

Manchester City Council Report for Resolution

Report to: Economy Scrutiny Committee – 9 September 2021
Executive – 15 September 2021

Subject: Manchester's support for families living in poverty

Report of: Deputy Chief Executive & City Treasurer and Director of Inclusive Economy

Summary

While Manchester has experienced many successes over recent decades, poverty continues to be a significant challenge and the city ranks as the 6th most deprived local authority, according to the 2019 Index of Multiple Deprivation. The persistence of poverty as an issue is due to structural social and economic factors, many of which are beyond the scope and control of the City Council and its partners.

Manchester has long recognised the importance of tackling poverty to improve outcomes for the city's residents and to make sure they are connected to and can benefit from and contribute to the city's economic success. The Family Poverty Strategy was adopted in 2017 to set our plan for mitigating family and child poverty, focusing on the themes of sustainable work, raising and protecting incomes and increasing families' resilience. The strategy has been well supported by partners and delivered a wide range of activity within the City Council and externally.

In 2020 the economic and clinical impact of the COVID-19 pandemic led to the Family Poverty Strategy going through a process of reprioritisation, to ensure that it was fit for purpose and could support families in the City that were disproportionately affected by the health & economic impacts of Covid.

As well as a specific strategy aimed at tackling poverty for children and families, the Council invests significant financial and human resources across many of its services aimed at reducing the impact of poverty on residents and supporting residents with an extensive and wide-ranging offer. This report highlights the breadth of work undertaken by the Council and our partners to tackle the issue of poverty including progress made to date and the importance of maintaining a focus on tackling poverty for the future.

Evidence from the work that Manchester City Council has undertaken in response to Covid highlighted the wider vulnerability and poverty of single adults and all adult households. Therefore, when the Family Poverty Strategy is due to be refreshed in 2022 and there is an opportunity to broaden the scope of the strategy to include all residents, those with and without children. The report recommends Executive endorse this approach.

Recommendations

The Economy Scrutiny Committee is invited to comment on the report and endorse the recommendations to the Executive.

The Executive is recommended to:

1. Note the progress that has been made in delivering the Family Poverty Strategy 2017-22.
2. Note the Council's commitment to tackling poverty and its overall offer to residents.
3. Note the recommendations of the Poverty Truth Commission Report (Appendix 3).
4. Endorse the suggested approach to the refresh of the Family Poverty Strategy to address poverty more broadly & support all residents experiencing poverty; those with and without children.

Wards Affected: All

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

Work to tackle poverty in Manchester may result in reductions in carbon emissions through implementation of some anti-poverty measures such as retrofit of housing stock to reduce fuel poverty. However following existing trends, increasing the wealth of low-income families may also result in some increases in per-capita emissions due to increases in consumption. It is important to consider this in the context of overall per-capita carbon footprints and budgets.

Another key consideration of environmental policy in relation to poverty is around ensuring a just transition to a low and zero carbon economy that protects the interests of society's most vulnerable.

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 Council's work to reduce poverty includes our approach to social value, creating new opportunities within our supply chain and connecting them to the residents who will benefit from them the most.
A highly skilled city: world class and home-grown talent sustaining the city's economic success	The Council's work to reduce poverty includes our approach to employment, skills and training and views employment sustainable work as one of the main routes out of poverty.

A progressive and equitable city: making a positive contribution by unlocking the potential of our communities	The report sets out how the Council's extensive and wider-ranging offer helps tackle poverty and improve outcomes for residents. The Family Poverty Strategy sets how children and families living in poverty have been supported across the three themes of the Strategy.
A liveable and low carbon city: a destination of choice to live, visit, work	Not applicable.
A connected city: world class infrastructure and connectivity to drive growth	Not applicable.

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.

- Update on impact of COVID 19 on children and families with a focus on family poverty - Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee, 23 June 2021
- Family Poverty Strategy Update – Economy Scrutiny, 6 March 2019
- The Impact of Welfare Reform and Universal Credit on the Manchester Economy – Economy Scrutiny, 6 March 2019
- Manchester Family Poverty Strategy 2017-22 Implementation Update – Manchester Health and Wellbeing Board – 29 August 2018
- Manchester Family Poverty Strategy 2017-22 – Executive, 13 September 2017

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Poverty in Manchester is deeply engrained and forms one of our most significant challenges due to its wide ranging and profound impacts on the people affected. Its consequences include negative impacts on everything from life expectancy and healthy life expectancy to education and employment outcomes. The effects of poverty also place a considerable extra burden on public services.
- 1.2 In Manchester, the scale of poverty means that in addition to services which directly address its causes and symptoms, the Council also supports a large number of people experiencing poverty through many of our day-today services, regardless of whether they are aimed at this group specifically.
- 1.3 This report provides an overview of the Council's response to poverty, including an update on the Family Poverty Strategy Reprioritisation which is amended to the report (Appendix 1). The report also details some of the major activities undertaken across the Council to help tackle poverty. An infographic of this offer is amended to this report as Appendix 2.
- 1.4 Individual directorates and services across the Council also support residents directly and indirectly. The report highlights some examples of this work to demonstrate how far reaching and extensive the support offer is for residents. This paper is not intended as an exhaustive list of all the activities undertaken across the Council to support residents living in poverty but gives an overview of the breadth of our direct and indirect offer.

2. Background

- 2.1 A period of significant growth has seen Manchester's population and economy grow at a faster rate than the UK average. The story of the city's successes is well rehearsed and Manchester now boasts a young diverse & increasingly well-educated population, world class and rich cultural offer, a thriving digital sector and excellent connections locally, nationally and internationally making it a place that people want to live, work and visit.
- 2.2 However, poverty in Manchester is a huge challenge and continues to have a significant impact on the life and outcomes of too many of the city's residents. In the 2019 Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD), Manchester was ranked as the 6th most deprived local authority in the country. This is reflected in the number of children living in poverty. At the end of March 2020, the End Child Poverty Coalition estimated that around 46,700 children (42%) in Manchester were living in poverty.
- 2.3 The scale of the challenge has been further exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic which caused a 90% rise in claimant unemployment (unemployed people claiming benefits) between March and May 2019. This rise is reflected in the demand for food support, with the Council's food response team delivering food parcels to an average of 250 households a week. This figure does not include other food support offers accessed by residents.

- 2.4 The latest Marmot Review “Build Back Fairer in Greater Manchester”, published on 30 June 2021 as part of Greater Manchester’s role as UK’s first Marmot City Region, highlights those inequalities which had been widening prior to the pandemic and had been amplified by COVID-19 with mortality rates in Greater Manchester 25% higher than the rest of England.
- 2.5 The City Council and our partners have a long-standing commitment to tackling poverty and supporting all its diverse residents to lead happy, healthy and fulfilling lives. This is set out in the Our Manchester Strategy specifically under the theme a progressive and equitable city, where the ambition is to create a truly equal and inclusive city. This ambition is reiterated in the Family Poverty Strategy 2017- 22 which was developed specifically to support children and families living in poverty. More recently, a reprioritisation of the Family Poverty Strategy was undertaken to ensure that it continues to meet the needs of children and families following the impact of COVID-19.
- 2.6 The Council’s commitment to tackling poverty and realising the vision of the Our Manchester Strategy can be seen right across its services and is at the heart of our core business. As the City’s economy recovers post-Covid, it is critical that our poorest residents have the skills & support they need to benefit from the opportunities created.

3. Family Poverty Strategy 2017-22 Reprioritisation

- 3.1 The Family Poverty Strategy is based on three themes, each underpinned by several priorities and led by its own working group. The three themes are:
- Sustainable work as a route out of poverty
 - Focus on the basics - raising and protecting family incomes
 - Boosting resilience and building on strengths
- 3.2 Due to the systemic inequalities and challenges highlighted by COVID-19, to ensure that the strategy continues to meet the priorities for children and families living in poverty over the next 12-18 months, a reprioritisation of the Strategy was undertaken. The reprioritisation was based on consultation with each of the working groups which are made up of diverse partners from across the city including the Bread and Butter Thing, One Manchester, GM Poverty Action and Northwards Housing.
- 3.3 The consensus was that the existing priorities were still pertinent to the needs of children and families living in poverty but needed to be strengthened going forward. Therefore, a small number of additional priorities were included such as digital inclusion, which was highlighted as a particular challenge for vulnerable residents and children and families living in poverty over the lockdown period. As well documented, the pandemic disproportionately impacted on communities with protected characteristics. As such equality, diversity and inclusion is included in the reprioritisation as an overarching theme.

- 3.4 The Family Poverty Strategy Reprioritisation was agreed by the Family Poverty Core Group (who have overarching responsibility for the implementation of the Strategy) in December 2020. The Family Poverty Strategy Reprioritisation can be found in Appendix 1.

4. Delivery of the Family Poverty Strategy

- 4.1 Since the launch of the Family Poverty Strategy in 2017, good progress has been made by the three working groups. This section highlights examples of current activity and best practice.

4.2 Theme 1: Sustainable Work as a route out of poverty

- 4.2.1 *Work and Skills community-based provision:* It is accepted that the most effective route out of poverty is for the city's residents to be employed in jobs which pay the living wage. To tackle low levels of unemployment in the north of the city, the working group are collaborating with local voluntary and community organisations to identify pre-employment challenges and are establishing work clubs in the north of the city.

4.2.2 *Anchor institutions*

Due to their connection to the city, anchor institutions are a target for work on improving pay and conditions. Since the launch of the Family Poverty Strategy, seminars were organised aimed at harnessing the role of anchor institutions to tackle poverty through their recruitment practices, increasing social value considerations in procurement and support for schools & community organisations in areas of the city with high levels of family poverty.

- 4.2.3 The role of anchors was further strengthened in the strategy reprioritisation due to the significant economic and social challenges created by COVID-19. To meet this objective, an Anchors Pilot Project comprising of 10 anchor institutions from sectors including the statutory sector, business and the cultural sector will be launched in September this year. It is intended that the pilot will deliver a 12–18 month programme focused on two of the priorities which will have a big impact on improving outcomes for residents:

- Manchester to become a Living Wage City - the living wage has been identified as the single most significant factor in lifting people out of poverty.
- Support for local employment – for the Anchors pilot to promote their existing and new employment opportunities to Manchester residents, particularly those who are out of work and/or have barriers to accessing good quality employment.

4.2.4 *Promoting affordable, flexible and high-quality childcare*

High quality, flexible and affordable childcare is a significant challenge which impacts on the ability of parents (particularly women) to gain and/or stay in employment. Since the launch of the Strategy the working group has undertaken activities to tackle this including:

- A Childcare Sufficiency Assessment in 2018/19 which identified two issues; an undersupply of childcare in some wards in the city, and low take up of free childcare, particularly in wards with a high proportion of non-white residents and with high numbers of 0-4 year olds. To better understand these issues further work has been commissioned and will be used to inform the engagement and communications strategy around the take up of childcare.
- The Manchester Childcare Sufficiency Assessment for 2020/21 has recently been undertaken. Its finding will be used to inform how the working group works with childcare settings post-pandemic.
- Work with the No Recourse to Public Funds team and the GM Immigration Aid Unit to develop a pathway to support newly arrived families to access the childcare offer they are entitled to.
- To improve the sustainability of the childcare sector, earlier this year, the Executive approved £3m capital investment in the Early Years estate and a review of day-care lease arrangements.
- Between February and June 2021, £1.5m of Additional Restrictions Grant funding was paid to the childcare sector. This has included day nurseries, childminders, out of school providers and maintained nursery schools.
- Day-care providers are delivering “Ready to Learn” summer camps for 3 & 4 year-olds who haven’t received any access to early learning. Schools are signposting families of children due to start in their reception class in September to nurseries offering the 6 week summer camp.
- The Holiday and Activity Food Programme has been extended over the summer offering play opportunities for children aged 5 – 12 years with the additional benefit of providing a healthy meal. Following a successful pilot at Easter, 12 out of school clubs will contribute to the offer this summer providing around 400 places.

4.2.5 *COVID-19 response for childcare settings*

To support childcare settings over the lockdown period the following activities have been undertaken:

- Work with the Council’s Business Rates team to support childcare providers through the extension of the criteria for the Additional Restrictions Grant.
- Childcare settings operating out of Council buildings who have been unable to afford repairs to their setting have been supported by the Council on what are full repair leases.
- Regular consultations with day-care providers over the lockdown period to understand the impact of COVID-19 on the childcare sector which informed the support offer going forwards. As a result of the support provided by the Childcare Sufficiency Manager and their team, on average 90% of childcare settings have remained open since the lockdown period.
- Food vouchers were distributed through childcare providers to families with preschool aged children via the Council’s network of Children’s Centres.

- Children's Centres produced learning packs for children who are entitled to free places but were unable to attend their setting due to temporary closure.
- Early Years staff provided a brokerage service to assist key workers to find childcare over lockdown.

4.3 Theme 2: Focus on the basics - raising and protecting family incomes

4.3.1 The focus of this working group is to help families with day to day living costs. The following are examples of some of the activities undertaken by the group:

4.3.2 *Fuel Poverty:*

Many residents are affected by fuel poverty, particularly the "poverty premium" associated with pre-pay meters.

- Since 2018, the Council has worked in partnership with Groundwork to deliver the Local Energy Advice Partnership (LEAP) scheme. The scheme provides an outreach service to low income and vulnerable households of all tenures and includes home energy advice, income maximisation advice, and advice on energy efficiency measures. Since 2018, there have been 638 referrals to the scheme, with 255 referrals during 2019/2020. Referrals to LEAP have continued throughout the pandemic.
- A Winter Warm Homes leaflet, giving practical tips and advice on all aspects of fuel poverty including details of the Council's Green Homes Grant was produced in November last year. Approximately 1,250 leaflets were printed and translated into 17 different community languages. The leaflet was targeted at those living in fuel poor areas of Manchester in private rented sector accommodation, who tend to have the lowest levels of energy efficiency. The impact of this will be monitored by Groundwork, who will receive onward referrals to LEAP.
- In partnership with the Council, Manchester Citizens Advice Bureau assisted over 1,500 people to switch their energy provider and claim the Warm Homes Discount.
- In partnership with National Energy Action, the Council delivered targeted fuel poverty awareness training to frontline workers in schools and in the community via VCS partners.

4.3.3 *Food Poverty:* The Covid-19 pandemic highlighted the pre-existing high levels of food poverty and food insecurity in the city. The Basics Working Group has:

- Supported the set up and delivery of food distribution hubs in areas of deprivation.
- Commissioned research to map out food deserts across Manchester to help identify gaps in food provision.
- Provided a holistic offer of food and fuel advice to vulnerable residents with a single point of contact offered to residents at a Citizens Advice Bureau in Gorton.
- Council's Food Response - it should be noted that much of the Council's

work in relation to food poverty which was exacerbated by the pandemic has been undertaken by the food response team. This is discussed in more detail in section 6.3.3.

- 4.3.4 *Holiday Hunger:* In collaboration with Young Manchester, a network of organisations was brought together to co-ordinate, organise and deliver educational activities and good quality meals for school children over the summer holidays. Partnerships were developed between the Council, Young Manchester and Kellogg's, and the offer was extended to include all school holidays for 2020/21. In addition, the City Council supported children and young people entitled to free school meals and other vulnerable children with supermarket vouchers over the various holiday periods since the pandemic (this is discussed in more detail in 6.3.6).
- 4.3.5 *Poverty Premium:* Poverty premium refers to the extra costs that people on low incomes incur to pay for essential products and services, typically due to high rates of credit interest or more expensive tariffs. This also affects access to financial services. Through a partnership with Lloyds bank, bank accounts were made available to residents on low incomes who in the past had been unable to open one.
- 4.3.6 *Lobbying:* While the ability of the Council and its partners to mitigate the impact of welfare reforms is limited without a change in welfare legislation, the group supports existing campaigns which already have momentum and are pertinent to the poverty agenda. In recent months there has been an active campaign for Government to maintain the £20 per week Universal Credit uplift, which has made a substantial difference to some of the City's poorest residents.

4.4 Theme 3: Boosting resilience and building on strengths

- 4.4.1 The focus of the working group is to enhance the resilience of communities by giving them the tools they need to empower them. The group have undertaken the following activities:
- 4.4.2 *Poverty Proofing:* Pre-pandemic a "Poverty Proofing the School Day" audit was commissioned by Cedar Mount School and delivered by Children's North East (CNE). The audit examined the whole school day, identifying where poverty would have the greatest impact on pupils and how this could be mitigated. As a result of the audit, Cedar Mount improved some of their practices and improved the representation of its students' voices. There are plans to develop a bespoke package of support for schools based on the learning from Cedar Mount.
- 4.4.3 Engagement with Primary Schools in Harpurhey also identified poverty as a barrier to learning and a small working group was established to develop a staff training package which speaks to this issue. The group will be working with the Trauma Informed Practice team with a view to developing a schools offer which also considers poverty.

4.4.4 *Communications:*

- A Pocket Guide (appendix 4) was developed in July 2020 as a one stop shop of information to support residents with money and health and wellbeing. The card was co-produced with statutory, voluntary and community organisations, including the Be Well Service, Cedar Mount Academy and Wythenshawe Community Housing Group. It has been distributed in community venues across the city.
- New signposting links and contact information were uploaded to the Council's Helping Hands website to ensure residents had up-to-date information at their fingertips. The guide has been distributed across targeted neighbourhoods citywide, with the first phase of distribution (4,995 guides) distributed through statutory, voluntary and community organisations, including libraries, and the second phase (9,000 guides) distributed via Neighbourhood Teams, Bringing Services Together partners, Sure Start Children's Centres and Food Partnership amongst other organisations.

4.4.5 *Debt and financial management:* The group are working with the Department of Work and pensions to ensure that residents are accessing the full range of benefits they are entitled to.

4.4.6 The Council supports residents with debt and managing debt through a range of support offers. The Council does not pass any account to enforcement agencies where residents are in receipt of maximum Council Tax Support. Since March 2020, the Council has not passed any council tax accounts to enforcement agencies.

4.4.7 The Council is also leading a pilot with HMRC to help vulnerable residents manage debt and the stress that comes from this. The scheme involves the Council liaising with the debt agency to avoid residents from getting an attachment to earnings being applied.

4.4.8 *Workforce support:* MCC staff and their families inevitably will have been impacted economically by the pandemic and the working group are ensuring that staff are supported with a comprehensive offer that includes refreshed advice and guidance on the staff intranet alongside on-line awareness raising events.

4.4.9 Manchester Poverty Truth Commission (MPTC)

The Manchester Poverty Truth Commission was launched in June 2019 and concluded its work with a final event in June 2020. They have published their final report *Manchester Poverty Truth Commission 2019-21-Key findings and impact*. Manchester City Council's Deputy Leader and the Director of Customer Services and Transactions joined the Commission as two of its Civic and Business Leaders. The Our Manchester Investment Fund also contributed to the funding of the Commission.

4.4.10 The Commission has been invited to share their work and report their findings at Economy Scrutiny in September 2021.

5. Manchester City Council's corporate role in tackling poverty

5.1 The City Council is investing a total of £637m to deliver essential services to the residents of Manchester. As highlighted by the infographic in Appendix 2, this investment provides residents, particularly those who are more at risk and living in poverty with an extensive and wide-ranging support offer. The following sections provide further information in relation to the services and activities highlighted by the infographic tool.

5.2 Our role as an employer

5.2.1 Manchester City Council has a key role as a civic leader and major employer to lead by example. This commitment is demonstrated by our policies and practices, with some examples given below.

5.2.2 *Paying the Manchester Living Wage:* Manchester City Council is an accredited living wage employer and is committed to paying the real living wage of £9.50 per hour (November 2020). The Manchester Living Wage (MLW) was matched to the new real living wage rate from 1 April 2021. The Council is also committed to Manchester becoming a Living Wage Place through the Anchors Pilot work discussed in section 4.2.2.

5.2.3 *Kickstart:* In September 2020, the government introduced the £2bn Kickstart scheme to create thousands of high-quality work placements aimed at those aged 16 to 24 who are on Universal Credit and are at risk of long-term unemployment. The City Council has agreed to host 29 placements ring fenced to Manchester residents.

5.2.4 *Equality, Diversity & Inclusion:* The City Council has a long history of championing equality, diversity and inclusion. Following the Black Lives Matter Movement and the global focus on racism, the City Council strengthened its long-standing commitment to this important priority. This can be seen through the following activities:

- Talent and Diversity- To ensure that the City Council continues to attract and retain a diverse talent pool at all levels of the organisation including at a senior level, a new Talent & Diversity Team has been established to improve the Council's policy, systems and processes for bringing in new talent.
- Fair Recruitment - a prototype for increasing diversity in recruitment panels is being tested. The Talent and Diversity Team will set and monitor targets for services to become more reflective of the City's residents.
- Career opportunities for Black, Asian and Ethnic Minority Groups - a Leadership pathway programme for Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic staff has been piloted with 12 members of staff currently participating in the programme, with plans in place to increase the cohort size and run the programme every six to nine months.
- Career pathways for Manchester residents - work is being undertaken aimed at strengthening employment pathways in the Council for

members of the city's ethnically diverse communities. This work includes encouraging all communities to consider the Council's opportunities through traditional recruitment and apprenticeship routes with a renewed focus on encouraging the city's ethnically diverse residents to consider the professional routes of employment in the Council.

- 5.2.5 *Supporting the health and well-being and financial health of Council employees:* The Council financially supports the emotional wellbeing of its staff through its Employee Assistance Programme (EAP). The EAP is a free, confidential service for all Council employees to support staff with all aspects of their emotional wellbeing.
- 5.2.6 To support Council staff in need of credit, The Council's HR/OD and Revenues and Benefits services have worked with Manchester Credit Union to develop a new credit union product for council staff as an alternative to existing private pay day loans where the interest is extremely high. The new loans will be launched this month.
- 5.3 Social Value & Ethical Procurement
- 5.3.1 The City Council has long recognised the benefits of social value in promoting a more inclusive economy and improving outcomes for the city's residents. The section below highlights some of the ways in which the Council promotes social value.
- 5.3.2 *Social Value in procurement:* Since 2007 social value has been a key feature of the Council's procurement policy. The Council's existing Ethical Procurement Policy sets out a clear statement for ethical practice for the Council, its suppliers, their service providers, contractors and supply chains. The policy has delivered substantial benefits to the City's residents and its economy. In 2019/20, £353m was spent with Manchester organisations with the top 300 suppliers to Manchester City Council creating an estimated 2,251 jobs in the city.
- 5.3.3 *Review of the Council's Social Value Policy:* Due to the challenges highlighted by the pandemic, the City Council strengthened its approach to social value and included good employment practices as well as enhancing its approach to procurement. The review which was approved by the Executive in March this year, and which now will be adopted city wide, focuses attention on those people disproportionately impacted by COVID-19 including the over 50s and BAME residents. It also endorses and promotes the GM Good Employment charter to improve pay and working conditions.
- 5.3.4 *Covenants:* The Council has signed up to several covenants demonstrating its commitment to promoting good employment practices and supporting some of the most vulnerable groups in society. For instance, the Care Leaver Covenant means that entry-level employment and apprenticeship opportunities are ringfenced for care leavers, giving this cohort much needed employment support.

- 5.3.5 *Our Town Hall Project*. Promoting job opportunities to the city's residents is a major objective of the project, which provided a total of 81 placements, 115 new jobs, and 119 apprenticeships, giving residents much needed hands-on work experience. A recent update on the OTH project was given at Resources and Governance Scrutiny in July 2021.

5.4 Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise Sector

- 5.4.1 The Voluntary Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) sector is a key part of the infrastructure of the city. In the financial year, 2020/21, the Council invested in the region of £34million of funding to the voluntary sector with a total of 317 funding agreement and grants. The funding also provided specific support to the VCSE sector through the Our Manchester Voluntary and Community Sector (OMVCS) grant fund.
- 5.4.2 The OMCVCS scheme funded 63 organisations across the city including Fareshare GM, which during lockdown supplied over 100 Manchester charities, including the Council's emergency food hub, and reached 20,000 people a week with over 1 million meal portions.
- 5.4.3 The OMVCS and Development Funds (which provides infrastructure support to BAME VCSE organisations and those in the north of the city through the Councils contract with MACC) were due to end in March 2021 but have been extended until March 2022.

6 **Tackling poverty through day-to-day service delivery**

6.1 Council wide support for residents

- 6.1.1 In addition to the specific offers of support to tackle poverty as described, the Council provides many more services and activities across its directorates which are aimed at supporting residents in some way. Given how far reaching and extensive the Council support offer is, it is not possible to list all of these. This section provides an overview of a couple of examples of these offers of support by directorate/service.

6.2 Budget

- 6.2.1 The Council has an approved gross budget of £1,525m for spending on benefits, passport to schools and social care costs. The net budget approved for Council services for 2021/22 was £637m. This includes costs funded from the main funding available to the Council, Business Rates, Council Tax, Government Grants and reserves.
- 6.2.2 £227m goes towards Adult Services with a further £126m for Children's Services, meaning a total of £353m (55%) is spent on services for children and vulnerable adults. The Council's significant financial offer clearly demonstrates the Council's commitment to tackling poverty.

6.3 The Council's response to COVID-19

6.3.1 The City Council supported and continues to provide much needed practical and financial support to residents and businesses in response to COVID-19.

6.3.2 Community hub helpline

The freephone community hub helpline, which was set up in April 2020 following the announcement of the first national lockdown provides residents with a free, easy and accessible entry point for them to get support across a range of welfare issues. 30,187 calls were made to the Community Hub between March 2020 and April 2021.

6.3.3 Food response

The Council's food response was first developed in April 2020 to ensure that residents, who were either clinically or financially vulnerable could access a food offer. The approach was to build on the existing community and commercial offer e.g. protected supermarket slots. However, the scale of demand and constraints for residents at risk accessing food meant that residents were initially provided with food deliveries directly from the City Council and from commissioned providers. When it became appropriate the service was stepped down to mainstream food provision using local VCS food providers and a network of neighbourhood teams, early help teams and volunteers.

6.3.4 At the initial peak of lockdown, the City Council Food Response was directly supporting circa 500 households per week, and co-ordinating VCS provision to a further 200+ households. In the second 'peak' of lockdown, approximately 250 households per week were supported either with one off deliveries, or ongoing support. In the period March 2020 to April 2021, a total of 12,792 people were supported with food parcels and meals. Throughout, there was a consistent pattern of circa 66% of the demand for food coming from single or all adult households and 34% from households with children. In part, this could be a result of the additional support provided specifically to support families with children eligible for free school meals but it also highlighted the number of at risk & poor adult households in the City.

6.3.5 Over time, the food offer has evolved, as the team is left with a smaller number of complex households dependent on food support but with a much wider range of needs. Families with children were referred to and supported by the City's early help hubs. As there is not an equivalent offer for complex adults, the Food Response engaged residents in appropriate 'wrap-around' support which includes Social Care, Early Help and poverty mitigation support (e.g. Revenues and Benefits, Citizens Advice Bureau and the Digital Champions Network). At present, the food response team is supporting approximately 40 households per week.

6.3.6 School meal vouchers

School census data indicated that in January 2021, 32,000 children and young people in Manchester schools were eligible for free school meals, which is around 37% of all pupils in the city's schools. This is an increase of circa 2,000 since the start of the pandemic in March 2020.

- 6.3.7 The City Council supported families with children and young people, with vouchers and welfare grants over the holiday periods. This included £4.085m to support 43,000 children and young people living in poorer households, with supermarket vouchers and welfare grants over the Christmas period 2020 to the Easter holidays.
- 6.3.8 As well as making sure all pupils eligible for free school meals had access to food over the holidays, the City Council's offer included other children and young people who are not usually considered for support under national schemes. They included school sixth formers whose families meet the criteria for free school meals or who previously accessed free school meals when they were under 16, and an estimated 7,000 additional children aged under five who attend early years settings and whose families meet the criteria for free school meals and who may have experienced hardship during the holidays due to the closure of facilities. The scheme also supported children in at-risk families known to schools who are outside the scope of free school meals but where an early help assessment has identified that they require extra support during the school holidays.
- 6.3.9 Other beneficiaries supported through the scheme included care-leavers, children of families, who are classed as having no recourse to public funds, asylum seekers and refugee children, and nursery-age children who currently do not receive free school meals but who would be eligible for them.
- 6.3.10 The City Council has continued its support poorer children and young people. £3.5m of funding has been allocated to support 42,000 children and young people over the summer with a further 2k allocated to 13 childcare centres for them to provide food and free activities for children and families. It should be noted that the Council added its own funding onto the Government's allocation which was insufficient in meeting the needs of the city's residents.
- 6.3.11 Digital Inclusion
Digital inclusion is another challenge for the city and something which was amplified by the pandemic, as residents struggled to access learning, jobs and services, because of a lack of digital access or skills. A great deal of activity is undertaken by the Work and Skills Team in collaboration with Libraries to support residents who struggle to access services due to a lack of digital skills, lack of device access or lack of network access.
- 6.3.12 The Digital Inclusion Action Plan (DIAP) was developed during the COVID-19 pandemic to tackle the digital divide. The core focus of the DIAP is to support all Manchester residents to gain the access, experience, confidence and skills needed to access the benefits of being online and staying online.
- 6.3.13 This includes supporting residents with accessing kit, data and informal and ad-hoc skills support. Other workstreams include: schools tackling digital exclusion for young people and parents, strengthening access to digital health, wellbeing and care and community organisations growing and sustaining DI provision.

6.3.14 Some of the key achievements of the work to date are as follows:

- Since May 2020, 2020 residents were supported to become digital included, 880 supported with digital skills support, 740 donated devices and 400 residents were given internet connectivity for their own device.
- Recruitment of 103 Digital Volunteers and Digital Champion Organisations who offer to skills training to those referred into the service.
- The COVID-19 Impact Fund Programme funding 32 third sector organisations to deliver digital inclusion focused projects, that increase local support for our priority groups with a particular focus on mental health and wellbeing.
- Development of digital inclusion branding campaign to raise awareness of the challenge, activities and offers for residents to access support.
- 29 MMU students supported 10 Community organisations to sustain a digital skills offer to residents during the first lockdown of 2020. This included Shelter, North Manchester Community Partnership, North Manchester Black Health Forum, Barlow Moor Community Centre, Chrysalis Family Centre and Wythenshawe Good Neighbours through the Barclays Digital Eagles.

7 Adult Services

7.1 Adult Social Services provide vulnerable adults in the city with a varied and extensive support offer. The following activities are just some examples of support given to residents:

7.2 The Community Learning and disability Team provide interventions in relation to the Council's statutory duties for some of the city's most vulnerable residents and families, this includes emergency food boxes and support with debt.

7.3 The No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF) Team coordinates the Council's services to individuals and families who are subject to immigration control and who do not have access to public funds in the UK. In 2020, the Council spent £991k in subsistence and accommodation costs thus preventing destitution/poverty and keeping families together and avoiding the need for children to be taken into care. The role of the team includes:

- assessing for eligibility, providing accommodation and subsistence payments for families/singles who are "destitute"
- investigating and make determination as to the Council's responsibilities based on the immigration status, financial circumstances and evidence of destitution and any significant care needs
- directing and signposting to other agencies, including government departments and other councils and other relevant support including financial, immigration and legal advice.
- working with third sector/faith groups in supporting people with unresolved immigration status.

- 7.4 A dedicated Carer's Hardship Fund of £100k was launched in 2020. The Hardship Fund aims to help carers with essential items to support them in their caring role, such as furniture, bedding, travel grants and white goods. A carers helpline went live on 15 August 2020 to help carers without digital access.

8. Children's Services

- 8.1 All the activity across the Children's and Education directorate is aimed at supporting and improving the lives of children and their families. Many of these support offers have already been described; below are some further examples of support offers the directorate provides to support the city's vulnerable residents.
- 8.2 *Welfare payments:* the Council provided a welfare payment paid directly to family to cover other bills such as utility costs. Referrals for over 2,000 families were made to the scheme by schools. The welfare payment was £65 per child and capped at £260 per family.
- 8.3 *Support for children with special needs/disability:* Families of children with special education needs or disability (SEND) received regular newsletters outlining the support available to them through the local offer and remote local offer events. In addition, short breaks services have resumed and schools were also asked to prioritise places on site for children with SEND during the Winter lockdown period. All families with a child (circa 5000) who have an Education Health and Care Plan were allocated sensory activities for the child or young person to access at home.
- 8.4 *Youth and play:* the current budget for youth and play for 2021/22 is £2.74m, and includes funding for Manchester's four youth hubs which provide a range of activities and programmes for young people.
- 8.5 *Holiday hunger:* Council funded playschemes help tackle holiday hunger by combining play activities together with access to healthy meals. 2,955 children and young people were fed and benefitted from MCC funded play schemes including over the summer and October half terms in 2020.
- 8.6 *Libraries:* Libraries are important community hubs and have supported children with a whole host of activities including:
- The Read and Feed initiative provided reading activities and crafts together with free lunches for adults and children during the school holidays. In 2019, a total of 62 Read and Feed sessions were delivered at three libraries supporting 1283 children and 687 adults.
 - Several initiatives to encourage children to read and to raise standards of literacy through the Read Manchester initiatives. This has included book gifting, and in 2020/21 25,997 books and 4,945 magazines were gifted.
 - Free Storytimes, Tiny Tots and Toddlers Times attended 25,820 in 2019/20.
 - Online activities and events including Lego sessions, storytimes, and signposting people to free resources.

- All 7,759 year 6 children in the City have been provided with a free book, *The Boy Who Came from Space* by Ross Welford, to support transition reading, where children start a book at primary school and continue it at secondary.

9. Corporate Services

9.1 Corporate Services have contributed to supporting people experiencing poverty through organisation-wide policy. In April 2020, poverty was included in the Council's Equality Impact Assessment framework as a monitored 'characteristic' and has been adopted as a 'standard' Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) practice.

9.2 Equality Impact Assessments (EIAs) have been completed against the relevant budget proposals for the 2021-22 financial year. An analysis of the cumulative impacts of these EIAs was undertaken by the Equality Diversity and Inclusion Team and reported to Resources and Governance Scrutiny Committee in March 2021. This found that the savings identified for the year had the lowest impact possible for residents and therefore, there were no proposals that needed to be removed or substantively changed to avoid an adverse impact on equality.

9.3 Welfare provision

The Council's Revenues and Benefits and Welfare Provision teams oversee and administer benefits aimed at financially supporting residents. In recognition of the impact of COVID-19 on residents, they have made amendments to processes to ease the burden on those who are struggling due to unemployment, redundancy or a reduction in working hours. The Council has in some cases topped up funding allocated by Government to meet local needs.

9.4 The Council's core Welfare Provision Scheme helps those households in receipt of a qualifying means tested benefit, facing crisis or an emergency or if they are being supported to move home due to complex circumstances. The Council also provides cash grants, fuel support and a range of new furniture, white goods and bedding that is delivered to a resident's home as required, thus acting as a safety net and protecting/sustaining tenancies as well as keeping families together. In 2021/22, £841,376 was paid out to 3,044 applications to support resettlement from Supported Temporary Accommodation or Hospital, or in response to a crisis.

9.5 Financial support for residents

The 2020/21 annual core budget was £600,000 (a further £100,000 to support Carers and £100,000 for Covid-19 related crisis support). A further top up of £240,000 was paid towards year end to ensure that eligible crisis applications were supported. An additional £207,000 was paid to cover the replacement free school meals initiative. For the period 2021/22, £600,000 of funding has been allocated with a further £100,000 set aside to support Carers.

9.6 The table below sets out spend for 2020/21

Reason for application	Budget	Applications approved	Value of awards
Core scheme (resettlement/disaster/travel/other)	£840,000	3,004	£841,376
Carers	£100,000	597	£116,580
COVID-19	£100,000	1,138	£83,298
Free School Meals	£207,000	5,222	£206,794
Total	1,247,000	10,001	£1,248,048

9.7 The Council also provides the following financial support to help vulnerable residents with the cost of living:

- *Discretionary Council Tax Payments (DCTP)* are made to households having problems meeting their council tax liability but who may not qualify for Council Tax Support. For the period 2020/21 £149,674 was paid to 831 households. As of 1 July 2021, the Council has paid £37,454 to 198 households.
- *DCTP Two Child Limit Payments* are made to mitigate the financial hardship caused by the two-child restriction on Discretionary Council Tax Payments. For the period 2020/21, £70,701 was paid to 308 households.
- *Discretionary Housing Payments (DHP)*: the 2020/21 Department for Work and Pensions DHP budget was set at £2.54m. The Council added £1m to this budget. For the period 2020/21, £3,194,110 was paid to 2,250 applicants out of the 3,569 applications received, enabling those residents to remain in their homes and prevent further demand on other services.
- For the period 2021/22, the Council has committed an additional £1m to the estimated £1,964,496 allocation (£1,404,496 received and a further £560,000 projected based upon initial allocation) from the DWP for DHP.
- *Care leavers and Ex armed forces*: Staff have been trained to identify care leavers and Ex armed forces members to provide additional support if needed. All the Council's discretionary policies reference these cohorts as requiring additional support. Between 1 April to 31 May 2021, the average award made to carer leavers was to the value of £186.
- *COVID-19 Council Tax Hardship Fund*: The Council is funding a local version of the £150 Council Tax Hardship Fund which was financed by the government in 2020/21. As of 1 July 2021, the Council has paid £5,748,308 in £150 credits for 38,661 households as part of its 2021/22 local scheme.

10. Growth and Development

10.1 Growth and Development leads a range of work to create more opportunities for residents and to ensure that they are connected to these opportunities and benefit from the city's success.

10.2 Skills, Education and training

10.2.1 Empowering the city's residents to acquire the skills, education and training to enhance their lives and improve outcomes for themselves, their families and their communities is one of the major ways in which the Council tackles poverty. The section gives an overview of some of these services and initiatives:

10.2.2 *Manchester Adult Education Service (MAES)* is a Council service aimed specifically at adults. With a budget of £8.6m (600k of which is awarded to the VCSE sector to deliver commissioned services) it is one of the largest providers of adult and community learning in England. Its core provision is to empower adults with the skills required to gain employment, as well as supporting them with their well-being, inclusion, and community cohesion for instance through ESOL.

10.2.3 MAES operates from local centres across the city and provides a range of support offers for residents including:

- *Manchester ESOL Advice Service*: provides a single gateway for adults with English language needs in Manchester to access the learning that is right for them.
- *Work with Employers and Job Seekers*: this is a collaboration with DWP and Manchester Employers to deliver a wide range of online provision throughout the 2020/21 academic year. Sector based Work Academy Programmes (SWAPs) were delivered for recruiting employers which led directly into jobs. Of SWAPs which have been evaluated to date, around 50% of attendees have secured employment.
- *Community Learning Fund*: This funds seven VCSE organisations with a training, skills and education offer. This includes Back on Track who are running a range of courses, activities and volunteering opportunities with unemployed adults going through a period of recovery or rehabilitation.

10.2.4 As highlighted in Appendix 2, MAES have provided significant benefits to residents. In the period 2018/19, the MAES service engaged 3026 learners, 2119 of which achieved at least one national qualification.

10.2.5 *Work clubs* are partly commissioned by the Council's Work & Skills team to provide advice and support to residents with accessing employment and training.

- Since April 2020, 19 Work Clubs have been commissioned across different community settings with funding priority given to those work clubs who target residents furthest away from the employment market including the over 50's, those with mental health needs, the homeless, lone parents, people from black, Asian and minority ethnic backgrounds and disabled adults.
- In the period 2020/21, 3200 residents engaged with work clubs to improve their employability and skills with 570 residents progressing into full or part-time employment and 340 referred into further learning.

10.2.6 The Work & Skills team have re-commissioned work club activity for 2021-22. 20 organisations have been awarded grants up to a maximum of £10k to deliver employment and skills support from local venues. Projected outcomes include 2,860 residents engaged, 2,107 supported and 1,590 moving into voluntary work, further training or employment.

10.2.7 In addition to Work Clubs, the Council's Works and Skills Team leads on several varied programmes aimed at supporting residents who are at a distance from the labour market, they include:

10.2.8 *Manchester Employment Support Partnership (MESP)* includes staff from MCC, DWP, MAES, the Manchester College, National Careers Service, Citizens Advice and the Growth Company and co-ordinates resources for those facing redundancy due to Covid-19. Manchester residents can request support if they are facing redundancy, end of furlough or reduced hours via MCC's website www.manchester.gov.uk/help-to-get-work. The Partnership has successfully supported residents facing redundancy at Manchester Airport, the Arcadia Group, Debenhams, and Princes Soft Drinks.

10.2.9 *Support for young people RONI (Risk of NEET Indicator)*: The Work and Skills and Education Teams have been supporting the transition of Year 11s by working directly with Manchester schools in identifying high-risk young people who are likely to be NEET when they leave school. The team has been co-ordinating with schools, Career Connect and Growth Company to offer specific support directly for young people at risk of NEET over the summer. To date, 560 young people have been identified as high-risk of becoming NEET when transitioning from Year 11 over the summer of 2021. So far, 152 have been referred into services to receive transition support.

10.3 Social, affordable and temporary housing

10.3.1 Housing is one of the most challenging issues for the city's residents and with demand for housing of all types and tenure increasing, more people are being classed as in housing need. The Council has made significant progress in providing new and affordable homes with over 1,900 affordable homes completed since April 2015.

10.3.2 To further support vulnerable residents with housing needs, changes were made to the Allocations Policy in November 2020. Previously working households had the same or higher priority than some homeless people and, as the supply of empty homes reduced, fewer homeless people were rehoused. Now with a greater priority on homelessness or being at risk, some of the city's most vulnerable residents including those who are homeless will get rehoused more quickly.

10.3.3 It is still too early to show the impact of these changes however, based on just over 1200 lets using the new policy over 93% of lets are going to the 3 "in housing need" bands which demonstrates that the scheme is delivering the expected outcomes.

11. Neighbourhoods Directorate

11.1 Culture

11.1.2 The Manchester Cultural Education Partnership, now re-named MADE, was launched at Manchester Art Gallery in March 2020. The partnership is made up of 30 schools, 23 cultural organisations and 20 young influencers aged 10-21. Working with partners they have delivered:

- 13 Creative Curriculum projects working across primary, secondary, and further education settings, including PRU and SEND provisions. The projects piloted creative approaches to teaching a range of subjects
- A Careers Week offer aimed particularly at Year 12 pupils at risk of at risk of not being in education, employment, or training on leaving schools
- 2 online lockdown projects to support mental health through reflection and creativity.

11.1.3 Many of the cultural organisations in receipt of Council funding have maintained connections with residents through moving engagement work online or, where possible, delivering in person, socially distanced activity. A few examples include:

- A 12–page booklet featuring content from 5 organisations in Manchester's family Arts Network as part of 90 family arts activity packs distributed to families through foodbanks.
- The Agency continued to support young people in the north of the city to develop entrepreneurial and socially minded business ideas. 3 projects were taken forward by young people - 70 care kits about body positivity for year 6/7 transition to high school, a mental health video game, now in process of expansion with a games developer and the Something to Say Book, featuring positive stories from Manchester-based black voices aged 13 to 21.

11.2 Neighbourhoods

The Neighbourhoods Directorate manage the Neighbourhood Investment Fund, a ward-based fund of £640k with 20k allocated to each ward. It is open to residents and community groups to help deliver projects that will benefit the wider community. Over the years this has provided many tangible benefits to communities. One such example is BeLongsight, which was established in 2016 by a small group of residents in Longsight wanting to tackle environmental issues in the area. Since this time, the project has received funding on several occasions from the Neighbourhood Investment Fund and has been nominated twice for the Manchester Be Proud Awards. Their work greening up neglected alleyways has inspired other local community greening projects in Longsight

12. Public Health

12.1 As amplified by the pandemic, and laid bare in the latest Marmot Review,

health inequalities is a major driver of poverty. The Population Health Team with Manchester Local Care Organisation (as the delivery arm) are focussed on improving the overall health of the population. A key component of this includes supporting residents into employment to improve their overall health and well-being and to tackle poverty. Just one of the many examples of this work is the city wide BE Well service. The service provides adult residents with social prescribing and health and wellbeing coaching support. This support is based on the things that individuals say are important to improve their physical and mental health and wellbeing. It can include support to:

- become more physically active, lose weight, access specialist treatment for alcohol, drug or tobacco addiction.
- support people with health conditions to return to or stay in work; support to deal with money issues, welfare benefits and housing issues;
- support to develop skills and return to employment for people who are unemployed

12.2 In addition, to supporting residents into work, the Population Health Team supports residents particularly those who are vulnerable via a diverse range of commissioned services, children's public health, wellbeing, drug and alcohol, and sexual health services. Some of the services it offers includes the following:

12.3 The Drugs and Alcohol service (CGL - Change, Grow, Live) work with and support people in treatment into employment. As part of the COVID-19 response, CGL distributed free mobile phones to those who needed them to support them to engage with treatment services and is targeted at the most vulnerable cohorts, such as those who were rough sleeping.

12.4 The Age Friendly Manchester Team has worked to promote Pension Credit take up as there is £19m of unclaimed entitlement in Manchester. The campaign has been led at a GM level with CAB and will be re-run this year.

12.5 Public Health commission Thrive Manchester to support vulnerable residents who have experienced trauma in childhood with GPs speaking with over 500 patients about trauma and adversity. Help and support is offered by referring to therapeutic interventions and to Be Well, Citizens Advice Bureau, care workers and the Early Help Support Hub. Patients are also linked into local charities for support with school uniforms and food.

12.6 All parents bringing their babies for their 8-week checks, and children for their pre-school immunisations, are provided with a practice leaflet that talks about reading and being responsive. They are also given a book to keep that encourages interaction with babies and young children to hopefully encourage child and caregiver time. Public Health distributed resources to the homes of all two and three year olds identified by Early Years as vulnerable over the lockdown period. The packs included food packs, toothbrushing kits and art and craft packs.

12.7 MHCC COVID Health Equity Manchester (CHEM) Group work with diverse

communities in Manchester including disabled residents, South Asian communities, asylum seekers and refugees, and Black African and Caribbean communities to ensure that there is a two-way communication on the COVID response and to identify wider issues which have contributed to the disproportionate impact of COVID- 19 on many of these communities.

13. Conclusions

- 13.1 Poverty remains a difficult challenge for Manchester and affects the life-chances and outcomes of too many of our residents. The impact of poverty is profound and effects everything from the health and well-being and education and employment of individuals affected, to demand for public services and need for direct interventions. COVID-19 has deepened existing inequalities and pushed more of our residents into poverty.
- 13.2 The Our Manchester Strategy recognises the continued success of the city and our ambition to continue to drive economic growth and create new opportunities for our residents and businesses. It also recognises through the fair and equitable city theme the need for us to work hard to make sure that our residents, particularly our most vulnerable residents, are connected to those opportunities as the best way of building wealth and reducing poverty. The Our Manchester approach provides a good platform from which to work with partners across the city on these issues.
- 13.3 The City Council has always responded to the challenge using direct and targeted programmes of work. We redoubled our efforts in response to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, which came at a cost of £56m for 2020/21 and is forecast to cost £144m over 2021/22. As well as specific interventions, the City Council supports people experiencing poverty through our wider range of core services. The total resource spent on supporting people experiencing poverty makes up a disproportionate amount of our overall spend.
- 13.4 To mitigate against and reduce poverty in the city the Council will need to continue to provide residents with a wide ranging and extensive support offer, not just in tackling the causes and symptoms of poverty, but also in making sure that families can participate in cultural and leisure activities that improve quality of life. Next year we have an opportunity to refresh the current Family Poverty Strategy 2017-22 to ensure it is fit for purpose, has the greatest possible impact and targets a broader cohort of residents. The process to refresh the strategy will begin in 2022, and like the original strategy will place significant emphasis on listening to and learning from the lived experience of residents experiencing poverty.
- 13.5 Due to the far-reaching consequences of poverty in the city, the City Council will also ensure that poverty is fully accounted for through its decision making and budget setting processes. This means that the effect of decisions on residents affected by poverty should always be considered, both in terms of mitigation and prevention. Manchester's Poverty Impact Assessment (Section 9) tool provides a method for doing this in practice.

14. Recommendations

The Executive is recommended to:

1. Note the progress that has been made in delivering the Family Poverty Strategy 2017-22.
2. Note the Council's commitment to tackling poverty and its overall offer to residents.
3. Note the recommendations of the Poverty Truth Commission Report (Appendix 3)
4. Endorse the suggested approach to the refresh of the Family Poverty Strategy to address poverty more broadly & support all residents experiencing poverty; those with and without children.

15. Contributing to a Zero-Carbon City

- 15.1 Work to tackle poverty in Manchester may result in reductions in carbon emissions through implementation of some anti-poverty measures such as retrofit of housing stock to reduce fuel poverty. However following existing trends, increasing the wealth of low-income families may also result in some increases in per-capita emissions due to increases in consumption. It is important to consider this in the context of overall per-capita carbon footprints and budgets.

Another key consideration of environmental policy in relation to poverty is around ensuring a just transition to a low and zero carbon economy that protects the interests of society's most vulnerable.

16. Contributing to the Our Manchester Strategy

(a) A thriving and sustainable city

The Council's work to reduce poverty includes our approach to social value, creating new opportunities within our supply chain and connecting them to the residents who will benefit from them the most.

(b) A highly skilled city

The Council's work to reduce poverty includes our approach to employment, skills and training and views employment sustainable work as one of the main routes out of poverty.

(c) A progressive and equitable city

The report sets out how the Council's extensive and wider-ranging offer helps tackle poverty and improve outcomes for residents. The Family Poverty Strategy sets how children and families living in poverty have been supported across the three themes of the Strategy.

(d) A liveable and low carbon city

See contribution to a low carbon city.

(e) A connected city

Manchester's Family Poverty Strategy does not directly impact on this theme.

17. Key Policies and Considerations

(a) Equal Opportunities

As discussed in the report some protected groups are more likely to experience poverty. The Council has responded to this by commissioning in depth research work to better understand the issue and by updating our approach to make sure that protected groups are always identified as a priority. Equality, diversity and inclusion is now a specific priority in the Family Poverty Strategy and Social Value Policy.

(b) Risk Management

No particular risk management issues arise from the subject of this report.

(c) Legal Considerations

No particular legal issues arise from the subject of this report.