



## **Communities and Equalities Scrutiny Committee**

Date: Tuesday, 18 July 2023

Time: 2.00 pm

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 1.20 pm in the Council Antechamber, Town Hall Extension.

### **Access to the Council Antechamber**

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

**There is no public access from any other entrance.**

### **Filming and broadcast of the meeting**

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## **Membership of the Communities and Equalities Scrutiny Committee**

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**Councillors** - Hitchen (Chair), Azra Ali, Appleby, Good, Ogunbambo, Priest, Rawson, Sheikh, Whiston and Wills

## Agenda

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**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. [2.05pm-2.10pm] Minutes**

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 20 June 2023.

Pages  
7 - 16

**5. [2.10pm-3.00pm] Age Friendly Manchester Refreshed Strategy 2023-2028**

Report of the Director of Public Health and the Age Friendly Manchester Programme Lead.

Pages  
17 - 34

The new Age Friendly Strategy Manchester: A City for Life 2023–28 Strategy builds on previous progress, provides a series of responses to the ongoing impact felt by some older people to the pandemic and the struggles faced by the cost-of-living crisis for many people aged over 50. It outlines a series of priorities and commitments to drive better outcomes so that more people can age well in place with increased financial security.

**6. [3.00pm-3.50pm] Community Events 2023/24**

Report of the Strategic Director – Neighbourhoods.

Pages  
35 - 50

This report provides a context for the current operating environment for events and how the ongoing development of the events programme continues to align with the City Council's Event Strategy. Additional insight is provided on the Community Events programme - how it is facilitated and funded and how that is reflected in the geographic spread of activity – alongside updates on the progress made against previously identified areas

of development and improvement to support community events.

**7. [3.50pm-4.00pm] Overview Report**

Report of the Governance and Scrutiny Support Unit.

Pages

51 - 64

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

## Information about the Committee

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

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

The Council wants to consult people as fully as possible before making decisions that affect them. Members of the public do not have a right to speak at meetings but may do so if invited by the Chair. 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](http://www.manchester.gov.uk).

Smoking is not allowed in Council buildings.

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## Further Information

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This agenda was issued on **Monday, 10 July 2023** by the Governance and Scrutiny Support Unit, Manchester City Council, Level 2, Town Hall Extension (Library Walk Elevation), Manchester M60 2LA

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## **Communities and Equalities Scrutiny Committee**

### **Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 20 June 2023**

#### **Present:**

Councillor Hitchen (Chair) – in the Chair

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

#### **Also present:**

Councillor Midgley, Deputy Leader

**Apologies:** Councillor Whiston

#### **CESC/23/22 Interests**

Councillor Priest declared a personal and non-prejudicial interest in item 8 and would remain in the meeting.

#### **CESC/23/23 Minutes**

The Chair requested an update on a recommendation made at the previous meeting which requested that the Committee's concerns be included in the Council and Greater Manchester responses, through a letter from the Committee to the Government's plans to temporarily exempt asylum accommodation from HMO licensing requirements. In response, the committee was advised that this was currently being drafted and discussions on the detail and wording of the letter had taken place. This would be progressed outside of the meeting and a further update provided to the next meeting.

#### **Decision:**

That the minutes of the previous meeting, held on 23 May 2023, be approved as a correct record.

#### **CESC/23/24 Update report on the Homelessness Service**

The committee received a report of the Director of Housing Services which provided an update on the Council's Homelessness Service and the improvement and transformation happening across the service in an increasingly challenging social and economic context.

Key points and themes within the report included:

- The key metrics for the Homelessness Service;
- The progress made to reduce bed and breakfast placements, especially for families, and wider temporary accommodation placements that have been achieved since last discussed at the meeting in January 2023;
- Changes to the Manchester Allocation of Social Housing Policy;

- Accessing the homelessness service;
- Leasing schemes including for families;
- Support available for housing-related issues and domestic abuse;
- The Rough Sleeping Accommodation Programme (RSAP) and the Single Homelessness Accommodation Programme (SHAP) and
- An ongoing review of the Council's Homelessness Strategy.

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

- Welcoming the reduction in the number of families placed in bed and breakfasts for temporary accommodation;
- The support available for those facing or experiencing homelessness where English was not their first language;
- Requesting a breakdown by gender and gender identity of those in temporary accommodation;
- Commending the cross-Council approach of the service;
- Where around 400 properties to be used in three leasing schemes would be located in the city;
- How much money had been saved by reducing the use of bed and breakfast placements for temporary accommodation;
- Requesting that a future report included further explanation as to why a high percentage of Black people faced and experienced homelessness;
- Welcoming the work undertaken with Manchester Communications Academy, and querying whether this could be rolled out to other schools within the city;
- Whether any extra resources were needed for the Housing Options team;
- Requesting further information on payments to providers for rent, repair, and furniture allowance under the temporary accommodation leasing scheme;
- The support provided to those placed in temporary accommodation outside of Greater Manchester;
- The support available to residents in areas where temporary accommodation is located;
- How the voluntary sector was involved in the Council's outreach approach, and what the Homeless Partnership was;
- Noting that Manchester had a higher percentage of people facing or experiencing homelessness compared to other Greater Manchester authorities, and querying why this was; and
- The proposed timeframe for ending the use of bed and breakfast placements as temporary accommodation.

The Deputy Leader highlighted the ongoing good work to reduce the number of rough sleepers in Manchester and the turnaround in the number of people, particularly families, being temporarily placed in bed and breakfast accommodation. She explained that there were currently two families who had been in bed and breakfast accommodation for over six weeks, compared to 131 when last reported, and one family placed outside of Greater Manchester, compared to 92 previously. She stated that the Council continued to focus on preventing homelessness and reducing the number of people in temporary accommodation.



The Assistant Director of Homelessness stated that bed and breakfast placements could never be suitable for homeless families and explained that the law stipulated that such placements should only be used in exceptional circumstances and for no longer than six weeks. He stated that the number of people in temporary accommodation peaked in February 2023, with 814 households in bed and breakfast placements. There were currently 241 households in bed and breakfasts, of which 227 of these were families.

In response to queries, the committee was informed that the Council had Right to Protect (RTOP) workers who worked specifically with refugees to prevent homelessness. The Strategic Lead for Homelessness also explained that support included Language Line, dual-language support workers and interpreters, and that the Council recognised that some residents may have additional needs and cultural differences. She explained that additional visits were undertaken to address these needs and to highlight any difficulties and additional help that may be required. Members were also informed that any information provided to those presenting as homeless could be translated and could be provided in simple written English and through visually accessible provision, although the Strategic Lead for Homelessness stated that this would be looked into further outside of the meeting.

It was also clarified that appropriate interpreters would be provided for British Sign Language speakers.

A breakdown of those in temporary accommodation by gender and gender identity requested by members would be provided following the meeting.

The Assistant Director of Homelessness stated that the short-term leasing scheme initially intended to provide 200 units of temporary accommodation for families as there were 227 families in bed and breakfast placements. He explained that it was unlikely that 200 family-sized units would be required as the number in bed and breakfast accommodation had reduced significantly. He further stated that discussions were ongoing with housing associations to manage 140 longer-term tenancies and 50 units for rough sleepers. Many of these properties were empty and would be brought back into the market with improvements and would be intensively managed.

The Assistant Director of Homelessness stated that there needed to be a better spread of temporary accommodation across the city, particularly in south Manchester. The Strategic Lead for Homelessness noted that the Council looked to keep new properties away from areas with existing temporary and dispersed accommodation and highlighted the example of Etrop Grange in south Manchester, which provided accommodation for rough sleepers. It was explained that the new temporary accommodation units were still being procured and detail of where these were located could be provided when available.

The Director of Housing Services stated that a £4million reduction in expenditure on bed and breakfast placements had been factored into the service's budget for 2023/24 and he was confident that this would be met.

In response to a query regarding why a high percentage of Black people faced and experienced homelessness, the Director of Housing Services acknowledged this stark figure and informed the committee that the service was working closely with the Making Manchester Fairer team to reduce inequalities.

The Strategic Lead for Homelessness noted the excellent work undertaken by Manchester Communications Academy and stated that the Homelessness service wanted to work closely with colleagues in Education to share best practice and learning and roll this out more widely across the city. She also stated that the service wanted to visit core cities and other forums that the Council worked with through the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) to showcase this work.

The Deputy Leader explained that she had visited Manchester Communications Academy earlier in the week and praised the work of the school.

In response to a member's query regarding whether any extra resources were needed for the Housing Options team, the Assistant Director of Homelessness explained that there were a number of vacancies in the Housing Solutions team which impacted upon telephone performance and homeless prevention. He stated that 12 new employees were due to start their roles imminently and that a second round of recruitment would be undertaken shortly with a goal of recruiting an additional 20 staff members in total to be in post within a few months. He hoped that this would strengthen the Council's ability to prevent homelessness moving forward.

Members were advised that there was a definite value within the rental charge that the Council would pay for repairs and furniture. Exact figures would be provided following the meeting.

In response to a question regarding the support provided to those placed in temporary accommodation outside of Greater Manchester, the Assistant Director of Homelessness advised that there was currently one family placed outside of Greater Manchester and that the Council's Housing Support Service would continue to provide assistance as they would for families in temporary accommodation within Greater Manchester. He stated that discussions had taken place with colleagues in Children's Services to ensure that timely referrals could be made to social care services in the local authority area where a family was temporarily placed.

The Assistant Director of Homelessness also explained that temporary accommodation managers engaged with local residents in areas where temporary accommodation was located. He acknowledged that there was further work to be done in this area.

The committee was informed that the core outreach service for rough sleepers was a Council-ran service but there were also several external outreach services, such as Outreach in the Community in south Manchester, which provided indoor day centres and played a key role in assisting the Council. He noted that the Council was less advanced in engaging with the third sector in their work with homeless families, compared to rough sleepers, but this would be addressed in the development of the Homelessness Strategy.

The Assistant Director of Homelessness praised the work and commitment of the Manchester Homeless Partnership and explained that several senior officers within the voluntary sector were appointed to different Partnership boards and could influence how services were delivered in Manchester. The Strategic Lead for Homelessness expanded on this and explained that there were several action and task-and-finish groups within the Partnership whose members had lived experiences of homelessness. These groups shared ideas and good practice with the Council and other stakeholders.

In response to a point raised that Manchester had a higher percentage of people facing or experiencing homelessness compared to other Greater Manchester authorities, the Assistant Director of Homelessness suggested that other Greater Manchester authorities were not directly comparative with Manchester's figures and stated that the amount of homelessness was rising across the country in comparison to Manchester, where numbers were decreasing. Members suggested that Manchester's homeless statistics should instead be benchmarked against other core cities such as Leeds and Birmingham.

Members were also advised that there was no set timescale for ending the use of bed and breakfast placements as temporary accommodation as this practice was unlawful and needed to be brought to an end at the earliest opportunity.

The Chair thanked officers for their work and requested that this be relayed to the wider Homelessness service.

### **Decision:**

That the committee

1. notes the report;
2. requests that a future update report on homelessness include explanation as to why high numbers of BAME residents experience homelessness;
3. requests that further information on the location of leasing scheme properties be provided when available; and

4. requests that a future report be provided to the committee on the support provided to communities in areas where leasing scheme properties will be located.

#### **CESC/23/25 Draft Terms of Reference for Anti-Social Behaviour Task and Finish Group**

The committee received draft terms of reference for a Task and Finish group on crime and disorder, which the committee indicated they wished to establish.

Members discussed and made suggestions on the objectives, scope, and key lines of enquiry for the Task and Finish Group and put forward nominations for membership.

The final terms of reference would be presented at the first meeting of the Task and Finish Group.

#### **Decision:**

That

1. the committee agrees to establish a Task and Finish Group on crime and disorder, and
2. the membership of this Task and Finish Group consists of Councillors Hitchen, Azra Ali, Appleby, Doswell, Good, Ogunbambo, Sheikh and Wills.

#### **CESC/23/26 Overview Report**

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

#### **Decision:**

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

#### **CESC/23/27 Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) Infrastructure Contract Update (PART A)**

The committee received a report of the Assistant Chief Executive which provided an update on the review of the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) infrastructure contract and subsequent process taken for the contract in preparation for re-procurement in 2023.

Key points and themes within the report included:

- An introduction to the VCSE sector in Manchester and background to the infrastructure contract;
- Key findings of the external, independent review into Manchester's VCSE support provision;
- Development of the new infrastructure specification, which would identify four main areas of support; and
- The timeline and next steps for the infrastructure review.

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

- Who the Commissioners of the contract would be, and whether this would include people from the BAME community;
- How new VCSE organisations could access support through Manchester Community Central (Macc)
- How the Council could support smaller VCSE organisations, particularly with evaluation of the projects they deliver;
- How the Council could support organisations with bid-writing and other skills;
- How the Infrastructure Contract will address and target poverty and lack of access to services;
- How BAME VCSE organisations would be supported;
- Noting that smaller VCSE organisations often had large overhead costs, and querying whether funding would be provided in instalments or as an up-front lump sum;
- Whether the new Infrastructure Contract would form part of the additional £120k allocated for the development of VCSE organisations amongst BAME community groups; and
- Suggesting that the Council provide support for smaller VCSE organisations to become sub-contractors to other providers.

The Deputy Leader introduced the item and explained that the VCSE Infrastructure Contract had been in place for over 10 years, which strengthened the local VCSE sector, and she expressed her thanks to the Policy and Programmes Manager (Communities and VCSE) and his team for their work on the Contract.

The Assistant Chief Executive stated that infrastructure support provided partnership and practical support to VCSE organisations around volunteering opportunities, developing connections between organisations, and advocated for the sector. He explained that the current Infrastructure Contract was awarded to Macc and was jointly funded by the Council and NHS, who had committed their involvement for the current financial year. Discussions with the NHS were ongoing regarding future funding.

He explained that, as part of the review into the new infrastructure specification, the Council was trying to respond to the experiences, feedback, and priorities of the VCSE sector and that there had been significant consultation on this. An independent review had also been undertaken, which recognised that the sector wanted a greater focus on capacity-building and practical support for their organisations. There would

also be a focus on ensuring that the support offered by the provider was accessible and culturally appropriate for all communities. Feedback from the sector also indicated that there needed to be greater support in specific areas of the city, such as North Manchester and parts of East Manchester where the sector was less developed.

The Assistant Chief Executive also stated that further member engagement on the Infrastructure Contract was proposed and that members had been invited to a meeting on this taking place in the following week.

In response to a member's query, it was advised that a group of officers would be responsible for awarding the Infrastructure Contract and this group would be representative of different backgrounds and protected characteristics.

The Policy and Programmes Manager (Communities and VCSE) provided assurances that Macc was publicly accessible to all VCSE organisations with tiered and general offers to groups. Membership to Macc was also open to all VCSE organisations. The Deputy Leader explained that organisations could book 15-minute sessions online to learn more about the services provided and to begin the process of receiving a tailored support package.

The Assistant Chief Executive stated that the Our Manchester VCSE process was the main grant funding administered by the Council, but other grants were also available. He stated that this funding had been awarded to small, medium, and large VCSE organisations but he recognised that larger organisations could have access to more funding opportunities and had more resources at their disposal compared to smaller groups.

In response to a query regarding how the Council could support organisations to improve skills, the Policy and Programmes Manager (Communities and VCSE) explained that the Council liaised with organisations in receipt of the Our Manchester VCSE Fund or Supporting Communities Fund upon receipt of their monitoring information to support their evaluations and the standard of information provided. The Assistant Chief Executive welcomed the point around evaluation raised by the member and stated that officers would take this forward during procurement discussions.

The Assistant Chief Executive explained that the infrastructure support provider would be required to undertake targeted work in areas of the city which experienced poverty and had less access to services. He cited the work of North Manchester Together as a good example of how the VCSE sector can be developed in certain areas.

The committee was advised that Our Manchester VCSE funding would be provided in instalments over 3 years with annual delivery monitoring. The Infrastructure Contract funding would also be provided in instalments over a 5-year period.

In response to the Chair's enquiry regarding how the Council could support organisations with bid-writing and other skills, the Policy and Programmes Manager (Communities and VCSE) stated that there was a strong emphasis within the review of the specification to acknowledge feedback from the sector and to meet their needs. Bid-writing and fundraising would be included in this work and there would be an encouragement of partnership working to extend provisions into difficult-to-reach communities. The Assistant Chief Executive stated that providing targeted support for BAME-led and BAME-focused organisations was also an important part of the infrastructure contract specification. He explained that £120k had been allocated to a Development Fund to help these groups to develop VCSE organisations, which was separate to the Infrastructure Contract.

The Assistant Chief Executive stated that advice for smaller VCSE organisations on how to become sub-contractors for other providers could be provided through business development support, which the provider would be expected to undertake.

**Decision:**

That the report be noted.

**CESC/23/28 Exclusion of Press and Public**

**Decision:**

That the press and public be excluded during consideration of the following item which involved consideration of exempt information relating to the financial or business affairs of particular persons and public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information.

**CESC/23/29 Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) Infrastructure Contract Update (PART B)**

The committee received a confidential report of the Assistant Chief Executive which provided supplementary information to item 8.

Members discussed the current Infrastructure Specification and considered the proposed inclusions in the revised Specification, including the purpose and outcomes of the Specification and the service and monitoring requirements.

**Decision:**

That the supplementary information be noted.

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## Manchester City Council Report for Information

**Report to:** Communities and Equalities Scrutiny Committee – 18 July 2023

**Subject:** Age Friendly Manchester Refreshed Strategy 2023-2028

**Report of:** Director of Public Health  
Age Friendly Manchester Programme Lead

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### Summary

Manchester's new Age Friendly Strategy Manchester: A City for Life 2023–28 arrives following extensive engagement with the Age Friendly Manchester (AFM) Older People's Board (the Board), with people aged over 50 at the Age Friendly Assembly (the Assembly) and direct collaboration with key strategic partners, services, frontline workers and key complimentary strategy teams, for example Making Manchester Fairer.

The new strategy builds on previous progress, provides a series of responses to the ongoing impact felt by some older people to the pandemic and the struggles faced by the cost-of-living crisis for many people aged over 50. It outlines a series of priorities and commitments to drive better outcomes so that more people can age well in place with increased financial security.

### Recommendations

The Committee is recommended:

- (1) To consider and comment on the four key themes, their outline aims, and the headline delivery priorities detailed in this report.
  - (2) To consider options for updates on progress during the lifespan of this strategy.
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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 AFM Older People's Board, and more broadly the Assembly, are strategic partners in the delivery of the Manchester Climate Change Framework 2020-2025

A key principle within the framework is that older people as residents of Manchester have a role to play in reducing the contributors to and impacts of climate change. It is expected that this will contribute to Manchester's zero carbon target.

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

Age is a protected characteristic under the 2010 Equalities Act. Manchester: A City for Life 2023-2028 specifically considers the inequalities Manchester residents may face in mid to later life which are related to ageing. It makes proposals for how the city can act collaboratively to challenge ageism, gain a better understanding of equalities and the specific characteristics of ageing, and as a result design and deliver services which will better meet the needs, and improve the quality of life, of residents aged over 50 in the city.

Manchester's new ageing strategy recognises intersectionality and how ageing may affect different groups in the city differently. While we all age together, we don't all age equally - experiences of inequality earlier in life (and perhaps ongoing), such as racism, sexism, disablism and homophobia, will shape the quality of life for different groups moving into older age.

Manchester Strategy outcomes	Summary of how this report aligns to the OMS/Contribution to the Strategy
A thriving and sustainable city: supporting a diverse and distinctive economy that creates jobs and opportunities	<p>A key ambition of the city's ageing strategy is to see an increase in the number of age-friendly employers and age-friendly employment practices.</p> <p>This in turn will improve greater retention rates and stability throughout a greater number of Manchester's employers</p>
A highly skilled city: world class and home-grown talent sustaining the city's economic success	With a greater number of age-aware services and employers the strategy will support improved skills and employment support offered to Manchester's over 50s, both in terms of in-work progression and when returning to work.
A progressive and equitable city: making a positive contribution by unlocking the potential of our communities	<p>An age friendly approach starts with hearing the voice of people in mid- to later life and using their lived experience to shape what we do</p> <p>A major component of the AFM programme is a long-term commitment to tackling ageism, promoting age equality and placing older people's voices at the centre of its work.</p>
A liveable and low carbon city: a destination of choice to live, visit, work	Incorporating the principles of the age friendly neighbourhood model and the practice of the Ageing in Place Programme into the integrated neighbourhood model will help support older people to live well in their own home for longer
A connected city: world class infrastructure and connectivity to drive growth	

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

- Equal Opportunities Policy
- Risk Management
- Legal Considerations

### Financial Consequences – Revenue

None

### Financial Consequences – Capital

None

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**Background documents (available for public inspection):**

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.

Age Friendly Manchester - Communities and Equalities Scrutiny 1 February 2018

Economic Impact of the City's Age-friendly Manchester Strategy – Economy Scrutiny 5 September 2018

Overview of the economic characteristics of Manchester's population aged 50-64 and the implications for their economic participation – Economy Scrutiny 20 June 2019

Age-friendly approaches across Manchester Health and Care Commissioning and Manchester Local Care Organisation - Health Scrutiny 16 July 2019

Letter from the Age Friendly Manchester Older People's Board to the Leader of Manchester City Council and Chief Executive of Manchester City Council – June 2020

Manchester's Age Friendly Recovery – Communities & Equalities 3 December 2020

Opportunities and issues for older workers in the Labour Market – Economy Scrutiny 14 October 2021

Building Back Fairer in Manchester – Health Scrutiny 13 October 2021

Age Friendly Recovery – Communities & Equalities 9 November 2021

## **1.0 Introduction**

- 1.1 Manchester launched its previous ageing strategy Manchester: A Great Place to Grow Older in 2010 as a ten-year strategy. We chose to review and refresh the strategy in 2017 in response to changes both nationally and regionally, particularly the impacts of austerity. However, the pandemic has understandably led to a pause of the refresh process.
- 1.2 The new strategy Manchester: A City for Life 2023-2028 builds on the previous strategy and continues to set out the vision and priorities for Manchester to become an age friendly city: a city in which people in mid- to later life can age happily with equality, respect and independence and where they both have a voice in the life of the city and are economically, physically and socially active.
- 1.3 It is set within the context of the ongoing impact that the pandemic still has on many older people's lives alongside the cost-of-living crisis. Yet it also builds on examples of strong progress over many areas, for example
  - An increase in age friendly features across more of Manchester's neighbourhoods. This includes all libraries being badged age-friendly and the former Buzz Age Friendly Team championing a significant expansion of age friendly benches that support improved navigation routes between where people live and where they want to go to locally.
  - Providing a greater age friendly lens to how services are commissioned has resulted in both the Community Falls Service and the Community Nutrition and Hydration Service being better connected to neighbourhood based activities.
  - Improved guidance is now in place to support people to carry out better equality impact assessments that takes a more rounded view of age as a protected characteristic.
  - Our pandemic response successfully amplified the voice of older people, challenging the 'invisible and vulnerable' characterisation of older people that had taken hold during successive lock downs.

## **2.0 Background**

- 2.1 While there have been a whole range of positive steps forward since 2017's strategy refresh, these have been in the shadow of the impact of the pandemic, followed by the national cost of living crisis. This has meant some Manchester residents in mid- to later life have seen a stalling or reversal in the quality of their lives, while those who were already experiencing some of the biggest challenges are now facing even greater difficulties.
- 2.2 The refreshed strategy has been developed with the voice and experience of older people at its heart and follows a wide-ranging consultation with services and voluntary sector colleagues. It builds on the recovery priorities identified

by the Board, which led to the city's age friendly pandemic recovery plan and connects with other city strategies including Our Manchester, Making Manchester Fairer, Making Manchester Fairer Anti-Poverty Strategy 2023-2028, Work and Skills Strategy 2022-2027 and the Greater Manchester Ageing Strategy. These and more are detailed later in this report.

- 2.3 While looking ahead towards the sort of age friendly city we want Manchester to be in five years' time, the strategy also proposes the immediate responses required to address the impact of pandemic and the cost-of-living emergency in the here and now, which is something older people have told us is a priority.
- 2.4 Drawing on the eight key features which go towards making an age friendly city as identified by the World Health Organization, Manchester has identified four key themes:
- Being Heard and Age Equality
  - Age Friendly Neighbourhoods where we can all Age in Place
  - Age Friendly Services that support us to Age Well
  - Work and Money

These are outlined later in this report.

- 2.5 The strategy is for Manchester, and is not the strategy of one particular team, department or even organisation. Over the previous couple of decades, a strong cross sectoral age friendly partnership has been built up that includes Manchester City Council, the NHS, universities, housing providers, cultural organisations and the VCSE and is underpinned by the voice and lived experience of older people in the city. Ultimately the strategy is a representation of the priorities expressed by older people at the Board, and more broadly the Assembly.
- 2.6 The Board is made up of Manchester residents over the age of 50 who drive the focus of the strategy and accompanying work programme. They know what issues those in mid to later life face and what is important to them. They are dedicated to getting older people's voices heard; to make places and services more age friendly and to promote age equality.
- 2.7 Being over 50 covers a wide age range and this is usually broken down in to three approximate age ranges: aged 50 to retirement age, retirement age to 80 and people aged over 80.

### **3.0 Key statistical update and strategy development**

- 3.1 About 24% of Manchester's population is aged over 50, while between 2011 and 2021 the number of people aged over 75 has fallen slightly by about 4%.

Conversely the number of people aged over 75 across the whole of Greater Manchester has risen by 14%.

- 3.2 Life expectancy in the most disadvantaged fifth of Manchester for men is 70.9 and women 76.4 compared to the least disadvantaged fifth in Manchester which is 78.6 for men and 82.5 for women. (England average 78.7 for men and 82.7 for women). As an average, life expectancy at age 65 in Manchester is amongst the lowest in England for both men and women.
- 3.3 In 2018-20, life expectancy at age 65 for men in Manchester was around 2.7 years lower than that for men in England as a whole. For women, the difference in life expectancy at age 65 between Manchester and England overall was 2.4 years. There is emerging evidence that the pandemic is likely to have widened these differences still further.
- 3.4 Despite having much-needed skills, older workers are twice as likely to become long-term unemployed. For example, people over 50 who involuntarily fall out of work are twice as likely than all other ages to still be out of work 12 months later.
- 3.5 Long-term unemployment is a significant challenge for those aged 50-67. In less than 20 years, one in four people will be over 65. By the time they reach state pension age, one in four men and one in three women will have not worked for five years or more, and the pension age continues to rise. A disproportionately higher number of people over 50 are on out-of-work benefits. In February 2023, 5.8% of Manchester residents aged 50+ were unemployed, compared to 2.8% nationally and 3.6% in Greater Manchester. Currently, within Manchester the largest age cohort in terms of economic inactivity is the 50-64s.
- 3.6 Over 12,000 people receive the monthly AFM e-bulletin. There are over 100 organisations involved in Manchester's age-friendly locality networks and Manchester is one of 287 age-friendly cities and communities worldwide, and the first to be recognised in the UK by the World Health Organization in 2010.
- 3.7 The refreshed strategy provides some practical focus to the current cost of living pressures being experienced and the ongoing impact of the pandemic alongside our collective ambition for more spaces and places of Manchester to be age friendly over the years to come.
- 3.8 Following a wide programme of engagement throughout spring 2023 on the initial draft strategy, proposals were tabled at the April 2023 Board and a final draft set of proposals was approved at the June 2023 Board.
- 3.9 Key changes made following the engagement include a greater emphasis on our already established equalities approach and developing stronger links to Making Manchester Fairer – in particular, the delivery plan that will accompany this strategy will be the mechanism through which Making Manchester Fairer's ambitions are realised for people aged over 50. More

specifically, mention of digital inclusion, volunteering, social isolation, climate change and dementia is now included.

- 3.10 At the same time the strategy needs to establish clearer links to other strategies and action plans, some of which are outlined below.

### **Our Manchester Strategy (OMS)**

- 3.11 The importance of inclusion and diversity, and sustainability as being critical in creating a world class city are highlighted in OMS. Recognising, celebrating and supporting inclusion and equality for all of Manchester's residents and communities are key priorities across the city, and are particularly important in ensuring that the city's older population can live safe, happy and independent lives.
- 3.12 In addition to the OMS, there are over 50 other key city-wide strategies. The following strategies are the key strategies that will support and add value to the refreshed AFM Strategy.

### **Making Manchester Fairer**

- 3.13 The Making Manchester Fairer action plan is aimed at reducing health inequalities in Manchester by addressing the social determinants of health. It is a bold, ambitious 5-year plan that aims to close the gap in healthy life expectancy and outcomes, and to pave the way for a fairer and more inclusive city that is representative of its communities. The action plan will support the Age Friendly Strategy priorities of ensuring that older people are treated fairly. The plan will address inequality in health outcomes and work towards ensuring that older people in the city can live economically secure lives and are free from the structural discrimination that impacts on healthy life outcomes.

### **Making Manchester Fairer Anti-Poverty Strategy 2023-2028**

- 3.14 This identifies four key themes of preventing poverty: mitigating poverty, creating pathways out of poverty and inclusive and effective delivery. The Anti-Poverty Strategy has a key role to play in ensuring that the city's over-50's population is not adversely impacted by the cost-of-living crisis, and they can access support and advice as required.

### **Work and Skills Strategy 2022 - 2027**

- 3.15 This focus is on creating a more inclusive, sustainable, and diverse economy that benefits everyone in Manchester. With high levels of unemployment persisting in the city's over 50s population, the Strategy will ensure that older people can access opportunities that match their skills and experience and



can re-train where needed and that they are fairly recognised for their contributions.

### **Manchester Digital Strategy 2021– 2026**

- 3.16 This supports business growth, employment, skills and training in the digital sector, and will specifically provide opportunities for older people to upskill and retrain.

### **The Housing Strategy 2022 – 2032**

- 3.17 This commits to building 36,000 new homes by 2032, one third of which will be affordable. The Strategy will support in addressing inequalities across the city and create neighborhoods where people want to live and can live well. Access to safe, clean, and affordable housing will be critical to ensuring that the city's over 50's can live healthy and connected lives.

### **Active Travel Strategy**

- 3.18 This aims to make walking, wheeling, and cycling more accessible, safe and comfortable for everyone throughout the city to work towards a healthier and stronger city. Active travel can benefit older 50's to live healthier lives and is more affordable, and the Strategy will support older people to be included in the plans to make Manchester's infrastructure more age friendly.

### **The Community Safety Strategy 2022 – 2025**

- 3.19 This identifies five key priorities to ensure safe and livable communities where communities are protected. The Strategy will contribute to ensuring that older people can be happy, safe and independent within their communities.

### **The Building Stronger Communities Together Strategy**

- 3.20 This is due to be launched in Autumn 2023, is Manchester's first strategy focused on social cohesion. The strategy sets out three key themes to support socially cohesive communities that will ensure that older people can live in safe, thriving and socially connected communities:
1. Relationships: This means mixing both with people who are like us, and those who are not like us.
  2. Participation: This is about bringing people together to get involved in meaningful activities, for a shared purpose, and to engage in decisions about things that affect their lives.
  3. Belonging: Relationships, trust and participation help to bond and bridge within and between communities and build social capital. This in turn helps to create a sense of belonging for communities.

## 4.0 Themes

This strategy adds an additional theme to the three themes of the 2017 refresh reflecting the additional focus required towards work and money which previously sat within age friendly services. The four themes are self explanatory and are outlined in some details as follows. Highlights of some initial delivery focus is included for each theme.

### 4.1 Being heard and age equality

- 4.1.1 Underpinning everything is the lived experience of people in mid to later life living in Manchester's different neighbourhoods. A mature set of arrangements are in place to facilitate this. 67% of older people believe that experiencing ageism has a negative impact on their health. Attitudes towards ageing and older people more generally can have an impact on how services are configured, influence the behaviours of the workforce and affect how older people access the services they need.
- 4.1.2 It's vitally important we ensure that the voice and experience of the over 50s is amplified and heard across Manchester's different partnerships and engagement structures and goes beyond AFM's engagement and partnerships structures. More work is needed to connect the voice and experience expressed in many places across Manchester's neighbourhoods to the Board so that it has a greater and more granular understanding of the lived experience of many more people living in Manchester in their mid and later lives.
- 4.1.3 We will continue to convene the Board and Assembly with older people at the heart of the partnership. A development programme is being put in place for the Assembly to help refresh and boost its membership which has declined following the pandemic due to an ongoing loss of confidence among some members and others, sadly, no longer with us. The programme has a good track record of innovative ways to challenge ageism however there is a need to provide a greater focus where older people experience sexism, disablism and other forms of discrimination too, sometimes known as intersectionality. This is being supported by an increased emphasis being applied to understand the needs of older people in communities who face the most barriers to participation.
- 4.1.4 Great strides have been achieved in Manchester City Council to better communicate in an age friendly way including recognising the need for more digital inclusion support, but more can be done to achieve a more consistent approach to this. Manchester's first ever State of Ageing report is being produced to better articulate the realities of ageing in this city which in turn will be used to highlight opportunities, influence change and measure success and progress of the strategy overall.
- 4.1.5 An initial 18-month delivery plan is in development and the highlights for this theme include:

- A recruitment and development campaign for the Board and Assembly that will boost numbers and increase broader representation across Manchester's different communities and neighbourhoods
- The relaunch of the AFM Newspaper, which will be made available for free in supermarkets, community centres, libraries and other public buildings
- Develop a better focus on digital inclusion for the over 50s
- Develop a policy that will support an increased use of equality impacts assessments (EIA) across the Council

## **4.2 Age friendly neighbourhoods where we can all age in place**

- 4.2.1 For the over 70s, over 80% of their time is spent in their home and immediate neighbourhood which means neighbourhoods need to be places which understand and meet older people's needs and aspirations. Creating the right environment with the right features to support us to age in place across all of Manchester's neighbourhoods is key if we are to see a greater number of people ageing well in place, continuing to thrive and remaining active and connected.
- 4.2.2 Evidence shows that if we live in neighbourhoods that support us to age well, have good work, maintaining good social connections and if we have a positive attitude to ageing; we are likely to live on average seven and a half years longer - and with most of these extra years in good health.
- 4.2.3 A set of proposals aims to build on the examples of good practice already in place across a range of neighbourhoods, to reduce social isolation and have the needs and aspirations of people aged over 50 better represented in local delivery and partnership arrangements. A set of proposals that will aim to see every neighbourhood making strides to becoming a truly age friendly neighbourhood.
- 4.2.4 We will achieve this by building on and testing new ways to develop age friendly spaces and places where we can all thrive as we grow older. We will work with people over 50, neighbourhood teams, and other place-based services, as well as voluntary, community and faith groups to develop a set of key features which build on the excellent examples already in place in some neighbourhoods. We need to better understand the needs of different communities and their experiences to define what makes an age friendly place for them.
- 4.2.5 It's important that we better embed age friendly working and an equalities approach to support a better understanding of older people's needs in place-based coordination and partnerships groups. For example, the Team Around the Neighbourhood and Ward Coordination.
- 4.2.6 In North Manchester there is a significant opportunity to contribute to the development the North Manchester Healthy Neighbourhood and support proposals for the International Centre for Action on Health Ageing. At the same time there is real opportunity to work closely with Greater Manchester's

Ageing in Place Programme to scale up good practice across Manchester's neighbourhoods. This £4 million programme is working across 8 neighbourhoods, including Abbey Hey in Manchester, testing new approaches that will support a greater number of people in mid to later life to age well in place, by placing them at the very heart of decision making, and via a co-production approach, help better design service delivery locally.

- 4.2.7 Many people tell us that since the pandemic they are out and about less often, others talk about a noticeable decline in their confidence to travel too far from their home. We are receiving reports of an increased sense of social isolation being experienced. Plans will be put in place to better involve the voluntary sector and prepare the business case for more localised delivery of services. This would include services such as Manchester Active as a way of providing a greater local offer that helps people get out and about more and connect with their friends and neighbours, whilst at the same time-sharing good practice across different communities.
- 4.2.8 Many people over 50 form the backbone to volunteering in many parts of Manchester and work will be put in place that promotes and seeks to diversify and celebrate, age friendly volunteering opportunities.
- 4.2.9 Manchester's impressive expansion of extra care, the refocus on supporting people to make the right housing choices (rightsizing) and opportunities across several significant residential regeneration schemes provides the ideal platform to widen age friendly housing choices. This includes examples such as the planned LGBTQ+ Affirmative Extra Care scheme in Whalley Range, the lifetime homes approach adopted in Collyhurst as part of Victoria North and in development around the North Manchester General Hospital site.
- 4.2.10 Victoria North is a good example where the involvement of people over 50 in developing the proposals will ensure that the area will be attractive to over 50s who might want to relocate there and to those already living there who will have a better experience of ageing in place. We want to this approach to become standard and there is a need to better apply it to future commercial and non-residential developments. People over 50 need to feel that all areas of our city are accessible and open to them. Far too often the access needs of, for example those with reduced walking mobility, are not taken in to account when considering navigation routes.
- 4.2.11 Further work is required to build older people's resilience within communities in response to climate change, extreme weather and the ongoing impact of the pandemic. It's recognised that for many people over 50 they already have skills and knowledge useful to younger generations which offer increased inter-generational opportunities.
- 4.2.12 An initial 18-month delivery plan is being developed, highlights for this theme include:

- Co-produce an updated age friendly neighbourhood model that describes the key features required in each neighbourhood to support people to better age in place.
- Pilot a better representation of age friendliness and neighbourhood delivery plans in Gorton and Crumpsall
- Develop a campaign, in conjunction with volunteer support agencies which celebrates volunteering in the over 50s whilst diversifying volunteering opportunities
- Test an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) approach to the development plans in place around North Manchester General Hospital Healthy Neighbourhood and Gorton District Centre.

### 4.3 **Age friendly services which will support us to age well**

4.3.1 There are many good examples of where a better understanding of the lived experience of older people have produced truly age friendly services, universal services that can respond to and meet our needs as we age. Therefore, this theme is not about proposing a whole range of services targeted specifically at people over 50, rather an equalities approach which seeks to understand how our needs, as we age, might change and how these can be met.

4.3.2 AFM were co-sponsors and collaborators with Manchester University in commissioning a longitudinal study into the impacts of the pandemic on older people living in areas of multiple deprivation. Research highlighted issues around declines in mobility, and physical and mental health; changing social and family relationships; increased feelings of loneliness; the importance of faith; the value of green space and inequality of access; and the vital role of technology.

4.3.3 Members of the Board and Assembly have been clear that there needs to be an immediate response within the strategy that seeks to address the ongoing impact of the pandemic on the lives of people aged over 50. Support and targeted interventions to address the longer-term impacts of the pandemic along with the ongoing direct impacts of the cost-of-living need further developing. This includes developing a prevention and reconditioning focus to a range of measures which will:

- Increase options and levels of physical activity, encouraging people to move more
- Deliver a range of falls prevention activities
- Create a range of social eating events
- Improve over 50s' access to Community Health Services
- Enable better over 50s' access to mental health support
- Enable better access to GP and other health services

4.3.4 Supported by an EIA focus, work with commissioners and planners will make sure a stronger age friendly perspective is included in service design that understands and meets the needs of different kinds of older people.

- 4.3.5 Manchester Libraries and Manchester Parks have led the way in co-producing age friendly service equality standards that have had a positive impact on the customer experience. The aim is to develop, implement, and roll out a further set of age friendly equalities service standards across key services, via co-production with older people, so that these too can better meet the needs of people over 50.
- 4.3.6 Manchester's age friendly culture offer is strong because of the robust and enduring partnership between AFM, key cultural institutions, and people over 50. There is scope to further drive this work, exploring new partnerships and ways of working to make culture more accessible and relevant to older people (both as consumers and contributors), especially those who participate least in cultural life.
- 4.3.7 We want to see a stronger link established between neighbourhood-based services for example lead care organisations and the Dementia Alliance so that the care and support we may need as we grow older is more integrated and aligned.
- 4.3.8 There is an opportunity, through the strong and close relationship between AFM and the Greater Manchester Ageing Hub to better mobilise Greater Manchester resources, programmes of work and services to better reach and meet the needs of older people across Manchester's neighbourhoods. For example, Transport for Greater Manchester developing sustainable transport solutions that boost confidence and uptake of public transport for older people.
- 4.3.9 An initial 18-month delivery plan is being developed, highlights for this theme include:
- Co-produce a new placed based prevention approach that puts the lived experience of people over 50 at its heart.
  - Deliver in collaboration with anchor organisations across 4 neighbourhoods a programme of activity to increase social eating events (with an additional focus on better information on good nutrition and hydration). An increased investment in hyper-localised activity that supports people to get out and about and move more. Also, incorporate an integrated falls prevention programme across these activities.
  - Co-produce an age friendly service quality standard for leisure centres
  - Use culture checks across cultural venues and their programming to develop a range of age friendly culture commitments and standards.

#### 4.4 **Work and Money**

- 4.4.1 People are working longer and retiring later, and many people are not aware of the additional benefits they are entitled to. Being in good, well paid, healthy, work and the ability to remain economically active into later life is a strong determinant in older people's health and wellbeing outcomes.

- 4.4.2 To this end it's important we continue to challenge ageism within the workplace so that older workers continue to feel valuable members of their team, their place of work, their company. Work led by the Centre for Ageing Better in collaboration with key employers such as British Telecom has demonstrated that adopting a set of age friendly employment principles helps both retention and attendance rates. There are a number of age friendly employers in Manchester, but we want to see many more. Manchester City Council, for example, has recently established an Over 50s Staff Group which over time will be used to help better articulate the voice and experience of older workers and in turn help better shape policy that supports people in their remaining years of employment. This needs to be assisted by a set of strong work and skills support services. Great strides have been made on this since the launch of the last strategy due to the dynamic relationship put in place with Manchester Work and Skills service, the ambition is to develop this even further.
- 4.4.3 There is a good track record in Manchester of increasing claims by older people entitled to pension credit but there is still much more we can do. The aim is to develop a further range of campaigns and targeted support on the pension top up, and wider benefits maximisation – including non-digital information. Alongside these we need to develop a better understanding of poverty and its impact on older people and in turn refine our targeted responses. Also, more work can be done to develop better ways to support later life planning, including pensions savings and retirement planning.
- 4.4.4 Manchester Libraries has successfully trialled business support and entrepreneurship for people over 50 and the aim is to build on this and make this offer more widely available.
- 4.4.5 An initial 18-month delivery plan is being developed, highlights from it for this theme include:
- Manchester City Council to become an age friendly employer informed by a pilot being delivered by Manchester Libraries.
  - Launch a new information and awareness raising campaign on pension top up and attendance allowance that seeks to support further benefits maximisation
  - Co-produce a later life planning programme with employee groups and employers
- 4.4.6 The refreshed strategy provides a clear focus for the next 5 years. It is backed up by decades of research from Manchester's universities and the Centre for Ageing Better, and grounded in long term collaboration, partnership working and engagement with older people at the very centre of everything.
- 4.4.7 A whole range of activity is used to support older people to age well across Manchester's neighbourhoods and feel more financially secure.

- 4.4.8 Over the next five years, more of Manchester's neighbourhoods will become truly age-friendly, more of Manchester's over 50s will be in good work and a greater number of Manchester's older people's positive contribution will be recognised by a greater number of people. The voice and lived experience of people over 50 will better shape service that will support us all to age well.
- 4.4.9 An initial 18-month delivery plan will be in place by the time of the launch of the strategy this autumn.

## **5.0 Conclusion**

- 5.1 In five years' time Manchester will be a city in which more people in their mid-to later life can age happily with equality, respect, and independence, and where they both have a voice in the life of the city and are economically, physically, and socially active.
- 5.2 This will be achieved by many more voices of people aged over 50 being better heard and responded to in all the spaces and places across Manchester. As we age, more of us will feel our neighbourhoods, the places we where we work and the areas where we mix with our friends and family will feel welcoming to us, and where our needs are met. More of us will be in good work for longer, our identity will be better reflected in the cultural fabric of the city and the very services we may depend on to help us age and live well will better understand our needs and meet them as these change with age.
- 5.3 Practically there will be more age-friendly neighbourhoods with the key features required to enable us to age well in place. In these neighbourhoods, activity will be delivered in local spaces that help address some of the worse effects of the deconditioning experienced by many because of the pandemic. There will be greater range of targeted support to help us of age well with strengthened financial security and a significant increase in number of people claiming their pension top-up and other benefits they are entitled to. A greater number of the positive contributions of Manchester's over 50s will be recognised and celebrated by a greater number of people.
- 5.4 More people will feel equal and fewer feel marginalised as this strategy and its delivery plan becomes the mechanism through which Making Manchester Fairer's ambitions are realised for people aged over 50.
- 5.5 Progress will be reported to the Board via a number of partnership structures that are already in place, for example the Age Friendly Executive, which provides senior officer support to the Board. The State of Ageing Report, that provides a snapshot of the realities of ageing in Manchester, will provide a baseline for the strategy. Progress will be captured by a range of qualitative and quantitative evaluation approaches that mirror those set out in the Making Manchester Fairer action plan. The rolling 18-month delivery plan that will accompany the strategy will be informed by these approaches and reviewed and updated every 12 months. This will provide the focus and the opportunity to accelerate progress and address challenges when they arise.



## **6.0 Recommendations**

6.1 The Committee is recommended:

- (1) To consider and comment on the four key themes, their outline aims, and the headline delivery priorities detailed in this report.
- (2) To consider options for updates on progress during the lifespan of this strategy.

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## Manchester City Council Report for Information

**Report to:** Communities and Equalities Scrutiny Committee – 18 July 2023

**Subject:** Community Events 2023-24

**Report of:** Strategic Director – Neighbourhoods

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### Summary

The paper provides a context for the current operating environment for events and how the ongoing development of the events programme continues to align with the City Council's Event Strategy. Additional insight is provided on the Community Events programme - how it is facilitated and funded and how that is reflected in the geographic spread of activity – alongside updates on the progress made against previously identified areas of development and improvement to support community events.

### Recommendations

The Committee is invited to note and comment on the contents of this report.

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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

Recipients of Community Event Funding support must:

- Demonstrate a commitment to implementing a range of sustainable event practices as part of the management of their event in order to support Manchester City Council's (MCC) Carbon reduction target through the adoption of the City Council's Sustainable Event Guide for Community Events as part of the planning, management and monitoring of sustainable practice
- Work with MCC and partners to support Manchester in accelerating its efforts to encourage all residents, businesses and other stakeholders to take action on climate change

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

The Community Events portfolio contributes directly to Objective 3 of the City Council's approach to Equality - Celebrating Our Diversity - providing a key indicator that we will continue to support and deliver events that promote the achievements and contributions of our diverse communities. The Event Strategy

seeks to ensure a broad range of sporting, cultural and community activity and to recognise and overcome barriers to attendance and participation, however the report recognises that we need to develop an increased understanding of how the staging of events can potentially impact on people outside of the event environment with protected characteristics.

Our 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	Community Events play an important role within the city's growth strategy by attracting investment, raising the profile of the city, creating employment opportunities, and contributing to the city's resident and visitor offer.
A highly skilled city: world class and home-grown talent sustaining the city's economic success	Engagement in cultural and community activities enables local residents to learn new skills and participate in creative programmes including volunteering.
A progressive and equitable city: making a positive contribution by unlocking the potential of our communities	Engagement in arts and culture through Community Events enables local residents to improve their health and wellbeing, to develop confidence and resilience and to learn new skills
A liveable and low carbon city: a destination of choice to live, visit, work	Community Events provide creative, artistic and heritage opportunities which engage local residents and visitors.
A connected city: world class infrastructure and connectivity to drive growth	The supported community event organisations increasingly produce digital artistic content to support their activities which support connectivity with other places and extend the reach of their event beyond the local community.

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

- Equal Opportunities Policy
- Risk Management
- Legal Considerations

### Financial Consequences – Revenue

None

### Financial Consequences – Capital

None

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**Background documents (available for public inspection):**

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.

**Reports to Communities and Equalities Scrutiny Committee:**

Community Events	19.07.2022
Manchester Events Strategy 2019-2029	10.01.2019

## 1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Events in Manchester continue to play a significant role in the context of the position and profile of the city, supporting growth in the visitor economy as well as reflecting how we value our local communities to ensure that events effectively contribute to the city's visitor and resident offer.
- 1.2 Whilst the City Council's approach to date has been successful in creating a broad annual calendar of events and ensures that Manchester is in a strong position to retain existing event properties and to capitalise on future event opportunities, the city needs to continually review and refresh its approach to events to ensure that it can identify and effectively respond to the current challenges in the sectoral marketplace and continues to align with the wider economic, social, sporting, environmental and cultural recovery strategies for the city.
- 1.3 Within the City Council, the Events and Commercial team are responsible for the alignment of the event programme with the event strategy and the development, planning and management of the Council's core funded and facilitated events calendar with an extended focus on;
  - the management of funding to external Community and Calendar event partners,
  - the development of major event commissions and opportunities,
  - the bidding, contracting and delivery of major sports events,
  - identifying and securing new commercial events to enhance the calendar programme and generate income via increased revenue opportunities, sponsorship, grants, income growth and the development of assets and activities to reduce the gap of expenditure to the service.
  - the commission, support and monitoring of the planning and operational event management delivery of Council owned events and of external event partners or events rights holders,
  - the management of public space bookings and the calendar management of public event spaces,
  - the event safety planning function and liaison with multi-agency partners
- 1.4 This report set out the how the City Council's Events and Commercial Team will continue to ensure that Manchester's Event Strategy remains on track and support community event organisers to address the current identified challenges and describes how Manchester can utilise the strength of its commercial event offer to support the community event sector to transition through this current period so that it can be best positioned to achieve sustainable growth in the future.

## 2.0 Manchester Events Strategy

2.1 Manchester's Events Strategy 2019 – 2029 set out a vision “To be an Eventful City” with a focus on developing a diverse, balanced and benefits-driven events portfolio driven by partnerships, which would:

- build on Manchester's strengths and distinctiveness,
- contribute to the Our Manchester aim of creating a livable city that is clean, safe and attractive - with improved green spaces and access to world-class sports, leisure and cultural facilities,
- effectively promote the city as a top tourism and events destination
- position Manchester as an events leader in a global marketplace,
- whilst ensuring residents benefit from events and are engaged, feeling a strong sense of citizenship and pride in the city.

2.2 The Event Strategy identified how we would re-purpose our funding to support Events and Festivals, differentiating our investment between

- events that are aimed principally at supporting community cohesion and animating the city – the baseline calendar of annual activity that creates animation and vibrancy
- events aimed at generating significant economic value and profile for the City – the high impact, high profile Statement Events that deliver significant visitor impact and international reach and reflect the vision and ambition of the city

2.3 The vision, principles and aims set out in the Manchester Events Strategy 2019-2029 remain intact, but we need to continue to align our approach with the City's cultural and economic recovery against of backdrop of economic uncertainty and a cost of living crisis and how we can effectively forward-shape an events programme that will allow us to capitalise on our emergent strengths and points of differentiation as a city.

2.4 We have to keep giving reasons for people to look at Manchester and events can be both the hook for the conversation – creating a reason for visitors to come and experience us - and a positioning tool to showcase our event sector strengths and our communities that differentiate Manchester's offer in the global marketplace.

2.5 In advancing proposals to utilise any of Manchester's public space and venue assets to support the development of the event programme, the City Council recognises that it is imperative to balance the need to provide adequate protection to the amenity of neighbouring residents with the rights of the broader community to enjoy significant events and will align new event opportunities against the following objectives:

- Identifying and developing which events should be advanced to strengthen our market position, support Manchester based promoters,

organisers and suppliers to rebuild their capability and promote the use of our venues and public space assets.

- Strengthening the integration of events into the cultural offer of the city, extending the reach to different areas of the city at different times of the year whilst ensuring that their impacts can be effectively managed.
- Resetting the programme of events to enhance the visitor economy and build sustainable income growth that can in turn support the development of Manchester's wider civic and community events programme.

- 2.6 As an example, the live music sector is an identified key area for growth, with reports projecting that the UK live music sector will surpass its pre-pandemic revenue levels in 2023 and is set for 7.4% per year growth until 2027. Manchester has positioned itself as a key destination for outdoor music events supporting the development of venue based major music event opportunities in parks, outdoor spaces and stadia. Alongside the large-scale events such as Parklife at Heaton Park and the annual Etihad stadium concerts, the City Council has supported the development of the Sounds in The City concert series at Castlefield Arena and the inaugural 2023 Wythenshawe Live concert series at Wythenshawe Park.
- 2.7 In 2023 these four venues will provide a live outdoor music programme that will draw an estimated 500,000 music visitors to the city (projected value at £50m+ economic impact). The City Council events team has identified further opportunities to target additional mid-scale music event properties in subsequent years that would spread the visitor economy impact and benefits across the festival/outdoor music season without creating additional challenge and stretch on multi-agency partner resources. This would further cement Manchester's position as the UK's major outdoor music venue destination outside of London.
- 2.8 With the 23,500 capacity Co-op Live and the combined 7,000 capacity Aviva Studios being added to the live music venue mix, Manchester is operating from a position of considerable strength in this sector that will continue to drive benefits in the visitor economy. However, whilst the commercial/paid ticket event sector is showing positive signs of growth there remain significant challenges to the wider event marketplace and a key focus in the coming years is how we can ensure that there is a flow of benefits that will enable not-for profit organisations to re-establish themselves and target development rather than struggle to hold their position.
- 2.9 As such, the strategy to capitalise on major event/commercial event opportunities that position and profile the city also needs to be underpinned with an informed approach that ensures we are generating direct and indirect revenues that can be reinvested to support the Community event programme. We need to support the event sector workforce and the event volunteer network to rebuild to their pre-pandemic level so that the wider marketplace is effectively resourced to meet demands. In addition, it will be important to ensure we are supporting and utilising the commercial event sector to develop and promote best practice in the safe management of events and drive



investment into event sustainability practices and infrastructure for the benefit of all.

2.10 To achieve this, we recognise that we must:

- Set out the priorities for event investment through to 2027 that will make effective and sustainable use of our public spaces and sporting and cultural assets.
- Strengthen the integration of events into the cultural, sporting and commercial offer of the city to support and sustain jobs and sectoral growth and build a robust culture of safe event management.
- Strengthen the commercial programme of events to ensure we capture the opportunities to enhance the visitor economy and build sustainable income growth that in turn will provide investment opportunities to support Community events and local area initiatives.

2.11 We need to continue to develop a distinctive programme through to 2027 and beyond that is built from the strengths of the city and places a strong emphasis on the event sub-sectors and ecosystems with the greatest growth potential that will enable us to accelerate economic, cultural and social benefit.

### **3.0 Manchester Event Programme 2023**

- 3.1 In line with the Event Strategy, the City Council Events and Commercial Team continues to attract and develop new events and retain investment in event properties that will add value to the calendar and anchor the future development and delivery of the city's event programme.
- 3.2 The 2022/23 event calendar continued to rebuild the core annual event offer to near pre-pandemic levels, with over 50 organised or facilitated events across 200 event days, drawing in an estimated 1m visitors/spectators into the city. This was achieved against a backdrop of ongoing challenges including public space constraints in the city, decreased sponsorship and commercial revenues and increased event infrastructure and service costs that are anticipated to remain through much of 2023/24.
- 3.3 Major sport and music events have dominated the first quarter of the 2023/24 event programme with over 50,000 participants pounding the city centre streets for the Manchester Marathon and Great Manchester Run before over 450,000 music fans were drawn into the city for The Courteeners and Parklife at Heaton Park and Coldplay and The Weeknd at the Etihad Stadium. A live site was created in Piccadilly Gardens that enabled people to share the experience of an eight day national programme of Coronation and Eurovision content, whilst national profile squash, BMX and netball events promoted the strength of Manchester's sports offer, which was amplified on a global level as Manchester City won the Premier League, the FA Cup and the Champions League and the players and staff joined over 150,000 fans on the streets to celebrate the Treble.

- 3.4 Through to the calendar year end the Events and Commercial team will support 30 additional event organisers to deliver a range of events – including the Caribbean Carnival, Manchester Pride and the Conservative Party conference – and continue to promote its credentials as a world class sporting city as we host the IPC World Para Swim Championships at the Manchester Aquatic Centre (600 swimmers from 73 Nations), the first day finale of cycling's Tour of Britain on Deansgate, the 2023 Davis Cup Finals Group Stage in tennis at the AO Arena and the World Taekwondo Grand Prix Final at the Regional Arena in December.
- 3.5 Whilst a number of individual events provide validated economic impact data, it has proved difficult to date to facilitate a standardised approach across the range of event sectors and assign a justifiable economic impact value to the programme. The Events Team has standardised the approach to event classification to support the planning phase and will engage with an independent agency to assign value to the 2023/24 event programme to provide a benchmark for future event benefit measurement.

#### **4.0 Community Events Funded Programme**

- 4.1 Manchester's Community Events Funding Programme remains in a position of post-pandemic rebuild and whilst 2022/23 enabled a reset of the process of re-engagement with our established community event partners, confidence has not fully returned and there remain challenges for existing community event organisers and new entrants into the sector:
- the event supply chain and labour pool remain challenged both nationally and locally with demand exceeding supply and costs increasing.
  - primary funding sources for events remain compromised – with the public sector funding pool oversubscribed and commercial and sponsorship incomes on a slow recovery trajectory.
  - Levels of on-site spend are being impacted by the cost of living and economic inequality impacting on secondary spend returns.
- 4.2 The majority of Community Events previously supported by the City Council were re-established in 2022/23, however, the challenging environment in which they are continuing to develop their plans means that this year remains as a period of supporting the organising partners to rebuild and reconnect with their communities.
- 4.3 Event sector bodies such as the Association of Independent Festivals have further identified the increased challenges and risk associated with staging events and festivals in 2023 due to increased production costs and a drop in the disposable income of audiences with supply chain costs such as energy, production, staging and security rising more than 30% since 2019.
- 4.4 Paid ticket events can navigate an element of these cost increases, but the impact on free to access Community events is more challenging. The cost-of-living crisis, challenges to public sector funding sources and the ongoing

impact of the pandemic and its impact on supply chain costs and the event workforce are continuing to restrict growth and development and many Community organisers are struggling to stabilise.

- 4.5 City Council funding, advice and event management support continue to be identified as the key requirements to help stimulate the sector and rebuild the programme. At the same time, it is critical that the City Council continues to look at how it can provide the development opportunities and toolkits during this period that will enable Community Event partners to understand and respond to key drivers of change in the event sector. It is important that organisers focus on how they can support the City Council to minimise the carbon footprint of their events and what the implications and application of new legislative frameworks such as Protect Duty will mean to the wider event sector when it comes into force.

## **5.0 Community Event Programme – Funding and Geographic Spread**

- 5.1 The Events and Commercial Team provide funding and event management support via the Community Event Fund programme (CEF). The CEF programme is one of four strands of community events funded or facilitated by the City Council and sits alongside:

- Civic Community Events - free to access city animation events such as Manchester Day, New Year's Eve, Christmas Parade etc as well as development funding to support community event organisations which are funded via mainstream revenues and income generation,
- the Equalities, Diversity and Inclusion supported programme and
- Park and Neighbourhood Community Events - smaller community focused events delivered at a neighbourhood level that may be supported via NIF funds or park budgets.

- 5.2 The Community Event Fund provides a core budget of £156,500 to underpin the CEF programme and an additional £425,000+ supports the Civic Community events – of which over 60% is reinvestment of income generated from the hire of public spaces for commercial activity.

- 5.3 The eligibility criteria for CEF funding stipulates that events to be supported via this mechanism should be:

- Large scale celebratory cultural events involving 5,000 or more participants/ audience.
- Events which can demonstrate a citywide reach and impact.
- Groups who can demonstrate a track record in event delivery and community engagement.

As a general rule, CEF funding is not the appropriate funding mechanism to support:

- Religious or faith-based content
- Political or single issue-based content

- Conferences, conventions, exhibitions or seminar programmes
- Commercial or for-profit events
- Neighbourhood events specific to a single geographic location or area.

The Community Events funding page - [What is Community events funding? | Get funding for a community event | Manchester City Council](#) – provides more detail of the criteria and guidance.

- 5.4 The main application period for CEF funding operates each year between November and February, however the opportunity remains for ad-hoc approaches for new event opportunities each year which can be considered outside of the standard process.
- 5.5 The table below captures the current 2023 calendar of community events in the city that attract in excess of 500 attendees/participants. It is recognised that a significant number of additional events and activities including fun days, park runs, sports activities, HAF activities/play sessions, fairgrounds etc add significant value to their host community (accounting for over 200 events programmed across North, Central and South in 2023). The table identifies the location where the event takes place but acknowledges that the reach of major CEF events draw a wider attendance from communities outside the immediate locale.

<b>Month</b>	<b>Community Event</b>	<b>Funded/ Facilitated by</b>	<b>Primary Event Location</b>	<b>Reach</b>
January	Holocaust Memorial Day	EDI /Events	-	Citywide
January	Chinese New Year	Events	Chinatown	Citywide
February	LGBT+ History Month	Libraries	City wide libraries	Citywide
February - July	MACFEST	Events	Citywide	Citywide
March	International Women's Day (IWD)	EDI / Events	City Centre	Citywide
March	Irish Festival Parade	Events	Cheetham Hill	Citywide
April	St Georges Day Parade	Events	Miles Platting/city centre	Citywide
April	Open Iftar – Ramadan tent project	Events	City Centre	Citywide
April	Nagar Kirtan	Parks	Hulme Park/City Centre	Citywide
May	Eid al-Fitr	Neighbourhoods	Rusholme	Citywide
May	Chorlton Arts Festival	Neighbourhoods/ parks	Chorlton/Chorlton park	Chorlton
May	Gobe Fest	Events	City Centre	Citywide
May	Whit Walks	Events	City Centre	Citywide
May	Kings Coronation Live Site	Events	Piccadilly Gardens	Citywide

May	Envirovolution	Parks	Platt Fields	South Manchester
May	Merseyfest	Parks	Parkway Playing Fields	Chorlton
May	Somali Independence Day	Parks	Alexandra Park	Whalley Range
June	LGBTQ+ Month	EDI	Citywide	Citywide
June	Diverse City	Neighbourhoods	North Manchester	North Manchester
June	Didsbury Festival	Parks	Didsbury Park	Didsbury
June	Celebrate Festival	Parks	Manley Park	Whalley Range
June	Eid al-Hadah	Parks	Platt Fields	Citywide
June	Windrush Day Event	Parks	Alexandra Park	Citywide
June	Armed Forces Day	Events	City Centre	Citywide
June	Cadent family Fun Day	Neighbourhoods	Plant Hill Park	Higher Blackely
July	Gorton Carnival	Parks	Debdale Park	Gorton
July	Festival Of Thailand	Parks	Platt Fields	Citywide
July	Sparkle	Parks	Sackville Park	Citywide
July	Manchester Day on Holiday	Events	City Centre	Citywide
July	Hulme Is Where The Art Is	Parks/ Neighbourhoods	Hulme Park	Hulme
July	Madonna de Pressario Procession	Events	Ancoats/city centre	City centre
July	South Asian Heritage Month	Events	Citywide	Citywide
July	Eid in the Park	Parks	Platt Fields	Citywide
July	Didsbury Car Show	Parks	Didsbury Park	Didsbury
Summer	Active streets (5 events)	Neighbourhoods	North Manchester	North Manchester
August	Rathayatra Festival	Events	City Centre	Citywide
August	Caribbean Carnival	Events	Alexandra Park	Citywide
August	Wythenshawe Games	Parks/MCR Active / Neighbourhoods	Numerous park locations	Wythenshawe
August	Manchester Pride	Events	City Centre	Citywide
August	Manchester Pride Parade	EDI / Events	City centre	Citywide
September	Didsbury Pride	Neighbourhoods	Didsbury	Didsbury
September	Great Chorlton Get Together	Neighbourhoods	Chorlton	Chorlton
September	Levenshulme Pride	Neighbourhoods	Levenshulme	Central
September	Vine Street Event	Neighbourhoods	Gorton	Central
October	Black History Month	EDI / Libraries	City wide venues	Citywide
November	Remembrance Sunday	Events / Civic	Citywide	Citywide
December	International day of Disabled People	EDI		Citywide
December	Disability History Month	EDI	Citywide	Citywide
December	Menorah Lighting	Events	City Centre	Citywide
December	Christmas Parade	Events	City centre	Citywide

December	New Year Fireworks	Events	City Centre	Citywide
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- 5.6 To further aid review of the content of the community event calendar for 2023/24, it is noted that the well-established, CEF funded Manchester Mega Mela has already had to take the decision to not proceed with this year's event due to a number of risk factors, but the organising committee are using the time to reset and reorganise to be able to be in a better position to develop and deliver the event in 2024.
- 5.7 In addition, during the Covid pandemic, the traditional community bonfire and firework events held in Parks did not take place and in 2022/23 a decision to pause the reinstatement of the events was taken pending a review of their impact and value for money. It was proposed that bonfire and firework displays would not be reinstated going forward, subject to the outcome of further consultation with key agencies and local partners
- 5.8 After analysing the impact within the review, the decision to not reinstate the bonfire and firework events going forward, is confirmed. As an alternative there will be a programme of Autumn and Winter activities available to residents that would be developed through local consultation. This will enable savings of c£40k per annum to the parks budget and aligns with the Council's zero carbon strategy.
- 5.9 The City Council will however continue to provide its year-on-year support to established large scale annual community events via the CEF, though the ambition remains to address how the programme can be refreshed year on year and how existing and new funding mechanisms can be targeted to widen the opportunities via:
- the generation of income from additional commercial event activities that can be redirected to support Community Events.
  - the realignment of other areas of funding to offset pressure on the available Community Events Fund.
- 5.10 As examples of how this approach is being implemented:
- The pilot in August of a new commercial music property Wythenshawe Live will shape how a controlled number of events in this location can be utilised to support specific park initiatives and enhance park service provision as well as providing a community funding mechanism to support the development of place-based community activities. This adapts the model already successfully developed for Parklife at Heaton Park and whilst the unfortunate cancellation of the scheduled concert on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> August has impacted on the delivery model for this year, the staging of the Noel Gallagher and the High Flying Birds concert on the August Bank Holiday Saturday will ensure that plans are adequately tested and that learnings can be effectively implemented for future years.
  - Additional annual funding of £10k has been confirmed via the sports events budget to underpin support for the Wythenshawe Games going

forward and the opportunity to increase the level of support will be explored through the Wythenshawe Live concert model outlined above.

- To further emphasise how commercial events can provide tangible benefit to the host community, the recent Sounds Of The City concert series at Castlefield Arena has resulted in investment from the income generated into groundwork improvements, site maintenance and infrastructure repairs and the powerwash of the canopy and steps area– providing year round benefit to residents and visitors who use the area. In addition, a new community fund will be in place from this year's income generated via the Sounds Of The City and Laughterama comedy festival which will be utilised to support local projects and initiatives.

## **6.0 Community Events – Strengthening Capabilities**

### **6.1 Event Sustainability**

- 6.1.1 Events funded by the Community Events Fund (CEF) are required to demonstrate how they will contribute to the Zero Carbon by 2038 target; however, it has previously been recognised that the organisers of community events are often volunteers and therefore can be limited in their capacity and an additional level of support has been required from the Zero Carbon and Events Teams.
- 6.1.2 The Council's commitment to delivery, funding and hosting of sustainable events has been reflected in the MCC Climate Change Action Plan 2020-25 (CCAP) under Workstream 3: Reducing Consumption Based Emissions and Influencing Suppliers as Action 3.3 'Deliver sustainable Council events and support the delivery of sustainable events on Council owned land'.
- 6.1.3 As reported to this Committee in January 2022, the focus over the next 12 months was:
- Community Events – increase the knowledge base of organisers
  - Carbon Footprinting - extend data collection to support the establishment of a baseline benchmark to inform targets for future years
  - Single Use Plastic - support increased adoption of reusable cup schemes.
  - Power - undertake scoping study to present business case for capital investment in grid power supply for events.
- 6.1.4 The Council committed additional resource to this area of work through the creation of a Sustainability Project Manager role to support this area of work, along with leading on our Single Use Plastics reduction commitment. The postholder was appointed in June 2022.
- 6.1.5 Over 2022/23, collaboration between the Sustainability Project Manager (Zero Carbon Team) and Neighbourhoods (Events, Parks, Markets and Area Teams) has increased engagement with event organisers and the wider event industry and continued to undertake a leadership role in supporting

community event organisers to incorporate sustainability into their planning and delivery.

**6.1.6 Community Events and carbon footprinting** – building on the training for community event organisers, which was outlined in a report to this Committee in July 2022, external assessment of four community events has taken place. This has produced a series of recommendations that can be incorporated into planning for events in 2023/24, along with carbon footprint data. This also resulted in 'A Greener Festival Award' for both Gobefest and Manchester Mega Mela

**6.1.7 Single Use Plastic** – Gobefest and Manchester Day took part in the Reusable Cup Pilot whereby Manchester Markets lend their reusable cold drinks cups to organisers. The pilot has so far saved 24,000 disposable cups and half a tonne of plastic waste (or 93% compared to using disposables) and saved 1.4 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e, when compared to organisers' using disposables.

**6.1.8 Power** - Outdoor Power scoping study has been completed for 14 key licensed event spaces currently used for temporary events and markets in both the city centre and parks. This sets out the financial costs of mains grid power upgrades with estimated carbon savings which would be generated from reduced use of diesel generators. This involved consultation with 30 event organisers.

## **6.2 Sustainable Events - Targets for 2023/24**

**6.2.1** Overall, the aim over 2023/24 is to continue to increase engagement with event organisers on sustainability and gather more data. Building on success of pilot projects in 2022/23, a consistent and stream-lined approach is being taken across all events (of over 1,000 in attendance).

**6.2.2** Accurate data from actual events will enable us to further understand the impact of events, plus set measurable targets in the future. Gathering good practice and challenges allows us to see where the Council may be able to use our position and influence to support, along with encouraging further positive action. This also positions us to be able to respond to developments happening in the events industry, such as the [Green Events 'Code of Practice'](#) being developed by Vision 2025.

**6.2.3** The outdoor power project will move into detailed engineering design leading to phased implementation (subject to funding).

**6.2.4** The Reusable Cup Pilot is ongoing, enabling organisers to introduce reusable cups at a lower cost than standard market rate. Engagement with event organisers will take place on new laws coming into place on banned Single Use Plastics. From 1 October 2023, the following single use items will be banned:

- Plastic cutlery
- Plastic plates, trays, bowls
- Plastic balloon sticks



- Certain types of single use expanded and extruded polystyrene cups and food containers

6.2.5 The work being undertaken is reflected in Manchester being recognised as a leader in sustainable events and the City Council being invited to take part in a national LA working group to influence sustainable events across UK. However, as previously identified the next steps with Community Events will be subject to active engagement from the organisers and in the current economic climate it must be acknowledged that further active support of the Zero Carbon Team and Neighbourhood Teams will be critical to maintain momentum.

### 6.3 **Event Planning and Safety Advisory Group Process**

6.3.1 The operation of a Safety Advisory Group (SAG) process is widely recognised by many agencies and bodies including the Civil Contingencies Secretariat (Cabinet Office), the Sports Grounds Safety Authority and the College of Policing as an important mechanism to support the safe planning and delivery of events and it has been deemed good practice to emulate the work of statutory sports SAGs in supporting and advising organisers on good practice throughout the industry. Such event related SAGs are often known as Event Safety Advisory Groups (ESAGs) and are supported by a highly effective Multi-Agency Planning process in Manchester.

6.3.2 The Manchester ESAG offers guidance and advice to help event organisers discharge their legal responsibilities to public safety and welfare and to encourage an ethos of continual improvement in developing the safety of events and other similar public mass gatherings in public spaces (parks, city centre squares and highways)

6.3.3 The CEF events have been effectively supported over the years through the Multi-Agency Planning and SAG process, however the level of knowledge to meet legislative requirements and comply with industry standards for voluntary event organisers adds an additional layer of complexity and challenge for community events. Whilst the Events Team continues to provide core event advice and guidance, the overall legal responsibility for the safety of persons at an event will always lie with the event organiser and to mitigate any potential conflict of interest for the City Council, the Events Team have this year piloted the funded provision of independent freelance Event Production and Health and Safety specialists to work alongside the organisers of Chinese New Year and the Caribbean Carnival to strengthen the event planning and delivery process on complex events with a high level of attendance and risk. The approach has been welcomed by partner agencies and key learnings from the pilot projects will be utilised to inform future application to support the implementation of continual improvement for safety at events.

6.3.4 The draft legislation for Martyn's Law - The Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Bill was published in May 2023 and given the application to qualifying events will put additional responsibilities on Event Organisers to provide better

protection from terrorism through a consistent and proportionate process for enhancing security across public spaces and event sites. Whilst counter terrorism measures are already incorporated into how event sites are managed in Manchester, a review of how the legislation will impact on how the City Council manages its buildings, venues, parks and public spaces is underway.

- 6.3.5 As the review evolves, we will engage with community event organisers to ensure they are aware of their future responsibilities and will work with each individual event to ensure that appropriate measures are factored in and that the process is monitored and accounted for through the Event SAG process.

#### **6.4 Equalities and Inclusion**

- 6.4.1 Whilst the breadth and scope of the current community event programme celebrates the diversity of the city and positively promotes the contributions and achievements of our diverse communities, it is recognised that we need to develop an increased understanding of how the staging of events can potentially impact on people with protected characteristics who are beyond the event footprint and may fall outside of the direct responsibility of the event organiser. It has been identified that this new area of work will be discussed with the Equalities, Diversity and Inclusion team to progress.

### **7.0 Conclusion**

- 7.1 The report recognises that, whilst the City Council's event programme is returning to pre-pandemic levels and the opportunities to attract new events is strengthening, the impact of the ongoing rebuild of the event sector, the reset of the event funding environment and the current the cost-of-living crisis present ongoing challenges to event organisers for the year ahead and is in particular proving difficult for community event organisers to navigate.
- 7.2 Whilst the City Council's Event Strategy remains intact, to achieve the longer-term ambition we will continue to adjust to the changing marketplace and adjust our approach to support event organisers, particularly in the Community Event sector, to enable them to respond to the challenges and build resilience into their event offer so they are best prepared for the future.
- 7.3 The measures identified in the report aim to ensure that events can continue to contribute effectively to the vibrancy of the city. Manchester remains a preferred destination of choice for national and international event organisers and the number and quality of events in development for 2024/25 are testament to the strength of the city's offer and an acknowledgement of the leadership role that the City Council has to play in ensuring that we can fully capitalise on these future event opportunities.
- 7.4 The Committee is asked to note and comment on the contents of the report.

**Manchester City Council  
Report for Information**

**Report to:** Communities and Equalities Scrutiny Committee – 18 July 2023

**Subject:** Overview Report

**Report of:** Governance and Scrutiny Support Unit

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**Summary**

This report provides the following information:

- Recommendations Monitor
- Key Decisions
- Work Programme

**Recommendation**

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

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**Wards Affected:** All

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**Contact Officer:**

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**Background documents (available for public inspection):**

None

## 1. Monitoring Previous Recommendations

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

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

Date	Item	Recommendation	Action	Contact Officer
19 July 2022	CESC/22/28 Community Events	To request that the Executive Member for Skills, Employment and Leisure circulate the criteria and timetable for the Community Events Fund, along with the Equality Impact Assessment and information on sports activities that are currently being funded across the city.	A response to this recommendation has been requested and will be circulated to Members.	Mike Parrott, Events Lead
6 December 2022	CESC/22/51 Compliance and Enforcement Services - Performance in 2021/22	To request that the Committee receive an update on plans for the new CRM system.	A response to this recommendation has been requested and will be circulated to Members.	Carol Culley, Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer
10 January 2023	CESC/23/05 Overview Report	To request that Committee Members be provided with a briefing note on the analysis of the information on Bonfire Night 2022, when this is available.	A response to this recommendation has been requested and will be circulated to Members.	Fiona Sharkey, Head of Compliance, Enforcement, and Community Safety
23 May 2023	CESC/23/20 A short update report on migration services in	To request that the Committee's concerns, through a letter from the Committee, be included in the Council and Greater Manchester	This letter has been drafted and will be sent once approved.	Charlotte Lynch, Governance and Scrutiny Team Leader

	Manchester, including Afghanistan, Ukraine and Asylum	responses to the Government's plans to temporarily exempt asylum accommodation from HMO licensing requirements.		
20 June 2023	CESC/23/23 An update report on the Homelessness Service	That information on where leasing scheme properties will be located in the city be provided once available.	This information will be provided once available.	Nicola Rea, Strategic Lead for Homelessness
20 June 2023	CESC/23/23 An update report on the Homelessness Service	That a future update report on homelessness include explanation as to why high numbers of BAME residents experience homelessness	This information will be added to the work programme to be actioned in the next Homelessness Update report.	Rob McCartney, Assistant Director of Homelessness

## 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 **3 July 2023** containing details of the decisions under the Committee's remit is included below. This is to keep members informed of what decisions are being taken and, where appropriate, include in the work programme of the Committee.

Subject / Decision	Decision Maker	Decision Due Date	Consultation	Background documents	Officer Contact
<b>Vaccination Clinic PSPO (2023/05/17A)</b>  To introduce a PSPO to address anti-social behaviour outside vaccination clinics in Manchester.	Strategic Director (Neighbourhoods)	Not before 15th Jun 2023		Proposed PSPO, Decision Report, Equality Impact Assessment	Sam Stabler, Strategic Lead (Community Safety) samantha.stabler@manchester.gov.uk

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

**Tuesday 18 July 2023, 2.00 pm (Report deadline Thursday 6 July 2023)**

Item	Purpose	Executive Member	Strategic Director/ Lead Officer	Comments
Age Friendly Strategy Refresh	To receive the Strategy for comment.	Councillor T Robinson	David Regan Philip Bradley	
Community Events	To receive a further report at an appropriate time which includes the Manchester Events Strategy, information on the geographic spread of the funded events and an update on work on the additional areas for development and improvement referred to in the report considered by the Committee on 19 July 2022. To include information on events around Bonfire Night and on the Wythenshawe Games. List of all funded community events and all events they know about.	Councillor Hacking Councillor Igbon	Neil Fairlamb Mike Parrott	See minutes of the meeting on 19 July 2022. To invite the Chair of the Licensing Committee
Overview Report		-	Scrutiny Support	

**Tuesday 5 September 2023, 2.00 pm (Report deadline Wednesday 23 August 2023)**

Item	Purpose	Executive Member	Strategic Director/ Lead Officer	Comments
Communities of Identity	To receive a report on Communities of Identity.	Councillor Midgley	Fiona Ledden Sharmila Kar	
Our Manchester Voluntary and Community Sector 2018-23 Programme Report	To receive the end of programme report to highlight the achievement, outcomes and contributions of the funded groups.	Councillor Midgley	James Binks Keiran Barnes	
Domestic Abuse	To receive an update, including information on the victim voice work.	Councillor Midgley	Neil Fairlamb Sam Stabler	
Community Safety Strategy 2022-25	To receive a further report at an appropriate time, including the information requested by Members at the meeting on 6 September 2022.	Councillor Rahman	Neil Fairlamb Fiona Sharkey Sam Stabler	See minutes of the meeting on 6 September 2022.
Serious Violence Strategy	To request a further report, including information on measuring the outcomes of the Strategy, work to tackle the increase in youth violence in north Manchester and disparities across different areas of the city.	Councillor Rahman	Neil Fairlamb Fiona Sharkey Sam Stabler	See minutes of the meeting on 6 September 2022.
Overview Report		-	Scrutiny Support	



**Tuesday 10 October 2023, 2.00 pm (Report deadline Thursday 28 September 2023)**

Item	Purpose	Executive Member	Strategic Director/ Lead Officer	Comments
LGBT Deep Dive	To receive a Deep Dive report on LGBT issues.	Councillor Midgley	Fiona Ledden Sharmila Kar	Invite Mark Fletcher, Manchester Pride and representatives of other LGBT groups.
Homelessness	To receive a report on the review of the Homelessness Strategy and information on Winter Provision. To also include further information on equalities.	Councillor Midgley	Dave Ashmore Nicola Rea	See 20 June 2023 minutes.
Community Cohesion Strategy	To receive a report on the Community Cohesion Strategy 'Building Stronger Communities Together'.	Councillor Midgley	Fiona Sharkey Samiya Butt	
Overview Report		-	Scrutiny Support	

**Tuesday 7 November 2023, 2.00 pm (Report deadline Thursday 26 October 2023)**

Item	Purpose	Executive Member	Strategic Director/ Lead Officer	Comments
Crime and Policing	Following the item considered at the November 2022 meeting, to invite guests from the GMCA, including Deputy Mayor Kate Green, and GMP to attend a future Committee meeting, including asking Chief Superintendent Rick Jackson to provide an update on the communications work, public confidence and how the journey to improvement is going.	Councillor Rahman	Neil Fairlamb Sam Stabler	See minutes of the meeting on 8 November 2022.
Update on the budget position	To receive a report outlining the budget position for 2024/25 and progress in reaching a balanced budget, including preliminary savings and investment options.	Councillor Akbar Councillor Rahman Councillor Midgley Councillor Hacking	Carol Culley Neil Fairlamb	
Overview Report		-	Scrutiny Support	

**Tuesday 5 December 2023, 2.00 pm (Report deadline Thursday 23 November 2023)**

Item	Purpose	Executive Member	Strategic Director/ Lead Officer	Comments
Our Manchester Fund programmes overview	To receive a comprehensive programme overview to give the Committee an understanding of the programme, some key areas of progress and some coming developments.	Councillor Midgley	James Binks Keiran Barnes	
VCSE Infrastructure	To receive a further report on the VCSE infrastructure contract.	Councillor Midgley	James Binks Keiran Barnes	
Older People	To receive a report on how the Council and partners are working with older people, including tackling social isolation.	Councillor T Robinson	David Regan Philip Bradley	
Overview Report		-	Scrutiny Support	

Tuesday 9 January 2024, 2.00 pm (Report deadline Wednesday 27 December 2023)

Item	Purpose	Executive Member	Strategic Director/ Lead Officer	Comments
Libraries and Archives Report	To receive an update report on Libraries and Archives.	Councillor Hacking	Neil Fairlamb Neil MacInnes	
Overview Report		-	Scrutiny Support	

**Tuesday 6 February 2024, 2.00 pm (Report deadline Thursday 25 January 2024)**

Item	Purpose	Executive Member	Strategic Director/ Lead Officer	Comments
Manchester Sport and Physical Activity Strategy	To request a further report including place-based activity across the wards, comparison of different areas of the city, coaching opportunities, the impact of the cost-of-living rise, work to engage people with different protected characteristics, including women, and providing activities to engage young people.	Councillor Hacking	Neil Fairlamb	See minutes of the meeting on 6 September 2022.
Public Sector Equality Duty	To receive an update on the Council's activities to demonstrate compliance with the Public Sector Equality Duty. To include detail on what has worked well and lessons learnt/areas for improvement to drive objectives forward. To also include information on pre- and post-pandemic work.	Councillor Midgley	Fiona Ledden Sharmila Kar	
MCC's Equality Objectives 2024-2028	To receive a report on the development of MCC's Equality Objectives for 2024-2028.	Councillor Midgley	Fiona Ledden Sharmila Kar	
Overview Report		-	Scrutiny Support	

Tuesday 5 March 2024, 2.00 pm (Report deadline Thursday 22 February 2024)

Item	Purpose	Executive Member	Strategic Director/ Lead Officer	Comments
Digital Exclusion	To receive a further report on digital exclusion, including financial exclusion.	Councillor Hacking	Neil Fairlamb Neil MacInnes	See March 2023 minutes
Making Manchester Fairer	To receive a report on the themes of communities and power and systemic and structural racism and discrimination.	Councillor Midgley	Fiona Ledden Sharmila Kar	
Overview Report		-	Scrutiny Support	

## Items To Be Scheduled

Item	Purpose	Executive Member	Strategic Director/ Lead Officer	Comments
Prevent/Radequal	This report sets out our response to the National Prevent Review. To include information on the radicalisation of teenage boys by the far right, and the influence of figures such as Andrew Tate.	Councillor Rahman	Neil Fairlamb Fiona Sharkey Sam Stabler	
Support for People Leaving Prison	To include information on changes to probation services, how ex-prisoners are re-integrated into society and links with homelessness.	Councillor Akbar Councillor Rahman	Neil Fairlamb Sam Stabler Dave Ashmore	
Youth Justice	To be scoped.	Councillor Rahman Councillor Bridges	Paul Marshall Neil Fairlamb Fiona Sharkey Sam Stabler	Invite Chair of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee
Advice Services Update	To receive an update report.	Councillor Midgley	Dave Ashmore Nicola Rea	See minutes of the meeting on 10 January 2023.
Migration	To receive a further report at an appropriate time.	Councillor Midgley	Dave Ashmore Nicola Rea	See May 2023 minutes.

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