

**Manchester City Council**  
**Report for Information**

**Report to:** Communities and Equalities Scrutiny Committee – 14 January 2021

**Subject:** Our Manchester Strategy Reset – Draft Strategy

**Report of:** City Solicitor

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## **Summary**

This report provides an update on the draft *Our Manchester Strategy – Forward to 2025* reset document. A draft of the reset Strategy is appended to this report.

*Our Manchester Strategy – Forward to 2025* will reset Manchester's priorities for the next five years to ensure we can still achieve the city's ambition set out in the *Our Manchester Strategy 2015 – 2025*.

## **Recommendations**

The Committee are asked to:

- 1) consider the draft *Our Manchester Strategy – Forward to 2025* and provide comments to inform the final version; and
  - 2) subject to the Committee's comments, agree that the final version of *Our Manchester Strategy – Forward to 2025* be taken for consideration by the Executive in February 2021.
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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

Achieving Manchester's zero carbon target is reflected throughout the work on the Our Manchester Strategy reset and will be clearly captured in the final reset document.

<b>Our Manchester Strategy outcomes</b>	<b>Summary of how this report aligns to the OMS</b>
A thriving and sustainable city: supporting a diverse and distinctive economy that creates jobs and opportunities	The reset of the Our Manchester Strategy considers all five of the Strategy's existing priorities to ensure the city achieves its outcomes.

A highly skilled city: world class and home grown talent sustaining the city's economic success	
A progressive and equitable city: making a positive contribution by unlocking the potential of our communities	
A liveable and low carbon city: a destination of choice to live, visit, work	
A connected city: world class infrastructure and connectivity to drive growth	

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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.

*Our Manchester Strategy Reset - Engagement Activity and Findings*, Resources and Governance Scrutiny Committee (November 2020)

*Our Manchester Strategy Reset - Timescales*, Resources and Governance Scrutiny Committee (October 2020)

*COVID-19 Forward Recovery Planning*, Executive (May 2020)

*Our Manchester Strategy 2016 – 2025*

## **1.0 Introduction**

- 1.1 This report provides an update on the Our Manchester Strategy reset. A draft of the reset Strategy - *Our Manchester Strategy – Forward to 2025* – is appended. The Committee are asked to comment on the draft reset Strategy and, subject to their comments, agree that the final version of *Our Manchester Strategy – Forward to 2025* be taken for consideration by the Executive in February 2021.
- 1.2 During January 2021, the draft reset Strategy is also being considered by Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee; Economy Scrutiny Committee; Health Scrutiny Committee; Neighbourhoods and Environment Scrutiny Committee; and Resources and Governance Scrutiny Committee.

## **2.0 Background to the Our Manchester Strategy reset**

- 2.1 On 6 May 2020, the Executive agreed for a reset of the *Our Manchester Strategy 2016 - 2025* to be undertaken as part of the Council's COVID-19 recovery planning.
- 2.2 Using the learning from the development of other recent strategies, such as the Our Manchester Industrial Strategy, it was agreed that a mixed methods approach would be undertaken to develop the Our Manchester Strategy reset. As well as analysing quantitative data and recent literature, engagement activity would be undertaken based on the Our Manchester approach with residents, businesses, organisations and partners to develop a qualitative evidence base, which would be analysed to establish key priority themes.
- 2.3 The majority of engagement activity ran from 3 August 2020 - 25 September 2020. Approximately **3,800 people have been directly engaged** with and had their views captured during this activity. This compares favourably to the original Our Manchester Strategy engagement in 2015 when approximately 2,000 people were directly engaged, and is higher than other recent similar Council activity.
- 2.4 Despite COVID-19 restrictions, the activity captured a range of voices across all of Manchester's communities and neighbourhoods by using different methods which were adapted to suit the engagement opportunity. As well as a universal offer, this included targeted engagement with our residents who haven't traditionally engaged with the Council online, as well as those who are likely to be particularly hit by COVID-19. Targeted engagement was designed with Voluntary and Community Sector organisations and community groups to ensure it would reach these communities via a method that best works for them and to help build a longer-term relationship.
- 2.5 A report on the engagement activity, the method undertaken with each cohort and the findings from it was considered by Resources and Governance Scrutiny Committee on 3 November 2020; the report can be accessed here: <https://democracy.manchester.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=137&MId=3400&Ver=4>

### **3.0 Our Manchester Strategy – Forward to 2025**

- 3.1 The reset Strategy has been drafted based on the findings of the extensive engagement activity undertaken, which captured our communities' opinions on the city's progress to date, and the remaining challenges and opportunities facing Manchester.
- 3.2 Following the engagement activity, the priorities our residents, businesses, organisation and partners said they would like to see a renewed focus on for the next five years form the basis of Sections 3 and 4 of the draft reset Strategy. These priorities include: young people; economy; health; housing; environment; and infrastructure; with equality and inclusion as a cross-cutting theme. As such, the draft Strategy fully reflects the priorities of our communities.
- 3.3 The reset of the Strategy has been overseen by the Our Manchester Forum, a partnership board of stakeholders from across the city who oversaw the creation of the original Strategy in 2015 and its subsequent implementation. The draft reset Strategy incorporates their feedback on the engagement analysis, emerging priorities and the document's structure. This includes retaining the original Strategy's five themes (Thriving and Sustainable; Highly Skilled; Progressive and Equitable; Liveable and Low Carbon; and Connected) and streamlining the new priorities under these themes. The Our Manchester Forum asked for the reset to be linked back to the original Strategy with the use of 'We Wills' to frame the priorities. The Forum also requested that, whilst the reset Strategy should continue to set the city's vision and priorities to 2025, the document reflects the need for an immediate response to COVID-19 as priorities arise; this can be seen in section 2 of the draft reset Strategy.
- 3.4 The reset Strategy has been drafted to be a concise document; this in response to feedback from partners that the original Strategy was too long and that too many priorities (64 We Wills) dilutes the overall vision. Although it is concise and does not reference specific cohorts or sectors, the reset Strategy's priorities are holistic and matter to everyone in the city. The reset Strategy can now be used as an accessible framework to apply to all areas of work; all work going forwards should address these priorities.
- 3.5 The title *Our Manchester Strategy - Forward to 2025* has been chosen to show the direct link to the original Strategy whilst reflecting the collective action needed to achieve its ambitions by 2025.
- 3.6 Considering the above, the Committee are asked to comment on the attached draft reset Strategy.

### **4.0 Final Design and Communications**

- 4.1 Once the draft reset Strategy text is finalised, it will be designed into a visual and accessible digital document. This will use the Our Manchester branding, which was refreshed in 2020.

- 4.2 Alongside the final reset Strategy document, a complementary one page ‘Executive Summary’ will be developed. This will be a plain English ‘plan on a page’-type document to be used to communicate the Strategy’s key priorities to a range of audiences, including residents and Council staff.
- 4.3 To ensure that all those who participated in the engagement are informed of how it shaped the new priorities and refreshed document, a social media messaging and a campaign plan will be developed. A partners’ communications toolkit will also be developed as part of this to support clear and consistent messaging across the city and to aid partnership working on the priorities.
- 4.4 A partnership launch event with the Our Manchester Forum is being planned for March 2021; the format of this will consider any ongoing public health and social distancing restrictions.

## **5.0 Next Steps**

- 5.1 Following the consideration of the draft reset Strategy at this Committee and the five other Scrutiny Committees, it will be revised to take into account the Committees’ comments.
- 5.2 It is recommended that the Committee agree that the final version of the reset Strategy is taken for consideration by the Executive in February 2021.
- 5.3 Subject to the Executive, the final reset Strategy will be presented to Full Council on 31 March 2021 for adoption of the Strategy.

## **6.0 Recommendations**

- 6.1 The Committee are asked to consider the draft *Our Manchester Strategy – Forward to 2025* and provide comments to inform the final version.
- 6.2 Subject to the Committee’s comments, the Committee are asked to agree that the final version of *Our Manchester Strategy – Forward to 2025* be taken for consideration by the Executive in February 2021.