

**Manchester City Council
Report for Information**

Report to: Economy Scrutiny Committee – 6 February 2020

Subject: Delivering the Our Manchester Strategy

Report of: Leader of the Council

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 Leader of the Council.

Recommendations

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

Contact:

Name: Councillor Richard Leese
Position: Leader of the Council
Tel: 0161 234 3004
Email: r.leese@manchester.gov.uk

1. Introduction

1.1 The Our Manchester Strategy was formally adopted by the Council in January 2016 and sets out a ten year ambition for the city 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 better outcomes for Manchester residents. The work of the Executive will be guided by the Our Manchester Strategy, the Greater Manchester Strategy and Manchester Labour's 2019 election manifesto.

1.3 This report sets out how I as the Leader of the Council have sought to deliver these priorities over the past six months and is the fourth of twice yearly reports to this Committee. A complete list of all my activities on behalf of the Council can be found in my public service contract report.

2. Leader of the Council - Portfolio

2.1 As Leader of the Council, my portfolio consists of overall policy co-ordination, external relationships, major economic development including City Centre regeneration, legal services, the digital economy (business development) and devolution.

3. Report back on activity this year

3.1 A significant amount of time has been spent dealing with the Greater Manchester Combined Authority commissioned review into Operation Augusta and its consequences. I have reported on this to the Executive and Council and attended Children and Young Peoples Scrutiny yesterday.

3.2 The Executive will finalise its budget recommendations to Council at its meeting on 12 February, 2020. A change in government leadership and the subsequent General Election meant that the intended spending review did not take place and similarly the 'Fair' funding review was put on hold. This means next year's budget is only for 1 year and is largely a stand still budget though significant extra expenditure will be committed to Children's Care, Adults Care and Homelessness services. The Government has promised to seek a cross-party solution to the chronic underfunding of Adult care – we can only hope. The key priorities in the Council business plan remain the same except for the addition of our revised Zero Carbon target and our declaration of a climate emergency. The budget prospects for the future still look bleak and the first

published exemplifications of the element of the proposed Fair Funding formula show a large shift in money away from Manchester and similarly deprived areas.

- 3.3 The Brexit Act has now received Royal Assent and we left the European Union on 31 January. This does not mean the end of economic uncertainty as government has set an inflexible timetable of 11 months to conclude a trade deal with the EU which means 'no deal' is still a possibility. Proposals for the Shared Prosperity Fund to replace European Structural Funds have still to be published and a new Immigration Act may increase labour shortages in key skill areas.
- 3.4 The economy of the city continues to grow rapidly, an average of 3.6% in the five years 2014-2018, and employment rates have also risen. One of the key initiatives to improve pay and working conditions, particularly in the foundational economy, has seen the first six employers inducted into the Good Employment Charter. Work has also been progressing on a multi-agency approach to improving the work and life prospects of the 25% of 50 – 67 year olds in receipt of out-of-work benefits.
- 3.5 The Greater Manchester Local Industrial Strategy (GMLIS) has moved to the implementation stage overseen by the GM Growth Board which meets quarterly and which I Chair, and by the LEP of which I am a board member. The first year priorities include working with UCL to develop the mission led approach to Zero Carbon. I have recently been part of the appointment panel to identify a new Chair for the LEP, and our recommendation of Lou Cordwell and Mo Isap as co-chairs has been accepted by the LEP and CA. The City has developed its own subset of the GMLIS looking particularly at inclusive growth.
- 3.6 Progress has been made on North Manchester General Hospital. From April this year management of the hospital will transfer to Manchester Foundation Trust, though full transfer will not take place until 2021. I am chairing a steering group developing proposals for the NMGH site which include a large new general hospital, a new psychiatric hospital, education and training facilities, specialist and key worker housing, community facilities all in a green campus. The Manchester locality plan is being updated and the Transformation Accountability Board is reviewing arrangements for delivery over the next five years.
- 3.7 The Connecting Britain campaign has seen northern local authorities and business through the Northern Powerhouse Partnership come together to campaign for HS2 and Northern Powerhouse Rail to be delivered in full as an integrated network, and for all the improvements required for the current rail franchise specifications, including Piccadilly 15 and 16 to be delivered. We have worked hard with colleagues in the Midlands on HS2 and by the time of the meeting we may have a decision. I have supported the demands for the Northern Rail franchise to be nationalised given their lamentable performance and this will now happen in March. We should note though that Transpennine

is no better and Network Rail have failed to deliver promised infrastructure improvements.

- 3.8 Along with Transport for Greater Manchester, we commissioned work from Bechtel to look at HS2 and NPR at Piccadilly Station. This work concluded that none of the options currently under consideration meet our future-proofing requirements, and have suggested a radical realignment which is now being evaluated by TfN & DfT. I have also been playing a leading role in the consultation in the plan to re-regulate bus services through a London-style franchising system. This is a GM Mayoral decision which should be made in March.
- 3.9 The LGA's City Regions Board continues to work on devolution and to push our Work Local proposals to reform employment and skills services through a place-based approach. We have done some important work demonstrating greater need to spend in urban areas and that work continues. We are proposing to commission a piece of work on the economic relationship between cities and their surrounding towns.
- 3.10 A short list of other areas of activity ; the Factory Strategic Board continues to keep the project under review; the City Centre Accountability Board has received reports on innovative work in addressing begging and rough sleeping; working through ManLife draft Strategic Regeneration Frameworks are coming to the next Executive for Central Retail Park and the 'back' of Ancoats; on the back of an updated East Manchester SRF and following the disappointing withdrawal of Manchester Metropolitan University, we continue to have positive discussions with potential partners for the Institute of Sport at the Etihad campus; the Arbeta building (formerly One Central Park) is formally launched this week; design teams have been appointed for the Manchester Arena attack memorial garden and for the renewal of the wider Piccadilly Gardens Area; APIS Technologies, the Biomarker company we have invested in has got off to a flying start.