

**Manchester City Council
Report for Information**

Report to: Neighbourhoods and Environment Scrutiny Committee
– 13 January 2021

Subject: Overview Report

Report of: Governance and Scrutiny Support Unit

Summary

This report provides the following information:

- Recommendations Monitor
- A summary of key decisions relating to the Committee's remit
- Items for Information
- 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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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.

None

1. Monitoring Previous Recommendations

This section of the report lists recommendations made by the Neighbourhoods and Environment Scrutiny Committee. Where applicable, responses to each will indicate whether the recommendation will be implemented, and if it will be, how this will be done.

Date	Item	Recommendation	Response	Contact Officer
7 October 2020	NESC/20/41 Highways Maintenance Programme	The Committee recommend that regular meetings are convened by the Executive Member for Environment, Planning and Transport with all Members of the Committee to discuss Members issues or concerns relating to the delivery of highways projects, and that a briefing note on the outcomes and identified actions arising from these meetings are circulated to Members at an appropriate time.	This recommendation has been accepted and will be progressed.	Cllr Stogia

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 **4 January 2021**, containing details of the decisions under the Committee's remit is included overleaf. This is to keep members informed of what decisions are being taken and to agree, whether to include in the work programme of the Committee.

Decisions that were taken before the publication of this report are marked *

There are no Key Decisions currently listed within the remit of this Committee.

3. Item for Information: Covid-19 Sitrep Summary

Residents and Communities Recovery Situation Report Summary - 6 January 2021

Purpose: Summary of relevant sections of Residents and Communities Recovery workstream Neighborhoods and Environment Scrutiny Committee.

1.0 Residents at risk

1.1 Shielded Residents and the Food Response

- Shielding has been reinstated under the new lockdown measures. Around 19,000 residents are currently on the Clinically Extremely Vulnerable (CEV) list for Manchester. CEV residents will receive a national letter and a local letter with information on accessing support (eg shopping).
- Currently Food Response are supporting circa 250 households per week with food deliveries; 60 of those households identified as Clinically Extremely Vulnerable. Demand for food during the November lockdown remained fairly stable however, this could increase if Government advice changes or if Local Authority asked to provide Free School Meals to families.

1.2 Domestic Violence and Abuse:

- Reported Domestic Violence and Abuse (DVA) incidents increased over the Christmas period, from 193 (20/12/20), to 275 (27/12/20) and remained high at 266 (03/01/21). It is not uncommon to see an increase during this period, analysis is being undertaken to compare with previous years. Unsurprisingly but sadly, the number of DVA incidents with children present also rose significantly, from 72 (20.12.20) to 113 (27.12.20).
- Demand and capacity are monitored through frequent dialogue with our internal Independent Domestic Violence and Abuse service and our local service providers.
- The Domestic Violence and Abuse Strategy Group is meeting mid-January to discuss and plan the Covid response with providers.
- Comms output is being ramped up including amplification by local partners such as GMP and national bodies such as Home Office, Respect, Hestia etc.

1.3 Poverty and Welfare Provision:

- Demand for Test and Trace Support Payments have been larger than initial government estimates of 12 applications a day. We have received an average of 48 applications per day in the first 14 weeks of the scheme. Demand has reduced over the past month, during the Christmas week an average of 24 applications per day were received. At 4.01.21, we have:
 - Received 3,929 eligible applications
 - Paid £542,000 to 1,084 main scheme applications
 - Paid £138,500 to 277 discretionary cases
 - Declined 2,297 applications (954 main scheme and 1,343 discretionary)
- As of 31.12.20, a total of £6,432,667 in payments have been made via Council Tax £150 Hardship payments.

1.4 Homelessness

- Numbers presenting to the service have decreased in the run up to Christmas from, 180 (w/c 30.11.20) to 104 (w/c 21.12.20, 4-day week) to 81 (w/c 28.12.20, 3-day week). Given the moratorium on evictions is still in place these figures are significant.
- 1,626 families are placed in dispersed temporary accommodation (period 8). This is slightly reduced from the last period reflecting the significant work undertaken to move people onto permanent accommodation.
- 68 people were counted as sleeping rough. Although lower than this time last year (91) this shows a cohort of people who have struggled in all forms of accommodation offer. At 30.12.20 there were 141 people accessing cold weather accommodation. Analysis is being undertaken to understand this cohort.
- The Protect programme is being developed, providing intensive mental health, drug and alcohol and social services support to help support people into independence as much as possible who might have struggled in all forms of accommodation.

2.0 Mitigating the impact of covid-19 on communities

- Teams Around the Neighbourhood (TAN) continue to support response work, including engagement with residents, supporting vaccination roll out.
- TANs are meeting monthly to sharing insight, plan activity and deliver their priorities.

2.1 Digital inclusion

- Total of 511 residents supported with their digital skills since May 2020. Although, referrals for skills support were very low over December (12).
- 480 residents have been supported to access the internet through Device Scheme (400 devices, 80 sims with internet donated).

- Under current guidance libraries are designated an essential service by Government to provide Internet access and digital services for people who do not have it at home. During the second lockdown period there were 2500 uses of the internet.
- Libraries are leading GM Libraries digital hubs initiative to create confidential spaces for residents to engage digitally with support services within libraries

3.0 Mitigating the impact of covid-19 on children and young people

3.1 Schools and Education

- Schools open to key workers and vulnerable children only following government announcement on 6th January. Early years settings fully open. All other children to remain at home and access remote learning.
- Vouchers for children eligible for Free School Meals and other financially disadvantaged children were distributed during December holidays. Approximately 41,000 payments made through the Covid Winter Grant Scheme.
- 11 schools supported with contact tracing over Christmas break.
- Attendance continues to average 94%
- Elective home education new notifications 146, compared to 68 in Autumn 2019
- Permanent Exclusion numbers 29, show a reduction of 19 compared to Autumn 2019
- Guidance and information provided to schools on mass testing to commence from 4.01.21. Plan to be developed with school leaders and Public Health on 5.01.21 with key challenges identified.

3.2 Children's Services and Young People

- The operating model for the service is replicating the model during March lockdown. Guidance has been issued to staff.
- Demand at the front door, requests for social care and Early Help are being monitored and will continue to be reviewed as this period of lockdown impacts.
- Key messages regarding supporting school attendance have been circulated. Vulnerable pupils are being monitored and additional attention is being made for fuel poverty.

3.3 Youth

The National Youth Agency and Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport have jointly stated that Youth Centres must only open for those with high need and close for majority of young people, aligning with the school offer.

- All open access, centre based provision will cease. All Manchester Hubs and YM providers informed of new position
- Detached, outreach and virtual provision will be increased to ensure young people have access to youth workers and activities.

- Providers will offer 1:1 support and targeted group work to the most vulnerable young people.

4.0 Equality and Inclusion

- New data, produced by Population Health, has been made available to the service highlighting the epidemic curves of daily Covid cases in Manchester by ethnic group, covering the period 3.03.20 to 2.01.21. The data show a continuation of the disparities of Covid cases affecting minority ethnic groups, with a consistent upturn in cases at the turn of the year across all ethnicities.
- GM level research conducted by BMG research (weighted for geographic representativeness) shows that Covid anxieties persist for most GM residents but are particularly affecting, in addition to the main at risk groups: young people, parents of young children, carers and ex-armed forces personnel.

**Neighbourhoods and Environment Scrutiny Committee
Work Programme – January 2021**

Wednesday 13 January 2021, 2 pm (Deadline Thursday 31 December 2020 to take account of New Year's Bank Holiday)				
Item	Purpose	Lead Executive Member	Lead Officer	Comments
Budget proposals 2021/22 – update	The Committee will receive a further report outlining any changes to the Officer budget proposals reported at the November 2020 meeting in light of the provisional local government finance settlement.	Cllr Akbar Cllr Stogia Cllr Rahman Cllr Richards	Fiona Worrall Paul Hindle Chris Thomas	
Our Manchester Strategy Reset	To receive the draft reset of the Our Manchester Strategy to allow the Committee to make its comments before Executive is requested to approve.	Cllr Leese (leader)	Fiona Worrall	
Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy	To receive an update report on the Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy. This report will also provide an update on the implementation of the Manchester Tree Strategy.	Cllr Stogia	Pat Bartoli Julie Roscoe	
Planning Conditions and Enforcement	To receive a report which provides the Committee with information on the following areas of activity: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Known active construction sites across the authority; • The city's start and end times for construction works to be undertaken and the rationale for those 	Cllr Stogia	Julie Roscoe	This item was deferred from the November 2020 meeting.

	<p>times;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How many neighbouring local authorities and other core cities have the same permitted construction times as Manchester; and • Information on the monitoring of construction sites • The approach taken to enforcement, including examples of types of breaches identified and how these were addressed. 			
Overview Report	This is a monthly report, which includes the recommendations monitor, relevant key decisions, the Committee's work programme and any items for information.		Lee Walker	

Wednesday 10 February 2021, 2 pm (Report deadline Friday 29 January 2021)				
Item	Purpose	Lead Executive Member	Lead Officer	Comments
Climate Change Action Plan Update	<p>To receive a report that outlines the progress made to date against the Council's Climate Change Action Plan. This will provide details of progress made and actions taken since this was last reported to the Committee.</p> <p>The report will further include details of the progress to deliver on the specific actions as prescribed within the motion that was adopted in July 2019 when the Council declared a climate emergency.</p>	Cllr Stogia	Carol Culley	
Budget 2021/22 – final proposals	The Committee will consider refreshed budget proposals following consideration of the original officer proposals at its November 2020 meeting and (any)	Cllr Akbar Cllr Stogia Cllr	Fiona Worrall Paul Hindle	

	revised budget proposals at its January 2021 meeting	Rahman Cllr Richards	Chris Thomas	
Corporate Plan objectives and key priorities	This report with outline the Corporate Plan objectives and key priorities for the service areas that rest within the remit of this Committee.	Cllr Akbar Cllr Stogia Cllr Rahman Cllr Richards	Fiona Worrall	Executive Report
Overview Report				

Wednesday 10 March 2021, 2 pm (Report deadline Friday 26 February 2021)

Item	Purpose	Lead Executive Member	Lead Officer	Comments
Housing Allocations Policy	To receive an update report on the implementation of the new Housing Allocations Policy that went line in Sept 2020. This report will include details of any review of the policy that has been undertaken to date.	Cllr Richards	Kevin Lowry Martin Oldfield	Previously considered at NESC Nov 2019.
Overview Report				

Items to be scheduled

Item	Purpose	Lead Executive Member	Lead Officer	Comments
Behaviour Change and Waste Task and Finish Group – Update report	To receive a report that provides the Committee with an update on the actions taken to progress the recommendations made by the Behaviour Change and Waste Task and Finish Group that were endorsed by the Committee at their meeting of 9 October 2019.	Cllr Akbar	Fiona Worrall	

Landlord Licensing Update	To receive a progress report on the delivery of the Extension to Selective Licensing Schemes that was previously reported to the Committee at their meeting of 2 Sept 2020.	Cllr Richards	Fiona Sharkey	To be scheduled for June 2021 meeting.
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