

**Manchester City Council
Report for Information**

Report to: Executive – 28 July 2021

Subject: Our Manchester Progress Update

Report of: The Chief Executive

Summary

The report provides an update on key areas of progress against the Our Manchester Strategy – Forward to 2025 which resets 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 2016 – 2025

Recommendations

The Executive is requested to note the update provided in the report.

Wards Affected - All

Environmental Impact Assessment - the impact of the decisions proposed in this report on achieving the zero-carbon target for the city

Our Manchester Strategy outcomes	Contribution to the strategy
A thriving and sustainable city: supporting a diverse and distinctive economy that creates jobs and opportunities	The work to reset the Our Manchester Strategy considered all five of the Strategy’s existing themes to ensure the city achieves its aims. The themes are retained within the final reset Strategy, Forward to 2025.
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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Full details are in the body of the report, along with any implications for

- Equal Opportunities Policy
- Risk Management
- Legal Considerations

Financial Consequences – Revenue

None

Financial Consequences – Capital

None

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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.

Executive Report – 17th February 2021 - Our Manchester Strategy – Forward to 2025

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 This is the second in an ongoing series of reports highlighting examples of areas where strong progress is being made against key strategic themes identified in the Our Manchester Strategy.

2.0 Deansgate consultation

- 2.1 A consultation has just concluded into the proposed next stage of changes to Deansgate.
- 2.2 There has been evidence of strong public support since the popular street was temporarily closed and the Council wants to ensure that the scheme – which would help reduce the amount of traffic in the city centre and support active travel and public transport in line with the City Centre Transport Strategy, promote clean air and make Deansgate a pleasant place to spend time – still has widespread backing.
- 2.3 Deansgate is currently closed to general traffic but remains open one way to buses and taxis. The proposed next phase will be based on the principles of the current restrictions, continuing to allow some access to bus transport and taxis.
- 2.4 The findings of the consultation will be announced in due course. Consultations are also underway on proposed improvements to the Fallowfield Loop and Yellow Brick Road routes. For more information visit www.manchester.gov.uk/consultations

Related Our Manchester themes:

- *Liveable and Zero Carbon City.*
- *Connected City.*

3.0 Social Value

- 3.1 Updates received by the Resources and Governance Scrutiny Committee this month have highlighted the strong progress being made by the Our Town Hall and The Factory projects in generating social value. Both projects are creating jobs, apprenticeships and other opportunities for Manchester people and businesses.
- 3.2 Up to the end of June 2021, more than half of the spending on the Our Town Hall project (58%) was with Manchester businesses and more than a third of the workforce (34%) are Manchester residents.
- 3.3 Some 115 jobs have been created across the project teams, with more than 50% of them going to Manchester residents. In addition 38 new apprenticeships have been created with 32 of them going to people who live in Manchester.

- 3.4 The Factory's construction has seen 28 construction-related apprenticeships created so far for Manchester and Greater Manchester residents with 25 more projected. 15 new jobs have been created – with nine of them going to Manchester residents and the other six to people living in Greater Manchester.
- 3.5 Around 200 hours of employability support has been provided, with homeless people among those benefitting.
- 3.6 Some 84% of the project spending so far has been within Greater Manchester.
- 3.7 In addition both projects have provided work placements for Manchester people and school sessions to inspire careers in the construction industry and support STEM subjects.
- 3.8 Contractors have volunteered more than 1,000 hours to support Manchester charities and community projects

Related Our Manchester themes:

- *Progressive and Equitable City.*
- *Highly Skilled City.*
- *Thriving and Sustainable City.*

4.0 Affordable homes

- 4.1 New figures have provided further evidence that Manchester is rising to the challenge of delivering affordable homes.
- 4.2 The number of affordable homes either completed or now in the pipeline means that 7,500 new affordable homes are expected to have been created between 2015 and 2025 – exceeding the target of 6,400 new affordable homes which the city had set itself.
- 4.3 Nearly 4,000 of these homes, including 1,081 social rented homes, are in North and East Manchester, making use of previously under-utilised brownfield sites.
- 4.4 The area-by-area breakdown of affordable homes either completed or in the current pipeline is:
 - East Manchester: 2,666 (586 social rented homes)
 - North Manchester: 1,237 (495 social rented homes)
 - Wythenshawe: 914 (79 social rented homes)
 - Central Manchester: 713 (324 social rented homes)
 - South Manchester: 648 (209 social rented homes)
 - City Centre: 316 (18 social rented homes)

Related Our Manchester themes:

- *Progressive and Equitable City.*

5.0 Decarbonisation Schemes

- 5.1 Work on a £19.67m scheme to decarbonize heat and improve efficiency in key council buildings is due to get underway next month.
- 5.2 The improvements to high profile facilities including Manchester Aquatics Centre, the National Cycling Centre and Wythenshawe Forum will together save more than 2,100 tonnes of CO₂ a year once complete and contribute to the Council's Climate Change Action Plan 2020-2025.
- 5.3 Other buildings which will benefit are Arcadia Leisure Centre, East Manchester Leisure Centre, Hough End Leisure Centre, Moss Side Leisure Centre, North City Leisure Centre, the Sharp Project, Space Studios and Zion Arts Centre.
- 5.4 Some 75% of the Council's annual direct carbon emissions are through its operational buildings. These works, which are due to be completed by the end of March 2022, will add to the work already undertaken on other buildings through the Council's Estates Carbon Reduction Programme.
- 5.5 They involve moving away from gas heating through the use of ground source and air source heat pumps, with additional solar panels on a number of the buildings as well to improve energy efficiency.
- 5.6 The works are being delivered using funding secured by the Council through the Government's Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme.

Related Our Manchester themes:

- *Liveable and Zero Carbon City*

6.0 Loads To Do

- 6.1 A bumper programme of summer holiday activities for children and young people, which recognises the disruption they have experienced during the pandemic, has been launched by the council and its partners.
- 6.2 Under the banner Loads To Do, it offers a wide range of options – many free of charge – at venues across the city including parks, galleries, libraries, leisure centres and cultural venues with an emphasis on fun.
- 6.3 From sports camps to interactive exhibitions, family events to outdoor adventure, arts and crafts to youth clubs and debating groups there is something to suit all ages, abilities and tastes.

6.4 The summer-long programme also includes some targeted sessions aimed at groups of young people who might need additional support. It ties in with the Year of the Child approach detailed in this report to Executive on 30 June 2021.

6.5 For further information visit www.loadstodo.co.uk

Related Our Manchester themes:

- *Progressive and Equitable City*

7.0 Manchester International Festival

7.1 Almost three million people were able to experience Manchester International Festival 2021 either in person or online as it made a remarkable return from 1-18 July despite the challenges of Covid-19. A record number of events were held outdoors to support a safe and enjoyable event.

7.2 Some 58% of MIF events were free and 20% of tickets for paid for events were given away free to local community groups to help promote access the arts.

7.3 More than 1,000 people attended Arcadia, the first ever event at the site of The Factory.

7.4 Around 1,500 people of all ages participated in the Festival, from contributing their life stories to a book of love letters to taking part in discussions, having portraits taken and – in the case of 120 people – participating in the Sea Change performance on Deansgate. More than 100 Manchester and Greater Manchester artists performed in Festival Square. In addition, there were around 450 volunteers.

8.0 Contributing to a Zero-Carbon City

8.1 Achieving Manchester's zero carbon target has been reflected throughout the work on the Our Manchester Strategy reset, with sustainability being a key horizontal theme throughout. Forward to 2025 restates Manchester's commitment to achieving our zero-carbon ambition by 2038 at the latest.

9.0 Contributing to the Our Manchester Strategy

9.1 The re-set of the Our Manchester Strategy will ensure that the city achieves its vision. The five themes have been retained in the reset Strategy, with the new priorities streamlined under the themes.

10.0 Key Policies and Considerations

10.1 There are no particular equal opportunities issues, risk management issues, or legal issues that arise from the recommendations in this report.

11.0 Recommendations

11.1 The Executive is requested to note the update provided in the report.