

# **Environment, Climate Change and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Committee**

## **Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, 18 July 2024**

### **Present:**

Councillor Shilton Godwin – in the Chair

Councillors Hussain, Ilyas, Kirwin-McGinley, McCaul, Mumtaz, Richards and Wiest

**Apologies:** None received

### **Also present:**

Councillor Igbon, Executive Member for Vibrant Neighbourhoods

Councillor Ahmed Ali, Deputy Executive Member for Vibrant Neighbourhoods

Councillor Foley, Deputy Executive Member for Clean Air, Environment and Transport

## **ECCNSC/24/25 Manchester City Council Procurement and Scope 3**

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Integrated Commissioning and Procurement and Strategic Lead, Commissioning that provided an update on the steps being taken on the Council's procurement to support carbon reduction and to report on the Council's consumption-based emissions (Scope 3) and what action was being taken to reduce these including information on the work done to develop the 10% environmental weighting criteria in procurement exercises.

Key points and themes in the report and accompanying presentation included:

- Providing an introduction and background that included a description of Scope 3;
- Describing how the activity described supported the Council's Climate Change Action Plan;
- Describing the background and rationale for the 10% environmental weighting, including examples across different Council Directorates of results achieved since the 10% weighting had been formally adopted in 2022;
- An update on Carbon Literacy training rates, noting that the Council had pledged to work towards achieving Gold Carbon Literacy Accreditation by March 2025;
- Noting that the Integrated Commissioning and Procurement team were working with contract managers across the council to take greater responsibility for challenging specifications for procurement projects to ensure that subject matter experts within services were considering the carbon impact of the specification and developing insightful questions for inclusion in relation to the 10% weighting;
- Examples of direct action being taken by the Council, such as the approach to Single Use Plastics and the contracts for Manchester Parks Cafes; and
- Consideration of the approach to the measurement of Scope 3 emissions.

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

- Welcoming the reported innovative work delivered to date;

- What support was offered to support SME's (Small and medium-sized enterprises);
- Was the 10% environmental weighting requirement sufficient;
- Discussing carbon literacy training and had there been any assessment as to the impact of this;
- What measures were taken to ensure that potential suppliers were not greenwashing (Greenwashing is the act of making false or misleading statements about the environmental benefits of a product or practice);
- Do we share good practice with other Local Authorities; and
- All opportunities, including consideration of Planning applications should support this work.

The Head of Integrated Commissioning and Procurement and Strategic Lead, Commissioning said that the 10% weighting would be assessed by using a set of standard questions in addition to a number of bespoke questions that were applicable to the specific nature of a contract. He said that the 10% weighting applied to all contracts and that this was an appropriate level in the context of national procurement guidance so as to avoid legal challenge and to ensure the correct balance was struck with quality, adding that new national procurement regulations were expected soon. He commented that Manchester was leading the way both locally and nationally on this area of activity and that knowledge and good practice was shared with GM partners and other core cities. He commented that s106 funding secured via planning developments often delivered environmental improvements. He advised that guidance and support was offered to SME's and feedback was provided to all unsuccessful applicants. In response to the discussion regarding carbon literacy training he advised that to achieve and maintain the ongoing accreditation status the Council had to demonstrate and evidence delivery and impact.

The Strategic Lead, Commissioning advised that the delivery of the 10% weighting would be assessed and monitored as part of the agreed contract management arrangements, in a similar way as to the delivery of the Social Value element of contracts were monitored. He stated that a new contract management system was being introduced and this would improve this work by enabling the monitoring of more specific environmental KPI's (Key Performance Indicators). He said that the City of London maintained a list of top suppliers and consideration was being given as to if this would be appropriate for Manchester. In regard to carbon literacy training, he said this was delivered both face to face and via e-learning. He commented that there was a challenge surrounding resources to delivering this training. He said that carbon literacy training sessions were delivered to the different commissioning teams, adding that these sessions were very well received, and the learning adopted by staff. In addition to this, events were held with suppliers, and carbon literacy was included as part of that engagement activity, adding that carbon offsetting was never condoned.

The Chair, in concluding this item of business paid tribute to the team for their innovative approach to the procurement process and recognising the important and significant contribution this played in delivering the carbon budget for the city. She also acknowledged the awards that the team had received in recognition of their work.

## **Decision**

To note the report.

### **ECCNSC/24/26      Role of the Neighbourhood Teams in keeping the City's Neighbourhoods Clean, Safe and Vibrant**

The Committee considered the report of the Strategic Director (Neighbourhoods) that described the role of the North / Central / South Neighbourhood Teams in keeping the City's neighbourhoods clean, safe and vibrant. The teams' proactive approach and response was based on the different characteristics and drivers of demand for each area within the city. The team played a key leadership role and were able to influence place-based priorities. The report provided a range of examples of how Officers collaborated internally and externally to deliver them.

Key points and themes in the report included:

- Describing the strategic context of the Neighbourhood Teams role and core functions;
- Consideration of the drivers of demand that influenced place-based delivery;
- What delivery looked like in practice; and
- Future considerations to shape the ongoing delivery of place-based priorities.

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

- Recognising the important and good work that Neighbourhood Officers delivered and the positive relationships that had been established with local Members;
- Were staff resources flexible enough to support activities in other localities as and when required;
- What was the rationale for determining the Neighbourhood areas;
- Noting the need to strike the correct balance, particularly in the city centre for services to respond to visitors, workers and residents;
- What would the dashboard that was being developed measure;
- Requesting an update on the work of the Climate Change Officers;
- Welcoming the work of the Student Strategy Partnership and adding that representation from the Partnership should be a focus of a future Committee report and present at ward coordination meetings;
- More information was sought in relation to the Intensive Neighbourhood Management Pilots;
- Acknowledging the positive impact Neighbourhood Investment Fund had on local communities, including when activities and projects were delivered across wards and neighbourhoods;
- Individuals needed to take responsibility for disposing of their waste in a responsible manner and not to litter or flytip;
- The need to articulate and publicise the varied range of positive activities delivered by the Neighbourhood Teams and the positive contribution this had for the residents of the city; and
- The need for services to recognise and celebrate the diversity of the city.

The Head of Neighbourhoods said that the Locality Areas had been established and agreed based on population data and there was currently no intention to review these. It was also how the Council collaborates with partners such as Greater Manchester Police and Registered Providers. He commented that the need to strike the correct balance and approach in the city centre was understood and all available opportunities, including ward coordination, resident forums, business groups facilitated discussions to inform priorities and the subsequent planning of activities and deployment of resources. He said that the dashboard that had been developed would report a range of relevant activities such as waste and recycling rates and bespoke Key Performance Indicators based on agreed ward priorities will be looked at. He commented that police data would also be included in this data set, and he advised that a briefing note on the dashboard would be circulated to all Members. He added that this information and experience to date was now influencing the refresh of the Ward Climate Change Action Plans with Members.

The Head of Neighbourhoods advised the Committee that there were three Climate Change Neighbourhood Officers, and they supported the established 26 Neighbourhood Officers across the city. He said that the Neighbourhood Officers were also supported by the city wider services and partners, noting that the Committee would be considering a report on the Licensing and Out of Hours Service at the meeting. He advised that staff did work flexibly across area when required, further he commented that the service was focused on culturally appropriate engagement in recognition of the diversity of the population and communities in which they worked. He informed the Committee that the work of the Student Strategy Partnership was ongoing throughout the year and not restricted to the beginning and end of the academic term. He said that the Partnership consisted of the Council, Greater Manchester Police, Universities, Manchester Student Homes, and linked in with community groups. He said that they considered and coordinated activities across a range of topics including student safety and environmental issues. The Executive Member for Vibrant Neighbourhoods added that work was ongoing to address the issues of waste associated with student HMOs (House in multiple occupation), including the use of enforcement activities and this was being coordinated with Manchester Student Homes, the Universities and Keep Manchester Tidy.

The Strategic Lead, Neighbourhoods for North provided an update on the Intensive Neighbourhood Management Pilots that was referred to in the report that described that to tackle intense passageway waste issues, pilot approaches were implemented in Harpurhey, Moston, Moss Side and Levenshulme. This involved dedicated Officers from the Neighbourhood Teams (co-ordinating), Compliance & Enforcement, Waste & Recycling Team, Biffa and residents. Actions related to proactive visits and inspections, cleansing, promotion of the Council's bulky item collection service, engaging businesses on their commercial waste contracts, helping residents with setting up and using their My Accounts to self-report and sharing intelligence on fly-tipping. The focus on shared outcomes had led to stronger and proactive links between services and residents, and residents were reporting and sharing information to tackle the root causes of the environmental issues. Officers were now monitoring to understand the ongoing impact and the need for further targeted interventions. The approach was now shaping which other areas across the City required similar interventions.

The Chair recommended that an update on this activity and any additional relevant information, including any proposed roll out of the Intensive Neighbourhood Management Pilots be provided in the in the report scheduled for the September meeting titled 'Fly-tipping and Keep Manchester Tidy'.

The Executive Member for Vibrant Neighbourhoods thanked the Committee for their many positive comments expressed regarding the Neighbourhood Officers and said that it was important to recognise the significant pressures and competing demands on their role. She said that Members needed to consider the financial challenges the service had experience over previous years and the restrictions this had placed on service delivery, however the ambition would always be to deliver more. She said that the service had to prioritise services and resources and she recognised the important role partners and residents played in supporting the work described. She said that addressing litter was a political priority for herself and an action plan was being developed to address particular hotspots and this would be communicated to all Members at the appropriate time. She supported the comment expressed by a Member regarding personal responsibility in relation to waste and littering.

## **Decision**

To note the report.

## **ECCNSC/24/27      Overview of the Licensing & Out Of Hours Team**

The Committee considered the report of the Strategic Director (Neighbourhoods) that provided an overview of the activity undertaken by the Licensing and Out of Hours Compliance Team which is part of the Compliance and Enforcement Service.

Key points and themes in the report included:

- Providing an introduction to the service;
- Discussion of the key areas of demand on the service;
- Data on the number of requests for service (RFS), noting that in 23/24 the team received a total of 6,284 RFS, an increase of 47% since 2016/17 when the service was introduced;
- Examples of proactive activities, including case studies of this work;
- Describing the activity associated with Licensing Applications, noting that there had been a combined total of 2,470 licence applications dealt with by the team in 2023/24; and
- Consideration of challenges and future initiatives.

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

- Noting the significant breadth of activity the service engaged in;
- How were resources deployed and priorities identified;
- As the city grew there would be a need to increase capacity in the service as demand would grow;
- What was the approach to assessing Temporary Event Notice (TEN) applications;

- What is the response rate to noise complaints from residents, particularly in student areas;
- Noting the shift patterns used and the extensive coverage this provided;
- What was the approach to street pedlars, particularly on Market Street;

The Head of Compliance Enforcement and Community Safety stated that priorities were agreed in consultation with Executive and local Members, as reflected in service plans, wider council strategies and policies and in accordance with statutory guidance. She paid tribute to the staff working across the service, commenting that they had a wealth of knowledge and experience and engaged positively with Councillors and residents to respond to issues and manage expectations when responding to issues. She commented that approximately a third of the work undertaken by staff was proactive and staff worked flexibly to accommodate their duties. She said that the licensing objectives were used when assessing the merits of any TEN application and objections would be submitted when considered appropriate to do so. She commented that they would work with organisers and monitor any event if a TEN was granted. She said that the team would always endeavour to respond to a noise complaint in a timely manner, however this would always depend on where staff were deployed at the time of a report being received e.g. if they received a call for a job in south Manchester but were currently dealing with a job in North Manchester it would take them some time to address the job they were dealing with and get to the other side of the city. Also the volume of jobs received in any night would also dictate how quickly they could respond. She commented that all complaints were followed up and the appropriate action taken. In regard to Street Pedlars she said that these were not required to be licensed but were subject to antiquated legislation that required them to obtain a certificate, which could be obtained from any police force in the country, and this allowed them to sell throughout the UK. She commented that the Manchester City Council Act 2010 did provide some additional controls to manage pedlars locally, including the seizure of goods (excluding food and other perishable items ) and patrols and monitoring of Market Street were routinely undertaken.

The Executive Member for Vibrant Neighbourhoods thanked the Committee for their many positive comments expressed regarding the service and the staff, she said that it was important for the Committee to recognise the significant amount of work undertaken by staff in often challenging and dangerous situations. She commented that she had witnessed this when accompanying staff when they were undertaking their duties. Noting the comment regarding the increasing population of the city and the corresponding increase in requests for services she said that a business case was being prepared with a view to increasing capacity across the service.

The Committee noted that Fiona Sharkey, Head of Compliance Enforcement and Community Safety would be retiring from the Council after 37 years of service to the city. The Committee and all those present expressed their gratitude to her and wished her a long and happy retirement.

## **Decision**

To note the report.

## **ECCNSC/24/28      Progress update on the development of the Our Manchester Strategy 2025-2035**

The Committee considered the report of the Assistant Chief Executive that provided an update on the development of a new Our Manchester Strategy 2025-2035. A project team and steering group was formed in late 2023 ahead of the phase 1 engagement being launched in early 2024. The report provided a summary of the approach to engagement, the overall phase 1 engagement reach and a summary of the findings that are most relevant to the work of the Committee.

Key points and themes in the report included:

- Providing an introduction and background, describing that the Our Manchester Strategy 2025 was the ten-year strategy for the city and the current Our Manchester Strategy was due to expire in 2025;
- Officers had completed the first phase of development for the next Our Manchester Strategy for 2025 to 2035; and
- Providing an update on the activity undertaken to date, a summary of the outputs from the first phase of the development for the new strategy, and a summary of the next steps.

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

- Noting that 21% of consultees identified as disabled or having a health problem indicated that priorities needed to reflect this to ensure the city was accessible and inclusive to all residents;
- Thanking officers for the scale and breadth of engagement undertaken, with a Member stating that the focused activity in her ward had been particularly well received by residents;
- The need to use all available resources, including community press and radio to connect with and engage with different communities; and
- Had the survey been available in different languages and formats.

The Head of City Policy welcomed the positive comments expressed by the Members. He said that the sessions held with ward Councillors had been very beneficial and provided an invaluable route to connect with local groups and residents. He said that the information and data obtained through both the universal questionnaire and targeted work would be subject to further analysis, using different lenses and appropriate weighting given to fully understand the responses and inform future priorities to be articulated in the new Our Manchester Strategy. He commented that a suite of engagement materials had been utilised, including an easy-read leaflet, a British Sign Language (BSL) video, and printed leaflets and providing translations of the universal survey in Manchester's top five spoken languages (Arabic, Urdu, Polish, Farsi, and Kurdish). He said that initial indications showed that cleanliness, safety and crime, green spaces, public transport and community involvement were emerging as key themes for residents.

The Head of City Policy stated that he would arrange a follow up conversation with the Lead Member for Disability to help inform the next Our Manchester Strategy for 2025 to 2035.

## **Decision**

To note the report.

### **ECCNSC/24/29      Overview Report**

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

In considering the item of information that had been provided the Committee noted that the increase in emissions for Quarter 4 (Q4) of 2023/24 showed that the Council had used 7,386 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> during this period, equating to a total of 23,012 tCO<sub>2</sub> in 2023/24. This exceeded the annual CO<sub>2</sub> budget of 21,562, however, Manchester City Council remained on track to stay within the 5-year carbon budget for the period 2020-25. The Committee discussed the issue related to the failure to decarbonise the National Grid and called for an end to any objections to the delivery of green infrastructure to accelerate carbon reduction. The Chair noted that this was precisely why the Council's investment in a renewable energy Power Purchase Agreement was important. The Committee further noted that it would be considering the Manchester City Council 2020-25 Climate Change Action Plan 2023/24 Annual Report at its next meeting, further noting that the science-based carbon budget and associated actions for post 2025 were to be covered as part of the Climate Change Action Plan 2025-30 update report scheduled for January 2025. In response to a discussion relating to the reported increased emissions relating to streetlighting, the Head of City Policy commented that this could be attributed to an increased hours of usage.

## **Decision**

The Committee notes the report and agrees the work programme, noting the comments raised during consideration of the previous agenda items.