

**Manchester City Council
Report for Information**

Report to: Neighbourhoods and Environment Scrutiny Committee
– 10 March 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
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 March 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)

This report is a summary of the Residents and Communities recovery workstream for information. The information contained in the report is up to date as of 19 February 2021 unless otherwise stated.

(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 March 2021)

1.0 Residents at Risk

1.1 Shielded Residents and the Food Response

- Food Response Team supporting approximately 240 households (490 residents) per week. 38% of those households have one person who is Clinically Extremely Vulnerable. Financial hardship and self-isolation are the main reasons for referrals.
- 14,355 additional residents were added to shielding patient list from Government and received a letter advising them to shield. A local support offer letter followed. All new and already shielding residents are being asked to shield until 31st March 2021.
- Messaging is being developed through Covid Health Equity group to support residents who are shielding.

1.2 Domestic Violence and Abuse:

- Week commencing 1/3/21 -Records for domestic incidents have decreased slightly, the combined total (210) is the second lowest since early November 2020. Incidents with children present also show a slight decrease (75) than in recent weeks.
- The city's three MARACs all show marked increases in numbers when comparing q1-3 of 2020-21 with the same period in 2019-20. The IDVA service referral numbers remain higher than in 2019-20. Solutions are being sought with GMP colleagues including funding options for resources that will help to relieve pressure on the services.

- Numbers of older people requesting support through the IRIS scheme has decreased. Age Friendly Manchester Board will be working with IRIS colleagues to increase uptake.
- Refuge referral volumes remain broadly typical. The Priority Move-On Project will continue until 31st March. So far, 90 victims and 50 children have moved on to date.
- Six applications received from Domestic Violence and Abuse providers for Covid Impact monies (£50k).
- DV bill expected to be published April 2021

1.3 Poverty and Welfare Provision

- Test and Trace Support Payment scheme - applications have fallen in the last fortnight; weekly demand is unpredictable.
- The Discretionary element of the scheme is monitored and has been amended to ensure that the fund is fully utilized.
- Welfare Provision Scheme (WPS) - At 14 February:
 - Carers (Covid-19) - Of 679 applications for WPS support, 539 applications (81%) have been approved to a value of £86,588.
 - Covid-19 Support (general) - Of 3,268 applications for WPS support, 1,057 applications (32%) have been approved to a value of £67,935.

1.4 Homelessness

- Presentation into the Housing Solutions Service remain high.
- Additional funding secured (MHCLG) will benefit people sleeping rough that are accommodated through Cold Weather Provision; 87 people are currently accommodated in emergency Cold Weather Provision.
- The Protect Project continues to expand.
- Support provided to Operation Eagle.
- GMCA and partners plan to open a 9 bed Covid care accommodation scheme (short term) in Manchester (end of February), for homeless people who have tested positive for Covid and are hospital discharge ready.
- Anticipate late Spring opening for new families hostel.
- 88 people vaccinated during trial offering homeless people with complex support needs the vaccine. The vaccination programme for homeless people in accommodation schemes and day centres begins 22/2/21.
- Covid Winter Hardship Fund (£50K) targeted at projects supporting recovery of people hardest hit by the pandemic. Invites extended to advice services.

2.0 Mitigating the Impacts of Covid 19 on Communities and Adults

- Teams around the Neighbourhood (TAN) support response continues including for Operation Eagle sites.
- Updates on vaccine take up within our BAME communities will inform the TAN approach to engagement and targeted community messages.

3.0 Digital Inclusion

- Increased referrals to Telephone Digital Skills Support Service and Device Scheme.
- Developing activity from £133K investment with MHCC and Community Champion programme partners.
- Scoping a 1-year, low cost, unlimited data offer per user.
- Over 120 digital volunteers identified to support the census. Strengthening links between digital and health through MHCC investment.
- Monitoring refurbished device scheme to ensure quality and right residents are targeted.
- Library sites provided internet to over 3000 users in the third lockdown, alongside access to Citizens Advice through telephone and video access.
- £10k externally funded project started to purchase devices for digitally excluded people aimed at reducing social isolation.
- Manchester Libraries leading GM Libraries Arts Council bid to enable libraries to become digital hubs.

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

4.1 Schools and Education

- 543 payments made to 748 children through hardship grant. FSM vouchers for half term distributed.
- Attendance continues to increase – 17.45% across City.
- Planning in place for wider return of schools and long-term education recovery.

4.2 Children's Services and Early Help:

- Covid Relief Fund providing additional one-off financial support (fuel expenses, and equipment to support home learning). To date, £100,755 spent in relation to 1,505 children. Actions in place to resolve issues regarding families with No Recourse to Public Funds and who do not have a bank account.

- Demand across Early Help Hubs has remained high, high volume of requests for parenting support. All hubs are supported by the Youth Teams.
- High volume demand for advice and guidance at Children's Centre's, one to one support, food packages and accessing ante natal support.
- Domestic abuse notifications into the Children's Advice and Guidance Service remain high.

4.3 Youth

- Following the Government announcement (4/1/2021) all open access centre based provision ceased. Targetted provision in place.
- All relevant hub leads, providers, youth and play workers have been kept up to date with Operation Eagle. Youth team are working alongside Public Health to secure weekly testing and vaccinations.
- Department for Education announced Holiday Activities and Food Programme Funding (£3.4m) for Manchester. Work progressing on the Manchester proposal to start at Easter break.

5.0 VCSE

- OMVCS and Development Fund monitoring: The latest monitoring reports have been reviewed.
- Macc: volunteering - Over 2500 people have signed up to volunteer at vaccination sites.
- The Macc Covid19 microsite continues to grow. Councillors/Partners are encouraged to promote awareness of the site. <https://manchestercommunitycentral.org/coronavirus-advice-and-resources>

Covid Impact Fund (Mental Health & Wellbeing) - Over £1.3m worth of applications (102 applications received) made to the first round of the fund; 21 organizations to the value of £200k are being offered funding. A key fact sheet went out to Elected Members on the 19th of Feb. A final bidding round is available up to the start of March 2021.

VCSE vaccinations – nearly 200 organisations have signed up to the Macc vaccinations page. Positive feedback received from VCSE leaders.

6.0 Equalities

- Work is ongoing to assess the equality impact implications of COVID 19 on the Council's budget and savings proposals. Budget impacts of the pandemic have been estimated indicating the rising levels of savings needed from 2021/22; continuing losses are anticipated over, approximately, a five-year period.
- A plan to address the inequalities experienced due to Covid amongst the city's BAME and Disabled people's population has been developed. This work is being led by the Covid Health Equity Manchester group – a partnership approach to driving this agenda forward. The plan addresses issues such as lower vaccine coverage amongst certain communities. Working with local voluntary sector organisations is a key part of this, including the development of a small grants programme to support activity in this area.

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

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. This report will also provide comparative data on the number of evictions from social housing.	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.

