

**Manchester City Council  
Report for Information**

**Report to:** Executive – 15 September 2021

**Subject:** Our Manchester Progress Update

**Report of:** The Chief Executive

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**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.

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**Wards Affected - All**

<b>Environmental Impact Assessment</b> - 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

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### **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. Introduction**

- 1.1 This is the third 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. Manchester named among world's best cities**

- 2.1 International title Time Out magazine has this month named Manchester as the third best city in the world to visit - well ahead of the next placed UK city, London back in 13th place, and only behind Amsterdam and San Francisco.
- 2.2 Many of the themes of the Our Manchester Strategy come together in the findings of a survey in which 27,000 residents and visitors participated. Among the elements highlighted for praise were the city's resilience and pride and the strength of the community response to the Covid-19 pandemic.
- 2.3 Culture was cited as a particular strength, with 71% of respondents describing the city as 'creative.' Events such as Manchester International Festival and the Grayson's Arts Club exhibition at Manchester Art Gallery were highlighted, while the magazine mused "If only all cities had the vision that brought the new art venue at the Factory to life."

Related Our Manchester themes:

*Thriving and Sustainable City*

*Liveable and Zero Carbon City*

*Progressive and Equitable City*

## **3. Electric vehicle charging infrastructure**

- 3.1 The Greater Manchester Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure strategy was approved by Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) earlier this month.
- 3.2 The strategy, which complements the region's 2040 Transport Strategy, sets out a vision to make Greater Manchester an exemplar city region so that by 2030 residents, businesses and visitors will be able choose to travel by electric car or van with the confidence that they can conveniently re-charge their vehicles. This in turn will help improve air quality and support the wider goal of Manchester, and the wider region, becoming zero carbon by 2038 at the latest.
- 3.3 Building on this strategy, Manchester will now be able to develop more tailored plans to enhance electric vehicle charging infrastructure in the city and expand the electrification of the council's vehicle fleet. This will include updating planning policy, identifying priority sites to meet local demand for charging infrastructure and positioning the city for both public and private investment opportunities.

Related Our Manchester themes:

#### **4. Carers Manchester Contact Point**

- 4.1 Since Executive last met, the Carers Manchester Contact Point helpline set up to provide support and advice to unpaid carers in the city has marked the anniversary of its establishment.
- 4.2 Contact point, set up in collaboration between Manchester Local Care Organisation adult social care commissioners and local voluntary and community sector organisations, has helped more than 1,000 different carers since it was set up in August 2020 – in the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic.
- 4.3 This included carers being made aware of financial support available – 100 carers received a benefits check or were supported to make a claim while almost 300 were helped to access the council's Carers Emergency Fund, itself set up in response to the pandemic.
- 4.4 Some 545 carers were made aware of local support groups and other community support while others were helped around specific concerns.
- 4.5 Examples of feedback include one carer who said: "This is a fab service. It is good to know that someone will be there for me when I need support the most."
- 4.6 The two-year pilot project is designed to recognise and support the important contribution made by unpaid carers to the life of the city. Note: The Contact Point number, for anyone who needs it, is 0161 543 8000.

Related Our Manchester theme:  
*Progressive and Equitable City*

#### **5. Cutting carbon – and costs – for Manchester people**

- 5.1 Around 300 council-owned homes in Newton Heath and Higher Blackley will receive £15m worth of sustainability improvements to save 750 tonnes of carbon emissions a year – contributing towards the city's target of becoming zero carbon by 2038 at the latest – while cutting running costs for residents.
- 5.2 People living in the homes will benefit from measures such as new heat pump systems, including new radiators to replace existing gas heating systems, triple glazing, extra insulation and the installation of renewable, low energy lighting where needed.
- 5.3 The 28 properties in Higher Blackley, in three maisonette blocks, will see carbon emission reductions of up to 92% - equivalent to 64 tonnes of emissions a year saved.

- 5.4 Since 2005, Northwards Housing have spent £80m on making Manchester City Council-owned homes more energy efficient, reducing carbon emissions from them by 48%.

Related Our Manchester themes:

*Liveable and Zero Carbon City*

*Progressive and Equitable City*

## **6. Homelessness: Next phase**

- 6.1 Over the past few years, Manchester City Council's Homelessness service has responded to exponentially growing need and, more recently, the challenges of the pandemic. These challenges are only likely to grow as the impact of an end to the eviction ban during the pandemic and the removal of the £20 uplift in Universal Credit begin to bite.

The Council has embarked on five key projects designed to shift the balance further from response to prevention, see fewer people in temporary accommodation and achieve better results for those who do end up there. These are:

- 6.2 *Ending the use of B&Bs for families with children*

- 6.3 At any one time there are between 30 and 100 families with children in B&B accommodation. Although typical stays are short, it is recognised that such accommodation is far from ideal for families and the goal is that it is only used in exceptional circumstances. This will require a transformation of policies and procedures to enable people to be placed straight into temporary accommodation.

- 6.4 *Redesigning private rented sector incentive schemes*

- 6.5 Looking again at financial incentives for landlords to provide properties for those at risk of homelessness to ensure the right quality and level of supply. The intention is that wherever possible these properties will be used to prevent homelessness rather than as a 'relief' offer for those already experiencing it. The Council is working with Lambeth Council, which has a similar housing market, and the Centre for Homelessness Impact on pilot schemes to see what works best.

- 6.6 *Reviewing temporary accommodation*

- 6.7 Temporary accommodation is a significant annual cost. The net cost to the council last year was £13m but work currently being carried out by an independent expert will examine how the council can secure better quality and value for money to improve people's experience of living in temporary accommodation. The review will also encompass the city's ambition to become zero carbon by 2038 to help combat climate change and retrofitting properties to make them low carbon and ultimately zero carbon.

6.8 *Rethinking Woodward Court/Women's Direct Access*

6.9 Our two largest temporary accommodation schemes house some of those with the most complex needs. Best practice suggests that the most vulnerable people do best in smaller settings. This project will explore better alternatives – either within our current temporary accommodation assets or by acquiring new suitable properties – where wraparound support will continue to be provided.

6.10 *Redesigning the homelessness service*

6.11 Underpinning these changes will be the transformation of the Council's Homelessness Service. The service has many strengths including a caring and committed team and strong, established working relationships with a wide range of partner organisations which are also working to tackle homelessness in Manchester. The redesign of the service will embed prevention at its heart.

Related themes:

*Progressive and Equitable City*

*Liveable and Low Carbon City*

**7. Piccadilly international design competition**

7.1 Expressions of interest will be sought in the next few weeks for an international design competition to create a world-class space in the area centred around Piccadilly Gardens.

7.2 It follows the issue at the end of July 2021 of a prior information notice to alert urban design and landscape teams of the council's intention to invite ideas for the space, with an estimated construction budget of around £25m.

7.3 The Piccadilly area covers a 10-acre site which also takes in Mosley Street and New York Street, Parker Street, the section of Portland Street which Piccadilly Gardens runs alongside and the section of Piccadilly which runs alongside the Gardens.

7.4 The notice recognises that it is important to the people of Manchester to retain a green space in the centre of the city. It calls for planting to encourage biodiversity and improve air quality in line with the Council's wider environmental goals, while recognising that this may need to be rationalised to provide a flexible space which tens of thousands of people walk through every day.

7.5 It is also essential that the design promotes safety and is well lit with clear sightlines.

7.6 There is an aspiration to relocate existing Parker Street bus services if improved alternatives can be found.

- 7.7 Further consultation will take place with Manchester people once a successful scheme has been identified.

Related Our Manchester themes:

*Thriving and Sustainable City*

*Liveable and Zero Carbon City*

*Connected City*

## **8. 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. Contributing to the Our Manchester Strategy**

- 9.1 The reset 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. 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. Recommendations**

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