

**Manchester City Council
Report for Information**

Report to: Neighbourhoods and Environment Scrutiny Committee –
5 February 2020

Subject: Delivering the Our Manchester Strategy

Report of: Executive Member for Environment, Planning & Transport

Summary

This report provides an overview of work undertaken and progress towards the delivery of the Council's priorities as set out in the Our Manchester strategy for those areas within the portfolio of the Executive Member for Environment, Planning and Transport.

Recommendations

The Committee is asked to note and comment on the report.

Wards Affected: All

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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.

- Manchester Strategy 2016-2025 as approved by Executive 6 Jan 2016
- Building Together – Manchester Labour's promise to Manchester

1. Introduction

1.1 The Our Manchester Strategy was formally adopted by the Council in January 2016 and sets the ambitions for the city for the next ten years, to 2025, for Manchester to be:

- Thriving – creating great jobs and healthy businesses
- Filled with talent – both home-grown talent and attracting the best in the world
- Fair – with equal chances for all to unlock their potential
- A great place to live – with lots of things to do
- Buzzing with connections – including world-class transport and broadband

1.2 Executive Members are collectively and individually responsible for supporting the delivery of the Our Manchester Strategy and for providing political oversight and direction to officers for the better outcomes for Manchester residents. In October, the Executive also published its collective political priorities and those of individual Executive Members, all of which are aligned to the Our Manchester Strategy.

1.3 This report is written by Cllr Angeliki Stogia, Executive Member for Environment, Planning and Transport and sets out a summary of the work undertaken over the past 6 months and looks at what will be delivered in the next 12 months.

2. Executive Member for Environment, Planning and Transport Portfolio

As Executive Member for Environment, Planning and Transport my portfolio includes:

- Highways
- Planning and Building Control
- Transport
- Climate Change

2.1 The priorities I am responsible to deliver on in the 2019/20 municipal year are:

- Transport
 - Continue to support the progress towards bus re-regulation so that public transport serves the public, with straightforward smart ticketing covering bus, train and tram.
 - Work to make cycling safer and make walking and cycling the natural choice for short trips. Continue to seek more fund to create comprehensive dedicated cycling and walking networks across the city.
 - Work with schools, parents, local communities to make walking and cycling to school safer for parents and children through safer streets and junctions, as well as through raising awareness of air pollution.
 - Facilitate the use of local roads for school streets and play streets. Create a process for residents and community groups that will allow temporary

street closures at regular intervals for children to play out more safely and neighbours to come together making streets friendlier for all. Trial car free days in parts of the city centre starting this summer.

- Campaign with local authorities across the north to get the investment in transport the North has been starved of including HS2, Northern Powerhouse Rail and the Northern Hub.
- Environment
 - Build on our Paris commitment to become carbon neutral by 2038, we will work with all stakeholders in the city to take immediate action to reduce our carbon footprint, and prioritise ongoing reductions in our emission of greenhouse gases.
 - Demand that the Council is given all necessary resources and support to take urgent action against climate change.
 - Clean up the air we breathe: bring forward plans to improve air quality involving Manchester residents in how best to tackle the problem of air pollution in our city.
 - Accelerate our work to become a single-use plastic free Council by phasing out the use of single-use plastic products such as bottles, cups, cutlery and drinking straws in all council activities and events and encourage our facilities' users and local business to do the same by championing other alternatives.
 - Promote bio-diversity.

3. Progress and Outcomes July 2019 - January 2020

While work is ongoing on the 2019/2020 priorities, this report will focus on activities delivered in the reporting six months (July 2019 – January 2020).

3.1 £100m highways investment

We are in the 3rd year of a 5 year investment programme to improve the overall condition of our network of roads and pavements. By the end of 2019 we will have invested £30m to treat over 200 miles of roads and 20 miles of pavements. In addition, we have repaired over 40,000 highway defects, cleansed over 100,000 gullies and carried out around 7,000 drainage repairs. Our annual road condition surveys have reflected this work, showing an improvement in the percentage of 'poor' condition roads from 25% in 2017 to 19% in 2019.

Over the last six months I have visited wards across the city to review the extent of work that is taking place. I have also continued to undertake frequent visits to see how work is delivered and progresses made on the ground and had the opportunity to meet the contractors, observe the crews while they worked to deliver the improvements across the city.

An area where we have been putting a particular effort is in social value in order to create additional social, economic and environmental benefits from this investment. In the last six months highways has continued to raise the bar in terms of best practice includes significant progress in embedding and

monitoring Social Value across the workforce and the supply chain, which has resulted in new apprenticeship opportunities, supporting and delivering community improvements and supporting ex-offenders into employment.

We have also made strides in leading innovative procurement work across the council testing out ways to strengthen the importance of carbon reduction within our procurement adding an extra 10% weighting for carbon reduction within our procurement scoring in two highways tenders.

3.2 Major Projects

The projects team have made significant progress and are on target to spend around £60m on highway improvement schemes in the current financial year which is a major success. The major projects list is growing as the team have geared up to support the Council's growth agenda, supported accessing new funding to provide cycling and walking facilities and bid to government for additional investment in the city.

There is now a programme of live major projects that is supported by a pipeline of future projects being prepared.

In addition, our Highways Repairs Team have reacted quickly and efficiently when asked to support the City to successfully manage intervention works on projects that are a priority for the city. These have included:

- The successful completion of the Manchester and Salford Inner relief route (Regent Road) works, where the main contractor was no longer able to complete its contractual requirements;
- Review of the Oxford Road Bus Gate Signage & Sign Replacement Programme;
- The City Centre Hostile Vehicle Mitigation Measures Programme.

The major projects that are currently on site or shortly will be on site include:

- The Great Ancoats project that will improve access for pedestrians and people on bikes.
- A57 Hyde Road which will remove the bottleneck which causes local congestion and harmful air pollution and an upgraded crossing point.
- CCAG 2 Chorlton Phase1a which is the first phase of a larger innovative programme which will deliver a step change for people who want to actively travel from Hulme, Whalley Range, Moss Side, Chorlton and Chorlton Park to the city.
- The Princess Road/Medlock Street Roundabout Medlock reduction scheme commenced which includes cycling & walking improvements.
- Levenshulme Bee Network, which scooped the 'Community Project of the Year' award at the 2019 Healthy Streets Summit. The award recognises plans to encourage more residents and visitors to walk and cycle in an 'active neighbourhood'.
- A6 Stockport Road which will provide a cycle track on Stockport Road between Mitre Road and St John's Road, which will be physically separated from other vehicles to provide a safer and more convenient

- route for people on bikes.
- Residents Parking Schemes (St Georges, Rusholme and Moss Side, Hathersage Road and North Manchester General Hospital, Christie).
- School safety projects which aim to improve school crossings, with the completion of 46 out of 81 local projects across the city.
- More cycling and walking schemes on currently being developed.

3.4 Implementing Made to Move

The Mayor's Cycling and Walking Commissioner published his 15 step 'Made to Move' plan which seeks to transform the way that people travel around Greater Manchester, making walking and cycling the obvious choice for short journeys. Since my last report we have started delivering:

- Chorlton Cycleway project Phase 1a
- Princess Road/Medlock Street Roundabout

We are currently also consulting on the Northern Quarter cycling and walking improvements.

Manchester City Council has been successful in securing entry to the Mayor's Challenge Fund (MCF) programme for a wide range of projects. The projects accepted into the programme include:

- **Chorlton Cycleway** (MCF £9.5M) – This scheme includes a 5km segregated route from the city centre to south of Chorlton. Extensive consultation has been undertaken with local residents and businesses about the proposals, generating 1,800 comments. The designs are being refined to take account of the comments received. The MCF allocation increases the overall scheme value to £13.4M, which includes a further £3.9M funding from CCAG.
- **Reducing the Severance of the Mancunian Way** (MCF 2.9M) - This project involves a full junction upgrade where Princess Road meets the Mancunian Way. In order to improve pedestrian and cycle links across the Mancunian way the existing subways will be removed and protected cycle lanes added, as well as new footways and crossings. The full scheme will cost in the region of £10.6m, part funded by MCF.
- **Levenshulme's Active Neighbourhood** (MCF £2.4M) – This community led scheme will create a neighbourhood designed for people, by prioritising those who are on foot or on their bike. This scheme is being promoted by local people and is the first such scheme funded through MCF. This scheme will provide a template for other communities wishing to promote similar networks in their area.
- **Northern Quarter Sustainable Access** (MCF £10.6M) - This project will improve access to the Northern Quarter from Victoria and Piccadilly stations for those on foot or travelling by bike, whilst maintaining bus access. This is about creating a more attractive walking environment and making cycling in the area easier. The Government's Cycle Cities

Ambition Grant (CCAG) is providing a further £1m for this scheme. The project is currently being consulted on.

- **Enhancements to the Rochdale Canal Towpath (MCF £1.3m)** – A key priority for the Council has been to secure more funding for areas that to date have seen little or no investment in cycling and walking. In response to this priority, the Rochdale Canal will be enhanced for the local communities, providing an improved off road link for those on foot or travelling by bike.
- **Northern and Eastern Gateway (MCF £4.1M)** – This scheme will create a second city centre cycling and walking corridor. The project will connect the neighbourhoods of Ancoats, New Islington, New Cross, New Town, Redbank and the Green Quarter by creating a high-quality, continuous east-west walking and cycling route for the north and east city centre fringe. The new route will link to Cheetham Hill via an improved walking / cycling bridge crossing the River Irk through the developing New Cross area. There will be a new walking and cycling bridge crossing the Ashton Canal, making it easier to cross Rochdale Road or Oldham Road to reach Ancoats Urban Village and via the New Islington Canal basin to Pollard Street.

In addition, we are also working in conjunction with neighbouring authorities and TfGM to jointly deliver projects such as:

- **Public Cycle Hire Scheme** – The funding for a new cycle hire scheme secured from MCF is to put in place the necessary infrastructure; it is expected to be launched later this year.

Under Tranche 6 the following Manchester schemes have been put forward for approval:

- **Beswick Filtered Neighbourhood (£1.4m)** - The scheme will create a neighbourhood that prioritises movement for those on foot and on bike. It seeks to reduce the impact of traffic in the area and to enhance the local neighbourhood, making walking and cycling the easiest and most natural choices to access local amenities.
- **Fallowfield Loop enhancements (£4.9m)** - This scheme will create a 24/7, orbital cycle and walking route connecting Chorlton to Gorton. It is proposed to introduce new lighting and to improve access points along this 12km, traffic-free cycle path. The route crosses Hyde Road and the proposed programme of improvements will be aligned with a current scheme to fix a pinch-point which causes congestion and air quality problems on this major route into the city centre.
- **Route to the North (£42m)** - This route is comprised of two separate bids - a £13m bid to improve Oldham Road, submitted by Manchester City Council, plus the £29m Rochdale, Oldham and North Manchester Connectivity Scheme, submitted by Rochdale Borough Council on behalf of the three local authorities. Together, they link the city centre to north

Manchester, Oldham and Rochdale.

A number of bids have been unsuccessful which included improvements to school crossings and traffic signals across Manchester as well as other local highway improvements. The feedback on these submissions was that they included isolated interventions that will not bring about the step change in walking and cycling provision that it is expected from MCF funded schemes.

3.5 Public transport and extending democratic control over bus services

Bus services play a vital role in the city. They are the most frequently used mode of public transport for city residents. They're used for three-out-of-four public transport journeys and thousands of residents and visitors to the city depend on them every day.

Progress in this area has been ongoing and the ten year plan to create an integrated, modern and accessible public transport system was launched in June 2019. The plan outlines the projects and policies the Greater Manchester Mayor via his delegated powers intends to implement to create a world-class public transport system for Greater Manchester. A significant milestone in Manchester's bus reform journey has also been reached, which was considered by the Greater Manchester Combined Authority on Friday 28 June.

The GMCA decided to proceed with the bus franchising scheme and proceeded to carry out a statutory consultation process. Working with our staff, I led the coordination of the response on behalf of Manchester City Council, which as a statutory consultee for the purposes of the consultation and must be consulted. The response was submitted to the consultation with absolute support for the city region's buses to be returned to democratic control through franchising.

3.6 Zero Carbon 2038

In the last six months I have spent a tremendous amount of time working long hours to lead the development of an action plan to deliver the new science based carbon reduction targets from Manchester both on behalf of the City and Manchester City Council's action plan.

This has been a complex piece of work which has inspired many stakeholders across the city as well as Council staff, residents, Councillors, young people and activists. I would like to thank everyone for taking action to tackle the effects of climate change and who take action to reduce carbon emissions in their workplace, in their community, and at home, and everyone who had input on what we can do to tackle the greatest challenge facing humankind in the 21st century.

I have worked collaboratively to bring these pieces of work forward with our staff, the Manchester Climate Change Agency, all executive members, Councillors and stakeholders across all sectors. I have also attended and took inspiration from a number of transnational projects with representatives from Cities in Europe that are working to tackle the same challenge.

Clearly, this is a very complex piece of work and one we that will continue being an absolute priority in my area of responsibility in the months to come as we develop further and finalise the city-wide Manchester Climate Change Framework 2020-25 as well as the Council's Climate Change Action Plan 2020-2025.

While many events have taken place in the city and across neighbourhoods, I'd like to highlight the work that saw two very successful young people's climate change action summits delivered in the city. The summits held in July 2019 and January 2020 were attended by more than 500 pupils from schools across Manchester who gathered to have their concerns heard and develop new ideas for action on the issue of climate change. The summits allowed hundreds of local young people to explore how they can play their part in responding to the climate crisis, both through their personal actions and through working together and campaigning to make the world a better place. This was a collaborative piece of work across a number of directorates who should all be thanked for the energy they put into making them a success.

Full reports on the climate change work and the Manchester Climate Change Framework 2020-25 as well as the Council's Climate Change Action Plan 2020-2025 are tabled for discussion at today's meeting.

3.7 Clean Air

In the last six months a lot of work has taken place together with the other nine Greater Manchester authorities and Transport for Greater Manchester to develop a Clean Air Plan to address the serious problem of air pollution that affects the city along with many other large urban areas throughout Europe.

We have developed a comprehensive proposal of a package of measures that delivers compliance in the shortest possible time, at the lowest cost, least risk and with the least negative impacts. The proposals include the introduction of a Clean Air Zone across the whole of Greater Manchester in two phases from 2021 and 2023.

Since the submission of Greater Manchester's plan to the government, we have sought clarification on the government's response to Greater Manchester's proposals questioning the lack of the government's assurances around financial support for the broader GM Clean Air Plan as well as the legal tests that the plan will be tested on. The delay arising from the ministerial feedback and lack of clarity mean that consultation will now need to take place later than originally planned. This is clearly a highly unsatisfactory position, and we will keep pressing the government to clarify these issues.

Improving air quality is a huge priority and to that aim I will continue working together with colleagues across Greater Manchester as well as Transport for Greater Manchester to support the preparatory work that needs to be undertaken for the arrangements for the introduction of a Clean Air Zone in GM.

There will be another chance for Manchester residents and businesses to

have their say in Greater Manchester's clean air plan. Due to the delays in government's position the statutory public consultation is now expected in spring/summer 2020. This will give another opportunity for comment and feedback before proposals are resubmitted to our Council for further consideration and approval.