolution of skills budgets. Greater Manchester’s leaders have been calling for further devolution of the skills system, careers and more employment support.</p> <p>Following the Budget earlier this month, the government listened and in Greater Manchester we now have the ability to create the country’s first integrated technical education city-region. This is now a step in the right direction in terms of skills devolution, however, there is still more the government needs to do to ensure Manchester has all the necessary powers to provide the skills opportunities Mancunians deserve.</p> <p>Manchester continues to be a thriving city which is making good progress with our growth in terms of the economy and jobs. We must build on that momentum with our partners in the sector, and call on the government to provide fair funding in order to truly deliver the benefits of ‘levelling up’.</p> <p>This council resolves: -</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. To ask the Leader of the Council to continue to work with the Mayor of Greater Manchester to ensure that Manchester’s voice continues to be heard when pushing for further skills devolution from central government.2. To request that the Leader of the Council writes to the government calling for education and skills to be front and centre of all levelling up activity and investment.				
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<p>3. To lobby the government to increase spending at all levels of education and skills and to invest further in lifelong learning.</p>				
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<p>29th March 2023</p>	<p>Notice of Motion - Calling for an immediate Rent Freeze and end to Section 21 ‘no fault’ evictions</p> <p>Proposer: Cllr Karney Seconder: Cllr Chambers Supported by:</p> <p>The Government must now act to protect renters. We therefore call on the government to follow the lead of the Scottish government and:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduce an immediate freeze on rents to protect renters. • Implement an immediate ban on evictions until the cost-of-living crisis is over. • Deliver on the commitment to end section 21 by fast tracking the much-delayed Renters Reform Bill. <p>The worst cost of living crisis since the 1950s is coinciding with a national housing crisis. The result of this will be an increasing number of our residents deprived of one of the most fundamental pillars to a healthy and happy life – a secure, stable, and affordable home.</p> <p>Manchester’s housing problems are a direct result of Government policy from 2010 which has unfairly cut and defunded our city, and the lack of any national effort for building affordable homes have driven people into an unregulated private sector.</p> <p>Manchester City Council launched an ambitious new 10-year Housing strategy in 2022, building 36,000 homes, including at least 10,000 social and genuinely affordable low carbon homes over the next decade. The Housing Strategy includes plans to increasing housing supply to meet the needs of our growing population; build more social and council housing,</p>	<p>Neil Fairlamb</p>	<p>Cllr Gavin White</p>	<p>Letters and Comms</p> <p>GM Good landlord Charter is being pursued</p>	
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	<p>build more low cost, low carbon homes» Addressing rising levels of homelessness across the city, investing in the Council’s housing stock and ensuring it is well managed; address fire safety in residential blocks; build supported housing.</p> <p>In June 2022 Manchester launched Manchester Living Rent- the ambition that no one should have to pay more than 30% of their income on rent. The Council is expanding landlord licencing schemes and working to improve the rented sector where it can but has long called for more powers of regulation over the rented sector.</p> <p>The Council notes:</p> <p>Manchester City Council passed a motion on the housing crisis on 5th October 2022 which called on the Government to:</p> <p>Increase Local Housing Allowance rates in line with rising private market rents - making these more affordable and reducing the proportion of income spent on rent at a time when household budgets are increasingly squeezed Introduce rent reforms and a potential temporary cap to protect private tenants from further rental increases at a time of crisis Legislate a no winter evictions guarantee to protect private tenants from homelessness through the most challenging period of the cost-of-living crisis Reform Right to Buy - safeguarding remaining social housing stock for our most vulnerable residents, but also increasing affordable housing targets and expanding pathways to homeownership so that the right to own your own home can still be a realistic goal for all residents</p>				
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	<p>Prioritise the passing of the Renters' Reform Bill that seeks to improve standards and regulations across the private rented sector to better protect tenants.</p> <p>This Council further notes</p> <p>Manchester Labour has long called for more powers to regulate and control the private rented sector to drive up standards and protections for tenants Calls for a Renters Charter was contained in the Manchester Labour Manifesto in 2019, it called for national powers to allow rent controls; the right to repairs; an end to no fault evictions; stronger council powers over failing landlord Greater powers over the rented sector were called for as part of the latest round of Devolution</p> <p>Therefore, this Council calls for:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 All Private Renters in the city to write to the Conservative housing Minister 2 For all private renters to work with the Labour Council to secure a Labour Government to ensure a radical renter's chart for our city 3. To re-endorse the motion passed on 5th October 2022 and its actions 4. To Support calls for a Renters Charter, and to roll out the Greater Manchester Good Landlords Charter in our city 				
1st February 2023	<p>Attacks on Public Service Workers</p> <p>Proposer: Cllr Chambers</p>	Carol Culley/Deb Clarke	Leader Bev Craig	Letters have been sent to Government	N/A

	<p>Seconder: Cllr Wright Supported by: Cllrs Rawson, Connolly, Stanton, Hilal, Karney and Doswell</p> <p>Manchester Council sends support and solidarity to the Public Services Workers Rally in St Peters Sq. today.</p> <p>Thirteen years of underfunding has forced nurses, ambulance drivers, teachers, and civil servants on to picket lines to defend and protect public services.</p> <p>Rather than negotiating, the Government is rushing through an anti -strike bill that amounts to a full frontal attack on working people and their trade unions.</p> <p>Manchester's workers and families need a new Government which will enhance worker rights and invest in public services</p> <p>This Council resolves to condemn these attacks.</p>			using the combined lobbying from LGA	
1 st February 2023	<p>The Right to Strike and Protection of Workers' Rights - amended version</p> <p>Proposer: Cllr Leech Seconder: Cllr Bayunu Supported by: Cllrs Johnson, Good and Nunney</p> <p>This Council recognises that the right of a worker to withdraw their labour is a fundamental and sacrosanct right which should not be undermined or diluted in any way.</p> <p>This Council notes that this Conservative Government is seeking to undermine the right to strike by:</p>		Leader Bev Crag	Motion was passed and the support of Full Council noted. Letters from Executive Members sent to government Resource maintained for Health and safety matters within the Council as a priority to ensure staff welfare.	N/A

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allowing the use of Agency staff during industrial disputes • Introducing legislation to guarantee minimum levels of service during strike action. • Allowing the increasing use of fire and rehire <p>This Council calls for the UK Government to:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ban the use of Fire & Rehire by all employers in the UK • Ensure that the Health & Safety Executive is properly staffed and funded so that they can undertake workplace inspections unannounced. This includes the reversal of over £100 million pounds in cuts. • Support trade unions being allowed to use electronic voting for all elections and ballots including ballots for industrial action • Support the right of all workers to work from home from Day 1 for anyone who wants it after appropriate induction training, where practical. <p>The Council condemns the Lib Dem / Tory Government for cuts to local government funding that led to a historic loss of 750,000 council jobs. The scale of the job cuts led to severe service cuts that has damaged the lives of residents particularly in our city in areas as varied as Withington and Woodhouse Park and Hulme and Harpurhey.</p> <p>The Council condemns the Lib Dem /Tory Government for running down the Health and Safety Executive.</p> <p>The Lib Dem Business Secretary Vince Cable set up the Reducing Regulations Committee in June 2010 whose</p>				
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	<p>purpose was "to bring to an end excessive employment regulations, that are stifling business growth".</p> <p>The following years saw million pounds cuts in the Health and Safety Budget that led to a third reduction in inspections and the loss of hundreds of inspectors. The Tory Government continued the assault on the HSE.</p> <p>We call on all members who support workers to vote for this amended motion.</p>				
1 st February 2023	<p>Standing up for Wythenshawe</p> <p>Proposer: Cllr Craig Seconder: Cllr Newman Supported by: Cllrs White, Lynch, Cooley, Evans, Whiston, Judge, Rawlins, Russell and Taylor</p> <p>Council notes:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manchester City Council's Executive approved their ambitious plans for the transformation of Wythenshawe Civic Centre on 18th February. These plans have been described as an 'exciting and a 'once in a generation opportunity' by local people and reflect Manchester Labour's ambition for Wythenshawe • After campaigning from local Wythenshawe Labour Councillors and Mike Kane MP over many years, these plans have been brought forward in conjunction with local people, and will see: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A new cultural hub with a community cinema • Job opportunities through office space and a new Enterprise Centre • Over 1500 low carbon homes (including genuinely affordable homes) 	Becca Heron	Leader Bev Craig	<p>Whilst no further funding was initially achieved for Wythenshawe from central Government. Officers are working through opportunities from bringing in alternative sources of funding.</p> <p>Communications took place with central Government requesting alternative methods of approaching levelling up and requesting funding for Wythenshawe.</p> <p>Economy Scrutiny has considered</p>	<p>Economy Scrutiny Committee: 13/10/22 – 09/02/23 –</p> <p>Executive have looked at this topic at the following meetings: 18/01/23 – 29/07/2022</p> <p>-</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A new food hall, supporting day and nighttime businesses • A new civic square with top quality public realm • A new green transport hub; with EV charging and bike hire • Manchester Council with the support of Mike Kane MP submitted these plans to Government as part of the 'Levelling Up Fund'- as it met all of the publicised criteria <p>Council further notes:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This Council has had over £420million taken from its budgets since 2010, and across the country local Government has had £16 billion cut (which rises to over £40bn if you factor inflation) • In the Summer Leadership context Prime Minister Rishi Sunak boasted about reversing Treasury formulas "that shoved all the funding into deprived urban areas" • The Government did not support the Wythenshawe Civic bid, and like most Labour Cities in the UK did not receive funding in this round. <p>Council resolves:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That Manchester's Labour Council will always stand up for the residents of Wythenshawe and despite the Government's failure to back Wythenshawe Civic Centre the Labour Council will push ahead with it's plans and seek a commitment that work will begin as soon as possible. 			<p>this matter in particular the item on District Centres with the meeting held in Wythenshawe to examine utilisation of district centres (13/10/22)</p> <p>item on Levelling Up and Shared Prosperity Funding with discussion on the Levelling Up Fund bid for Wythenshawe (09/02/23)</p> <p>The Executive Committee have considered items on Acquisition of St Modwen's interest at Wythenshawe Civic Centre 29/07/22)</p>	
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	<ol style="list-style-type: none">2. To call on the Government to support the plans for Wythenshawe through other means to help Level Up our city.3. To call on the Government to fund local authorities fairly, so local council's have the resource to fund vital projects like this themselves.4. That Manchester's Labour Councillors will always stand up for Wythenshawe.			<p>The Council has ploughed on with enabling the delivery of our vision for Wythenshawe Civic, concluding the first stage of a procurement process for a Joint Venture development partner. We are on track to conclude this exercise in the summer. The Government recently announced that our Levelling Up Fund round 2 bid had been retrospectively approved as part of the round 3 allocation process. £20m of Central Government funding has been awarded. Both workstreams will accelerate the pace and scale of regeneration, enabling the delivery of key interventions that will transform</p>	
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				the experience and function of the Civic Centre for all residents of Wythenshawe.	
1 st February 2023	<p>Free School Meals</p> <p>Proposed by: Cllr Butt Seconded by: Cllr M Dar Supported by: Cllrs Noor, Bridges, Karney, Douglas, Reid, Abdullatif and Amin</p> <p>Over 42% of Manchester's children are now living in poverty, according to the figures released in the Government statistics in 2021. The highest density of these residents live in the North and Central of the city, however there are other areas in the South where the residents face the same issues.</p> <p>Free school meals should be available for all primary school children from Reception through to Year 11 and should not be restricted to Key stage 1 only, which is Reception, Year 1 and year 2. New analysis by Child Poverty Action Group (CPAG), based on free school meals, showed that children in poverty in England continue to be overlooked by government measures, with over 1 in 3 (800,000) children in poverty not qualifying for free school meals. These figures come as the cost-of-living crisis continues to worsen and cause hardship.</p> <p>The government must not just stand and watch, this is the time change is needed. The Government must stop the</p>	Paul Marshall Amanda Corcoran	Gary Bridges	<p>The Leader and Executive Member for finance through the final budget process has ensured that our most vulnerable residents are protected and provided with essential support. A continuation of the Household Support Fund for 2023/24 will enable continued provision of free school meals during the school holidays.</p> <p>The Leader has written to the Government lobbying for uplift in the benefits to meet inflation rises and for the increase in</p>	<p>Executive:-</p> <p>19/10/2022 – Our</p> <p>The Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee</p>

	<p>eligibility test for free school meals and not put parents and children through the stigma of being poor.</p> <p>Free school meals are only provided for those who are eligible, this eligibility is so minute that it leaves a huge gap to those children whose parents are on Universal credit and earn above the threshold of £616.67 per month. Children aged 7-16 are affected by this eligibility as a lot of these children belong to low-income families, whose earnings are over £616.67 per month threshold but the household is below average income.</p> <p>We hear from Headteachers and school staff how children come into school unable to have a warm meal due to the low household incomes. All children should be given meals during the school day without any assessments of parental income. We must make sure each child has the nutrition required for them to be able to concentrate and work to their full potential at school. An empty stomach compromises the child's learning ability, Children need nutritious warm meals, for the health, wellbeing and development, no child should have to go hungry.</p> <p>Manchester City Council recognised the shortfall, during lockdown due to coronavirus and provided free school meals in the holidays. The Government had not stepped in quick enough, and the Council had already put in the provision to support the families through the most difficult time. The Council also supported children in vulnerable families known to the school who were outside the scope of free school meals but where an assessment had identified they required extra support in the holidays.</p> <p>Parents are currently struggling with the cost of living; they are unable to source heating bills and will be worried about</p>			<p>the councils funding to meet the cost of school meals and for a revision of the eligibility Criteria. Whilst the Committee has not looked at Free School Meals as a standalone item but received a report in June 2022 on the Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme which is open to all children receiving Free School Meals. The committee has also suggested looking at Free School Meals as a whole although this has not yet been actioned</p>	
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	<p>putting meals on the table. They will worry about using gas or electric cookers and ovens due to the cost of inflation of energy bills. There are hardworking parents out there having to visit food banks to put a meal on the table. Its is heart breaking to see families in our city living through these times. As a Council we are working on this, we are asking all schools to have a named lead on poverty and how they can poverty proof the school day.</p> <p>Greater Manchester poverty action group stated in August 2022 that the number of children in Relative poverty had increased. The statistics for children living in Manchester in poverty have gone from 35.4% 2015 up to 42% in 2021. Year after Year the children of this city have gone deeper into poverty. The government has failed these children since it has come into power, the number of households in poverty has risen and nothing has been done to address this. Now is the time the Government must expand the provision to free school meals for all children.</p> <p>This Council resolves:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. To ask the Leader of the Council to continue to provide support to the most vulnerable in our city2. To request the Leader of the Council writes to Government to call for an extension of free school meals for all children and a review of eligibility criteria, which is currently at £7,400 per annum, is undertaken, to ensure those in need do not miss out (such as 7–16-year-olds). The threshold is currently very low.3. To lobby government to extend the inflationary uplift to benefits in year not just next year, to help struggling families.				
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<p>1st February 2023</p>	<p>Insourcing First Motion – Manchester City Council - Amended at Council</p> <p>This Council notes:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All political parties represented on this Council are committed to democratic public services, support the principle of reversing the trend of providing Council services indirectly through outsourcing, and are committed to reversing this policy. • Multiple public polls that show that the UK public support public ownership. • Councils across the country spend hundreds of millions of pounds buying in essential goods, services and expertise from the private sector each year. • The Public Services (Social Value) Act was introduced in 2012. It provides a legal basis for public authorities to look for wider social, economic and environmental benefits when undertaking procurement exercises. • Evidence shows that insourcing public services can deliver lower costs, more efficiency, a public sector ethos, economies of scale and an enhanced level of democratic accountability to local residents. <p>The Council further notes:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manchester’s Labour Council has a strong history and commitment to Direct Services. It had the largest Direct Works Department in the country that built thousands of council houses and has started once again to build its own homes through This City • That the city’s Arms-Length Management Organisation for Housing, Northwards, has been 	<p>Carol Culley / Peter Schofield</p>	<p>Rabnawaz Akbar</p>	<p>A major contracts and oversight board chaired by the Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer was established in November and standing membership includes the Executive member for Finance. The Board oversees major contracts including the timeline for when contracts are due for extension or retendering. A policy is being developed to frame all future contract sourcing decisions. In addition, the Board is reviewing the governance for the management of major contracts and assurance on performance and value for money.</p> <p>Resources and Governance</p>	<p>Resources and Governance Scrutiny Committee</p> <p>19/07/22 –</p> <p>Resources and Governance Scrutiny Committee on 7 March 2023.</p> <p>Executive – City wide insourcing policy.</p>
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	<p>brought back in house following extensive, positive consultation with residents and staff.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That a review of expanding capacity to have the option to take further services back in house is already on the work programme of the Resources & Governance Committee. • That government's "Best Value" legislation continues to frustrate local authorities in their work to enact the democratic demands of those they represent, and that the current guidance by central government is not fit for purpose. • Manchester City Council has had its budget cut by over £420Million since 2010. Extensive cuts to council funding under both the Liberal Democrat-Conservative Coalition and subsequent Conservative governments have deeply harmed the ability of councils to build resilience, innovate and deliver. <p>This Council believes:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That residents are more likely to trust local councillors to take decisions on their behalf over and above private companies. • That public service workers and their trade unions support the insourcing of public services. • That investing in strengthening the council's capacity, skills and ability to deliver services in-house will make the council more sustainable, innovative and effective for the long term. • That residents supporting their local councils to run services and redistribute wealth, will elect a national government willing to provide the financial resources to catalyse new social contracts and make public services local. 			<p>scrutiny Committee considered an item on Management of Major Contracts, which looked at considerations for insourcing versus outsourcing</p> <p>A progress update on the Major Contracts Oversight Board will be considered will be brought to the committee on 7 March</p> <p>The Leader has written to the government asking for a review of the Best Value legislation and cuts to Local Government.</p>	
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	<p>This Council therefore resolves to call on its Executive to:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• To continue to work in active partnership with all relevant trade unions to ensure staff who provide services in Manchester are listened to and valued, whichever management structure they currently work under.• To write to the Secretary of State calling for a wholesale review of the “Best Value” legislation to give councils the freedom to respond to the democratic demands of their own citizens.• To continue to work with partners including the Association for Public Service Excellence, of which Manchester City Council is a founding member, to develop strategies for greater democratic control of services wherever possible to deliver better results for citizens.• To continue to begin with insourcing as the default option for services with clear guidance to the policy development teams within the council on this priority.• To continue to call out the unfair and damaging cuts to local government funding by successive Governments since 2010.				
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**Manchester City Council
Report for Information**

Report to: Resources and Governance Scrutiny Committee – 7 March 2024
Executive – 15 March 2024

Subject: Manchester Energy Network: 2024/25 Business Plan – **PART A**

Report of: Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer

Summary

The purpose of the report is to provide an overview of the operation and delivery of heat and power Manchester Energy Network since trading commenced in July 2021. The report will also outline priorities for the Network for the 2024/25 financial year, with a business plan for the next 12 months being brought forward for approval under an accompanying Part B report.

Recommendations

The Resources and Governance Scrutiny Committee is recommended to note the content of the report and comment and question as appropriate.

The Executive is recommended to:

- (1) Note the content of the report and comment and question as appropriate.
 - (2) Refer to the accompanying Part B report, which outlines the 2024/25 Manchester Energy Network Business Plan, for approval.
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Wards Affected:

All

Environmental Impact Assessment -the impact of the issues addressed in this report on achieving the zero-carbon target for the city	The Manchester Energy Network will be a key contributor towards the delivery of the 2038 Manchester zero carbon target. The Energy Network has a number of actions to delivery within the Council Zero Carbon Action Plan, with updates provided on progress to supporting the 2038 zero carbon journey on a quarterly basis.
Equality, Diversity and Inclusion - the impact of the issues addressed in this report in meeting our Public Sector Equality Duty and broader equality commitments	Not applicable for this report.

Manchester Strategy outcomes	Summary of how this report aligns to the Our Manchester Strategy/Contribution to the Strategy
A thriving and sustainable city: supporting a diverse and distinctive economy that creates jobs and opportunities	Not applicable.
A highly skilled city: world class and home grown talent sustaining the city's economic success	Manchester is one of a small number of UK cities that have agreed a science-based target and is leading the way in transitioning to a zero-carbon city. The Manchester Energy Network may provide the city with opportunities in the green technology sector.
A progressive and equitable city: making a positive contribution by unlocking the potential of our communities	Not applicable.
A liveable and low carbon city: a destination of choice to live, visit, work	Manchester Energy Network is a key contributor towards the Manchester Climate Change Action Plan and the delivery of the 2038 net zero carbon target for the city.
A connected city: world class infrastructure and connectivity to drive growth	Not applicable.

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

- Equal Opportunities Policy
- Risk Management
- Legal Considerations

Financial Consequences – Revenue

There are no capital consequences associated with this report.

Financial Consequences – Capital

There are no capital consequences associated with this report.

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Background documents (available for public inspection):

Executive: The Manchester Civic Quarter Heat Network, 17th March 2021
[Civic Quarter Heat Network update.pdf \(manchester.gov.uk\)](#)

Executive: Civic Quarter Heat Network Business Case (Part B report), 2nd June 2021

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide an overview of the operational position of Manchester Energy Network since it commenced to trade from July 2021. The report sets the scene for an accompanying Part B report in order for the Council as Shareholder to approve the Manchester Energy Network Business Plan for the 2024/25 financial year.

2. Background

- 2.1 The Manchester Energy Network, formally known as Civic Quarter Heat Network, has been developed to provide heat and power to buildings within the Civic Quarter using a highly efficient Combined Heat and Power (CHP) engine.
- 2.2 Through the installation of the Network's CHP, this has negated the need to replace individual heat and power units in Council and commercial buildings, which the Network now supplies, that were coming to the end of their useful life.
- 2.3 A key objective of the Network is to assist with the decarbonisation of assets within the Civic Quarter which are difficult to address through other means due to the historic nature of the buildings and / or the restrictions around development / alterations to these buildings. It is to be noted, at present, the CHP is fuelled by natural gas but there is ongoing work to put in place a decarbonisation strategy for the Network, outlined later in the report.
- 2.4 In a report to the Executive on 21st March 2018, approval was given to establish a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) to operate the Network. The company structure for governing and managing the Network was designed to enable the sale of heat and power to any buildings, public or private, on the route of the network. The SPV comprises of the following entities:
- A holding company for the Energy Network entities (Manchester Heat Network HoldCo Limited 11954438),
 - A trading company (Manchester Heat Network TradeCo Limited 11954693), which will supply heat and power to private sector companies. TradeCo will hold the primary generation assets and the associated contracts with Vital, gas and electricity providers and other suppliers as required; and
 - A 'Teckal' company (Manchester Heat Network SupplyCo Limited 11958857), which will procure heat and power from TradeCo to supply to Manchester's local authority buildings.
- 2.5 An overarching SPV Board has been established to govern the operations of the Network, along with a number of subject matter specific sub committees, details of which is further outlined in section 3 of this report.
- 2.6 The Network is wholly owned by the Council, with a blend of equity and debt funding provided by MCC to be repaid over a 30-year term. In addition to the initial MCC funding, a grant was also received via the government

administered Heat Network Investment Project (HNIP) in 2018. The current funding arrangements for the Energy Network is as follows:

Equity:	£6,630,000
Loan:	£14,500,000
HNIP Grant:	£2,870,000
Total:	£24,000,000

- 2.7 The business model for the Network is structured in a way to provide heat and power to customers whilst ensuring sufficient revenue is generated to operate the company, as well as repaying the principal debt and interest to the Council. The company is required to operate as a Going Concern and not rely on Shareholder support. However, there have been additional Shareholder monies injected into the SPV since the commencement of trading, which is outlined in more detail in section 3 of the report.
- 2.8 With regards to the construction and operation of the Network, Vital Energi, an experienced provider of sustainable and renewable energy schemes, were appointed to deliver the Network under a Design, Build and Operate and Maintain (DBOM) contract signed on the 31 December 2018, which was procured via the “Carbon and Energy Fund” (CEF) Procurement Framework. The duration of the contract is for a 30 year duration and includes a full replacement of the CHP engine in 2039.
- 2.9 Manchester Energy Network officially commenced supply of energy to a portfolio of Council and commercial customers in July 2021. The customers currently being supplied by the Network are as follows:
- Town Hall Extension and Central Library (heat and power)
 - Manchester Art Gallery (heat only)
 - Heron House (power only)
 - Manchester Central (heat and power)
 - Bridgewater Hall (heat and power)
- 2.10 All contractual arrangements relating to Manchester Energy Network were novated from Manchester City Council to Manchester Heat Network TradeCo Limited in December 2022. The reason as to why the novation had to take place was to enable the trading of heat and electricity on a commercial basis to external customers, which the Council would not be able to undertake directly itself within its powers.
- 2.11 Following the departure of the Director of Commercial and Operations and Contract & Commissioning Lead for Neighbourhoods from the Council, the Head of Commercial Governance, Assurance and Initiatives was asked to take over strategic responsibility for the operation of the Network from July 2023. Since this time, there has been a thorough review of both the business and operational model of the Network to ensure:
- that it will be utilised to its optimum potential;
 - that there is a clear pathway for decarbonisation activity to take place; and

- ensure that the Network is fit for the future given the Heat Zoning policy which will come into force from 2025, which will have significant impacts for Heat Networks across the country.

3. Manchester Energy Network: Current Position

3.1 The Manchester Energy Network commenced trading to customers in 2021. Since this time, the fortunes of the Network have been mixed given the recent turmoil in the international energy markets. Significant work has been undertaken to stabilise the business following this period of volatility, with the 2024/25 business plan acting as a strong foundation for the Network to operate from.

3.2 The next sections of the report provide an overview of the current trading position of the company in order to provide sufficient context for the Part B report and the business plan.

3.3 Financial and Trading position

3.3.1 As outlined, the trading context has been challenging for the Network due to the volatility of the energy market, coupled with the delay of the connection of the Town Hall, which is set to be a significant offtaker and was a key element of the overall commercial case for the Network. There has also been issues with decoupling the Town Hall Extension absorption chillers due to technical matters that are in the process of being resolved, resulting in a lower than expected offtake from the Network and less revenue than originally forecast. These issues have had a negative impact on the trading position and overall finances of the Network.

3.3.2 Since trading commenced, the Network has been reporting annual deficits:

- 2021/22: £230,202 loss (published in audited accounts)
- 2022/23: £1.094m loss (published in audited accounts)

For 2023/24 accounts, there is also likely to be a loss but this will not be published publicly until December 2024 when the SPV's accounts have been filed at Companies House.

3.3.3 Given the factors outlined above, a further £1.7m has been made available, following approval by the Executive on 14th February 2024, to the SPV to draw upon, if required. An element of the funds will be utilised to assist with company cashflow. It is to be noted that this additional finance will be recovered through an extension to the loan currently provided by the Council to the SPV. A provision has been built into the 2024/25 accounts for the increased level of loan repayments that will be due.

3.3.4 In order to set a prudent budget for 2024/25, there has been a line by line budgetary analysis undertaken on all income and expenditure of the SPV to present a comprehensive picture of the costs of the business. This includes ensuring that there is a clear correlation to the pricing strategy which the SPV puts in place with its customers as part of the stabilisation plan. Through this

work, it has ensured that the Network has competitively priced heat and power and is able to fulfil its financial obligations.

3.4 Decarbonisation

3.4.1 One of the key aspects which the original business case for the Network centred around was the provision of low carbon / zero carbon heat and power. At the time of the original business case, it was presented that a CHP engine fuelled by gas and supported by Renewable Gas Guarantees of Origin (RGGOs) was the optimal way in which to facilitate a low carbon provision. However, technologies advanced rapidly and by the time the CHP engine was up and running, alternative technologies were already facilitating lower carbon solutions. In addition, RGGOs are not currently recognised as contributors to the science based carbon accounting that the Council is following. This has been advised by both the Department of Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) and the Tyndall Centre, who verify the Manchester Zero Carbon performance, and therefore cannot be incorporated in any reporting around carbon factors.

3.4.2 Despite this, the installation of the Network did replace old, inefficient, end of life equipment in Council and commercial buildings which would have required significant investment, with replacement of boilers creating some efficiency in terms of carbon output / intensity. Furthermore, the piping for the Network has a c100 year lifespan, so as alternative green fuels are used in the future, the Network infrastructure already in place can be utilised to supply both current and potentially new customers.

3.4.3 The Network was seen as a key contributor to the delivery of the Council's Zero Carbon Action Plan, with a clearly defined target for carbon reduction included in the plan – an annual carbon savings target of 1.600t. To ensure that the Network can meet fulfil the required targets, a Decarbonisation Working Group has been established and is actively working on the development of a decarbonisation strategy to clearly articulate how the Network will play its part in ensuring that Manchester can meet 2038 net zero targets. The initial plan is due to be published in Summer 2024, with further details on the current thinking around the potential decarbonisation pathway outlined within the accompanying Part B report.

3.5 Policy Context

3.5.1 Over the last 12-18 months, the policy context for heat networks has changed significantly, especially with regards to current heat zoning proposals. Under zoning, central and local government will work with industry and local stakeholders to designate zones where heat networks are identified as the most effective solution to decarbonising heat. This provides a significant opportunity for Manchester Energy Network given its location and the buildings which run along the route of the Network.

3.5.2 It is understood that in order to become the incumbent network in a zone, then there needs to be a robust decarbonisation plan put in place to meet the

requirements of the zoning policy. The exact requirements are to be stipulated when the policy is formalised but the Network is already actively undertaking this work to ensure that all necessary obligations will be met ahead of policy implementation.

3.6 Governance and Accountability

3.6.1 There is a strong governance and accountability framework in place for the SPV to operate to. An overarching SPV Board takes place on a six weekly basis, which has four Non-Executive Directors appointed to it in order to provide specialist industry insight and ensure that the Network is taking sound business decisions in relation to operational processes and business policies.

3.6.2 In addition to the SPV Board, there have been three sub-committees established for the focussing on key matters in detail, which are all critical to the successful operation of the business and delivering key priorities:

- Commercial Committee – remit of procurement and pricing.
- Finance & Audit Committee – oversight of the finances of the company, as well as managing business risk and responsibility for key operation policies.
- Decarbonisation Working Group – responsibility for formulating and implementing the Networks approach to decarbonisation.

3.6.3 To underpin the governance of the SPV, there has been a refresh undertaken of the Delegations Matrix which provides a clear framework for the SPV and its sub committees to work within, as well as being clear what matters are referred up to the Shareholder for approval.

3.6.4 With regards to Shareholder oversight of the entity, the Head of Commercial Governance, Assurance & Initiatives attends the Board on behalf of the Council and there is a monthly monitoring group in place, chaired by the Deputy City Treasurer, which reviews the overall performance of the SPV.

3.6.5 For the financial years 2022/23 and 2023/24, there has been no business plan presented to the Shareholder for approval. From this point forward, there will be an annual performance report and business plan presented to the Executive and Resources and Governance Scrutiny Committee. There will also be more formal bi-annual performance reports presented to the Council's Commercial Board and a performance briefing provided to the Leader and Executive Members for Environment and Finance & Resources. This will further strengthen the accountability and oversight of the entity.

3.6.6 It is to be noted that despite the reported trading position of the entity, the SPV remains a Going Concern. The SPV has been through a thorough review processes to ensure that improvements have been made to further strengthen a number of aspects of operation and advice from subject matter expert external advisors has been taken on board to ensure that recognised industry practice adopted and balanced business decisions are taken. It is to be noted that once the Town Hall is connected to the Network, then the Network will

begin to deliver the anticipated outcomes from the original business case, fulfilling the Shareholders expectation of the SPV's trading outputs.

3.7 2024/25 Business Plan

3.7.1 The Manchester Energy Network business plan for 2024/25 is presented alongside the accompanying Part B report. The business plan is commercial confidential and therefore needs to be a restricted item. The business plan covers the following headlines:

- Vision and objectives for 2024/25
- Policy and Strategic Context
- Corporate Structure and Governance
- Company Resourcing
- Physical Assets and Connections
- Decarbonisation
- Gas Procurement and Hedging Strategy
- Pricing Strategy
- Financial Performance and Monitoring inc. 2024/25 budget
- Key Performance Indicators
- Risk Register

4. Recommendations

4.1 The recommendations associated with this report is to note the content of the report and comment and question as appropriate.

5. Appendices

5.1 There are no appendices relating to the Part A report on the Manchester Energy Network Business Plan 2024/25. The Part B report provides a copy of the business plan as it cannot be shared publicly due to the commercially confidential content.

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**Manchester City Council
Report for Information**

Report to: Resources and Governance Scrutiny Committee – 7 March 2024
Subject: Overview Report
Report of: Governance and Scrutiny Support Unit

Summary

This report provides the following information:

- Recommendations Monitor
- Key Decisions
- Work Programme

Recommendation

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

Wards Affected: All

Contact Officer:

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

Background documents (available for public inspection):

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

None

1. Monitoring Previous Recommendations

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

Date	Item	Recommendation	Action	Contact Officer
8 February 2024	Elections Act Duties Progress Report	The Elections Outreach Pack be recirculated to all members.	This was reshared with all members on 8 February 2024.	Clare Travers-Wilkins
8 February 2024	Elections Act Duties Progress Report	A copy of the candidate nomination form be circulated to all members in advance of the Candidates and Agents Briefing.	The Candidate Nominations forms and guide to completion has been sent out to members as well as to potential Candidates and Agent Details of when the Candidates and Agents Briefing will be held have also been shared.	Clare Travers-Wilkins
8 February 2024	A new Our Manchester Strategy 2025-2035	Members be provided with a list of all residents' groups to be consulted with.	A response has been requested.	James Binks
8 February 2024	A new Our Manchester Strategy 2025-2035	Further information on the source(s) of statistics included in the report be provided.	A response has been requested.	James Binks

2. Key Decisions

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

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

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

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

An extract of the most recent Register of Key Decisions, published on **26 February 2024**, containing details of the decisions under the Committee's remit is included below. This is to keep members informed of what decisions are being taken and, where appropriate, include in the work programme of the Committee.

Subject / Decision	Decision Maker	Decision Due Date	Consultation	Background documents	Officer Contact
Corporate Core					
Enterprise Resource Planning Software (2023/10/06A) To award a contract for new Enterprise Resource Planning software to	City Treasurer (Deputy Chief Executive)	Not before 3rd Nov 2023		Report and Recommendation	Tom Wilkinson, Deputy City Treasurer tom.wilkinson@manchester.gov.uk

support finance, HR, procurement and related functions.					
<p>Award for gas supply contracts from existing Framework Agreement TC473 (2024/01/15A)</p> <p>This call off will be to enter into agreement with the UK gas supplier awarded Manchester's "Supply of Gas" Framework Agreement, (TC473), to supply gas to MCC's corporate estate, as well as to Manchester schools, colleges and academies (subject to prior SLA agreement).</p> <p>This decision is intended be taken using the urgency procedure due to the fact that markets will refresh hourly throughout a typical call-in period, meaning rates offered would not stay valid for long enough to complete the call-in process. This will be</p>	City Treasurer (Deputy Chief Executive)	Not before 12th Feb 2024		Report and Recommendation	Christopher Watkins Christopher.watkins@manchester.gov.uk

discussed and agreed with the Scrutiny Chair and Executive Member for Finance and Resources prior to this agreement.					
Increase of Microsoft Product Subscriptions (2024/02/16A) To approve expenditure for the increase of Microsoft product subscriptions.	City Treasurer (Deputy Chief Executive)	Not before 15th Mar 2024		Business case	
Development and Growth					
39 Deansgate Speakers House - Granting of over-riding lease (2022/04/12A) Approval to the granting of over-riding lease for 250 years with additional land to facilitate redevelopment of the site, as consented under planning application 131314/FO/2021	Strategic Director (Growth and Development)	Not before 11th May 2022		Confidential report and recommendations	Ken Richards, Principal Development Surveyor ken.richards@manchester.gov.uk
Disposal of site of former Chorlton Leisure Centre for residential development (21/05/13A)	Strategic Director (Growth and Development)	Not before 3rd Jul 2023		Report to the Strategic Director of Growth and Development	Mike Robertson, Principal Development Surveyor mike.robertson@manchester.gov.uk

Approval to the terms for the leasehold disposal of the site of the former Chorlton Leisure Centre for residential development.					
<p>Restructure of existing multiple ground leases at Manchester Science Park into a new overriding single head lease (2021/07/16A)</p> <p>Restructure of existing multiple ground leases at Manchester Science Park into a new overriding single head lease.</p>	Strategic Director (Growth and Development)	Not before 1st Sep 2023		Report and recommendations	Mike Robertson, Principal Development Surveyor mike.robertson@manchester.gov.uk
<p>Disposal of the former Gala Bingo, Rowlandsway, Manchester, M22 5RS (2022/05/19A)</p> <p>Approval to the terms for the leasehold disposal of the former Gala Bingo, Rowlandsway, Manchester, M22 5RS.</p>	Strategic Director (Growth and Development)	Not before 19th Jun 2022		Report to the Strategic Director of Growth and Development	Joe Martin, Senior Development Surveyor joe.martin@manchester.gov.uk
<p>Land at Kelbrook Road (2022/11/14A)</p>	Strategic Director (Growth and	4 Jan 2023		Report to the Strategic Director – Growth &	Thomas Pyatt, Senior Development Surveyor Tel: 0161 234 5469

Approval to dispose of land at Kelbrook Road for development	Development)			Development	thomas.pyatt@manchester.gov.uk
Disposal of land at the back of Ancoats, Manchester (2023/03/23A) To approve the disposal of land bounded by Naval Street, Radium Street, Poland Street and Jersey Street	Strategic Director (Growth and Development)	23 Apr 2023		Briefing Note	Bhavesh Chauhan, Principal Development Surveyor bhavesh.chauhan@manchester.gov.uk
The disposal of land at Store Street Manchester (2023/04/25A) To approve the disposal of land at Store Street, Manchester.	Strategic Director (Growth and Development)	Not before 25th May 2023		Briefing Note	
Promotion Agreement for disposal of land (2023/06/29A) To approve the terms agreed for entering into a promotion agreement to dispose of land for residential development	Strategic Director (Growth and Development)	Not before 28th Jul 2023		Delegated approval report to the Strategic Director of Growth and Development	Mike Robertson, Principal Development Surveyor mike.robertson@manchester.gov.uk
Disposal of Elizabeth Yarwood Court,	Strategic Director	Not before 22nd Aug		Report to the Strategic Director	Joe Martin, Senior Development Surveyor

<p>Kincardine Road, Manchester, M13 9SY (2023/07/24A)</p> <p>Approval of terms for disposal of site to facilitate commercial development</p>	(Growth and Development)	2023		of Growth and Development	joe.martin@manchester.gov.uk
<p>Disposal of land at Upper Brook Street, Manchester, M13 9XH (2023/07/24B)</p> <p>Approval of terms for disposal of land to facilitate mixed use development.</p>	Strategic Director (Growth and Development)	Not before 22nd Aug 2023		Report to the Strategic Director of Growth and Development	Joe Martin, Senior Development Surveyor joe.martin@manchester.gov.uk
<p>Disposal of land at Hinchley Road, Charlestown, Manchester, M9 7FG (2023/08/21A)</p> <p>Approval to the freehold disposal of land at Hinchley Road for residential development.</p>	Strategic Director (Growth and Development)	Not before 21st Sep 2023		Report and Recommendation	
<p>Land at 1-7 Gorton Road, M11 (22/08/2023A)</p> <p>Grant a Deed of Variation to the existing lease of land that will consent to subletting and change of use.</p>	Strategic Director (Growth and Development)	Not before 22nd Sep 2023		Report & Heads of Terms	

<p>Disposal of land at Carmoor Road, Manchester, M13 0FB (2023/09/13A)</p> <p>Approval of terms for disposal of land to facilitate development of Purpose Built Student Accommodation.</p>	<p>Strategic Director (Growth and Development)</p>	<p>Not before 12th Oct 2023</p>		<p>Report to the Strategic Director of Growth and Development</p>	<p>Joe Martin, Senior Development Surveyor joe.martin@manchester.gov.uk</p>
<p>Disposal of Land at Lord North Street (2023/10/12A)</p> <p>To agree the disposal of land at Lord North Street on a 250-year leasehold interest to facilitate redevelopment for employment use.</p>	<p>Strategic Director (Growth and Development)</p>	<p>Not before 12th Nov 2023</p>		<p>Delegated Decision Report to Head of Development and Director of Strategic Housing & Development</p>	
<p>Disposal of land at the former Central Retail Park site (2023/11/07A)</p> <p>Approval to the disposal of c5.5 acres of the site.</p>	<p>Executive</p>	<p>17 Jan 2024</p>		<p>Report of the Strategic Director of Growth and Development</p>	<p>David Norbury, Strategic Lead Development City Centre david.norbury@manchester.gov.uk</p>
<p>Disposal of land at the junction of Moorcroft Road and Sledmoor Road, Brooklands, Wythenshawe (2023/11/14B)</p>	<p>Strategic Director (Growth and Development)</p>	<p>Not before 13th Dec 2023</p>		<p>Report to the Strategic Director of Growth and Development</p>	<p>Jamie Ferguson, Development Surveyor Jamie.ferguson@manchester.gov.uk</p>

Approval of terms for disposal of land to facilitate affordable residential development.					
<p>Acquisition for Leasehold Investment, Holt Town (2023/11/14C)</p> <p>Approval to the acquisition of a Leasehold Investment for the purposes of Land Assembly re Holt Town NDF</p>	City Treasurer (Deputy Chief Executive)	Not before 12th Dec 2023		Report to the Strategic Director (Growth and Development)	
<p>Disposal of Land at Dryden Street, Manchester, M13 9NT (2024/01/02A)</p> <p>Approval of terms for disposal of land to facilitate development of Purpose Built Student Accommodation.</p>	Strategic Director (Growth and Development)	Not before 30th Jan 2024		Report to the Strategic Director of Growth and Development	Jamie Ferguson, Development Surveyor Jamie.ferguson@manchester.gov.uk
<p>Disposal of Long Lease/s of land at Iron Street/Coleshill Street, Miles Platting (2024/01/23A)</p> <p>To approve the Council</p>	Strategic Director (Growth and Development)	Not before 23rd Feb 2024		Report and recommendations	Louise Hargan, Principal Development Surveyor louise.hargan@manchester.gov.uk

granting a long lease/s to support the delivery of Housing scheme.					
<p>Replacement of critical Business Application for Planning, Licensing and Building Control (2024/01/30A)</p> <p>To award funding to enable the purchase of a replacement critical line of business application to support the statutory services conducted by the Licensing, Planning and Land Charges departments and will also include replacing the address management system which provides address data to critical front line applications.</p>	City Treasurer (Deputy Chief Executive)	Not before 1st Jul 2024		Business Case	Andrew Blore, ICT Strategic Business Partner andrew.blore@manchester.gov.uk

3. Resources and Governance Scrutiny Committee - Work Programme – March 2024

Thursday 7 March 2024, 10:00am (Report deadline Monday 26 February 2024)

Item	Purpose	Executive Member	Strategic Director/Lead Officer	Comments
Manchester Heat Network Business Plan Update	To receive a performance update and the 2023/24 business plan for the Manchester Heat Network Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV), which is wholly owned by the Council. This report will also outline the SPV's approach to securing new customers to the network and the decarbonisation of the asset.	Cllr Akbar (Finance and Resources) Cllr Rawlins (Environment and Transport)	Carol Culley Tom Wilkinson Sarah Narici	Deferred from January 2024 with Chair's approval.
Major Contracts Update	To receive an in-depth update on the Council's key contracts, its approach to procurement of these contracts and assessments of how to source contracts due for renewal and/or extension. The committee also previously requested that this include information on each major contract and whether insourcing would be viable.	Cllr Akbar (Finance and Resources)	Peter Schofield Mark Leaver	
Progress on Council Motions over last 12 months	To receive an update on the progress made in respect of motions that have been passed before Manchester City Council since the last update in March 2023.	Councillor Craig (Leader) Councillor Rahman (Statutory Deputy Leader)	Fiona Ledden	
Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP)	To receive a report on the Enterprise Resourcing Programme, which is also going to Executive.	Cllr Akbar (Finance and Resources)	Carol Culley Tom Wilkinson Jake Austin	

System				
Overview Report	The monthly report includes the recommendations monitor, relevant key decisions, the Committee's work programme and any items for information.	N/A	Scrutiny Support	

Items to be scheduled

Manchester City Council Connections with the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA)	To update the committee on Manchester's connections with GMCA in terms of partnerships, governance, and financial arrangements.	Cllr Craig (Leader) Cllr Akbar (Finance and Resources)	Carol Culley James Binks Tom Wilkinson	Deferred from March 2024 with Chair's agreement. To be considered in May 2024.
Manchester City Council Connections with the Greater Manchester Integrated Care System and the Manchester Locality	To update the committee on Manchester's links with the Greater Manchester Integrated Care System, including governance and financial arrangements.	Cllr Akbar (Finance and Resources) Cllr T Robinson (Healthy Manchester and Adult Social Care)	Carol Culley James Binks Tom Wilkinson	Deferred from March 2024 with Chair's agreement. To be considered in May 2024.

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