

**Manchester City Council
Report for Information**

Report to: Neighbourhoods and Environment Scrutiny Committee
– 10 February 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.

Contact Officers:

Name: Lee Walker
Position: Scrutiny Support Officer
Telephone: 0161 234 3376
Email: l.walker@manchester.gov.uk

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
13 January 2021	NESC/21/02 Neighbourhoods Directorate Budget Proposals 2021/22	Recommend that the Executive Member for Environment, Planning and Transport considers undertaking an audit of all road safety measures around schools and capital funding be used to fund the delivery of appropriate signage and road markings to improve road safety around all Manchester schools where any deficiencies are identified.	A response to this recommendation has been requested and will be reported back once received.	Cllr Stogia
13 January 2021	NESC/21/05 Manchester Green and Blue Strategy and Implementation Plan, including: Annual update and a report on the Tree Action Plan	Recommend that Officers, in consultation with the Executive Member for Environment, Planning and Transport explore the options for delivering a programme of tree maintenance training. This training to be made available to all relevant partners, including staff working in schools.	A response to this recommendation has been requested and will be reported back once received.	Cllr Stogia
13 January 2021	NESC/21/06 Monitoring and Compliance – Construction Sites	Recommend that the Executive Member for Environment, Planning and Transport give consideration to establishing a bespoke Manchester Considerate Constructors Scheme that had to be adhered to by	A response to this recommendation has been requested and will be reported back once received.	Cllr Stogia

		contrators and be included as a mandatory condition of any planning consent.		
13 January 2021	NESC/21/06 Monitoring and Compliance – Construction Sites	Recommend that Officers, in consultation with the Executive Member for Environment, Planning and Transport arrange a briefing session for Members of the Committee that provides an overview of a range of activities that included, but not restricted to planning and related enforcement; roles and responsibilities and Traffic Regulation Orders.	A response to this recommendation has been requested and will be reported back once received.	Julie Roscoe

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 **1 February 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

Subject: Residents and Communities Recovery Situation Report Summary

Report of: Strategic Director (Neighbourhoods)

Summary

This is a summary of the Residents and Communities recovery workstream for information. The information contained in this summary is up to date as of 22 January 2021.

(Please note that due to the remit of the Committee this information is also to be considered by the Communities & Equalities Scrutiny Committee at their meeting of 11 February 2021)

Recommendations

The Committee is asked to note the information.

1.0 Residents at Risk

1.1 Shielded Residents and the Food Response:

- Since 31st December, 162 people have registered on the National Shielding Service website for support. Most have registered for a supermarket slot and information on support available. 24 people have asked for food support.
- A letter was sent to all CEV (clinically extremely vulnerable) in Manchester w/c 11th January with information on the local support offer.
- The third lockdown saw an initial increase in demand for food support, which has tapered off.
- Step down measures include: 337 referrals to community provision, 8 to universal provision, 115 referrals to CAB, and 58 referrals to Be Well service.
- Better links with Adult and Childrens' Social Care, and Early Help have been established for intelligence sharing and referral to statutory services.

1.2 Domestic Violence and Abuse:

- Analysis indicates that incident volumes recorded by Police have fallen back to pre-Christmas levels. Levels over Christmas and New Year were not untypical of year-on-year trends. Numbers of incidents with children present also fell back to pre-Christmas levels.
- Refuge referral volumes are broadly typical of those seen throughout the pandemic. The Priority Move-On Project has continuing support until 31st March and has enabled almost 90 victims and 50 children to move on.
- Community Safety Unit is allocating a fund of £50k over the next four to six weeks from Covid Impact monies to support DVA providers.

1.3 Poverty and Welfare Provision:

- Increase in demand for the Test and Trace Support Payment scheme - average number of new applications up from 31 a day (Mid Nov to end Dec) to 58 a day in the first three weeks of January.
- The T&TSP scheme has been extended until 31/3/21 with £63,828.64 confirmed in addition to the initial discretionary fund of £226,671.36 making a total discretionary budget of £290,500.
- Under the T&TSP scheme, as of 18/01/2021 we have:
 - Received 4,570 eligible applications
 - Paid £586,000 to 1,172 main scheme applications
 - Paid £151,000 to 302 discretionary cases
 - Declined 2,666 applications (1,100 main scheme and 1,566 discretionary)
 - 187 cases pending awaiting further information
 - 184 applications unallocated
 - 72% paid within three days

1.4 Homelessness:

- Numbers presenting as homeless have risen from the usual seasonal drop over Christmas:
- Moratorium on evictions continues to be in place.
- With the RPs, MCC is purchasing units of accommodation to move people on from housing related support into longer term accommodation.

- Additional funding from MHCLG to accommodate people who sleep rough until the end of March. A further 36 people are being accommodated in hotel accommodation during the lockdown.
- Plans to begin vaccinations of more entrenched people who sleep rough and sex workers next month.

2.0 Mitigating the Impacts of Covid 19 on Communities and Adults

2.1 **Team around the Neighbourhoods Engagement** continues to support the response, including residents engagement, contacting CEV and vaccination roll out.

3.0 Digital Inclusion

- Digital skills learning provision going back to remote / fully digitally – excluding low skilled residents not able to access/ fully utilise the internet.
- 400 chromebooks donated to digitally excluded residents – all receiving support from a digital champion.
- 600 residents provided with skills support via the digital support telephone service managed by libraries since May 2020.
- Waiting list for devices is over 300 residents.
- 50k GM LA Grant Funding – to be spent on providing data for those on the waiting list and those receiving a refurbished device that is given within data.
- £10k funding from The Reading Agency for devices and engaging people in online reading groups and reminiscence groups.
- Libraries designated as an essential service and remain open for some services.
- Adult learning providers are delivering online learning using a range of synchronous (live) asynchronous (flexible/independent) approaches.
- MAES has currently loaned circa 700 devices to learners.

4.0 Mitigating the Impacts of Covid 19 on children and young people

4.1 Schools and Education:

- Schools open for vulnerable children and critical worker's children – higher demand for places from critical workers in south Manchester.
- Overall places offered is 27% primary, 9% secondary, 72% special.
- Overall attendance 13.3% on site; 32.1% of EHCP cohort; 42% of children with SW.

- Secondary schools have paused daily testing until further notice.
- IT and internet access audit completed - MCC will match offers of IT to schools where there is a significant gap.
- Special school staff notified re vaccinations.
- Info on winter fuel offer provided.
- Expanding SEND offer for families.
- Ensuring all vulnerable pupils with an offer of a school place are attending.
- Recording all EHCP children who have an offer but have declined in place.

4.2 Children's Services and Early Help:

- Pre-existing roll-on roll-off arrangements re-instituted and working well.
- Ongoing monitoring of new referrals to social care which have plateaued
- Numbers of Early Help Assessments have increased, after dropping throughout 2019.
- Large increase in requests for support from the EH Hubs compared to 2019.
- Increase in need for referrals for food support and financial.
- Plans for fund to alleviate hardship during covid.

4.3 Youth:

- All open access centre-based provision ceased in line with regulations.
- All 4 hubs have continued daily provision for young people with high needs.
- Hubs have an offer for schools to refer to for young people who they are concerned about during lockdown - pre booked provision for 15 young people each day.
- Detached, outreached and virtual provision will be increased.
- Providers still offer 1:1 support & targeted group work to the most vulnerable.
- All providers are offering food support.

5.0 VCSE

- Covid Impact Fund (Mental Health & Wellbeing) went live at the start of Jan '21, with a focus on BAME communities, Disabled people, LGBTQ+ communities, North Manchester residents and Older People.

- Information on vaccinations and testing for VCSE sector frontline health and care staff are being communicated to VCSE organisations via Macc and the Covid Health Equity Manchester engagement.

6.0 Equalities

- The ONS Opinions and Lifestyle Survey (15/01/21) indicates a compounding effect of the pandemic on levels of poor mental health and social isolation.
- The Mental Health Foundation reports this is exacerbated for children and young people by school and higher education closures. Young carers and children living locked down in complex home settings are particularly high risk
- Across all identity groups, the adverse impact on mental wellbeing creates a pressure on support services and functions.
- The longer-term impacts on residents' mental health remain a concern.

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

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	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. 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.	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) revised budget proposals at its January 2021 meeting	Cllr Akbar Cllr Stogia Cllr Rahman Cllr Richards	Fiona Worrall Paul Hindle Chris Thomas	
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 March 2021, 2 pm (Report deadline Friday 26 February 2021)				
Item	Purpose	Lead Executive Member	Lead Officer	Comments
Update on evictions in the Private Rented Sector and the impact on the homelessness service	Following the recent announcement of the lifting of eviction restrictions in the Private Rented Sector that had been introduced as a result of Covid-19, this report will describe the impact of these changes on the homelessness service. The report will provide data on the levels of demand and describe the response to this.	Cllr Rahman	Mike Wright	
Housing Allocations Policy	To receive an update report on the implementation of the new Housing Allocations Policy that went on-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
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.