

**Manchester City Council
Report for Information**

Report to: Executive – 20 October 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 fourth 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 Emergency Business Support Grant

- 2.1 The Council has launched an Emergency Business Support Grant to help support Manchester's economic recovery and safeguard jobs in the city.
- 2.2 The £1.3m fund, which will use the remainder of the Additional Restrictions Grant (ARG) given by Government to support businesses impacted during the Covid-19 pandemic, will award grants of up to £25k.
- 2.3 Viable Manchester-based businesses with more than five employees on the payroll, which offer good quality and otherwise secure jobs, will be eligible to apply providing they can demonstrate that they have been affected by the pandemic and that their cashflow issues are at a level where the grant will make a tangible difference to their prospects for ongoing success.
- 2.4 The closing date for application is 31 October 2021. Eligible businesses can visit www.manchester.gov.uk/EBSG for details.
- 2.5 This use of the remaining ARG funding was agreed by the Chief Executive and Treasurer under delegated powers.

*Relates to Our Manchester Strategy themes:
Thriving and Sustainable City
Progressive and Equitable City
Highly Skilled City*

3.0 October Half Term Free School Meals provision

- 3.1 Supermarket vouchers worth £15 per eligible child, from nursery through to Year 14, will be funded by the Council over the October half term.
- 3.2 The move is a response to the Government's decision to end the Universal Credit uplift and growing fuel prices and financial pressures on the the most in-need Manchester families. The vouchers, which are being distributed via schools, are for all children who are currently in receipt of free school meals.
- 3.3 The voucher scheme is being funded through government grants.

*Relates to Our Manchester Strategy Themes:
Progressive and Equitable City*

4.0 Tower of Light switch on and Civic Quarter Heat Network

- 4.1 Manchester's new Tower of Light structure has been switched on - marking a milestone in the development of the city's new Civic Quarter Heat Network.
- 4.2 The illuminated 40m tower flue is a striking new landmark in the city centre and the most visible manifestation of the Council-owned network which will provide heating and electricity to some of Manchester city centre's most iconic buildings. The network, which will go live in early 2022, will help reduce each building's carbon emissions and support the city's transition to zero carbon by 2038.
- 4.3 Using low carbon power generated in an energy centre located underneath the railway arches by Manchester Central, the network will serve the Bridgewater Hall, Manchester Central Convention Complex, Central Library, Heron House, Manchester Art Gallery and Manchester Town Hall and Town Hall extension buildings via 2km of underground pipes.
- 4.4 The network will also have the capacity to connect to other buildings in the vicinity - both existing and future, whether public or private-owned – helping them to reduce their carbon footprints too.

*Relates to Our Manchester themes:
Liveable and Zero Carbon City*

5.0 Low carbon homes approved

- 5.1 Planning permission has been granted for the development of 69 low-carbon social homes on Silk Street, Newton Heath.
- 5.2 The underused brownfield site will see 36 one-bedroom apartments, 12 two-bedroom apartments, 17 three-bedroom houses and four four-bedroom houses. 16 of the apartments will be available for people aged over 55.
- 5.3 Electric vehicle charging points will be included as part of the development. The houses will have generous gardens and solar panels, while the apartments will feature living green roofs as part of the project's low carbon commitment. This will also include the use of Ground Source Heat Pumps and mechanical ventilation with heat recovery to keep utility costs down for residents.
- 5.4 The homes, to be constructed by Rowlinson, will be managed by Northwards Housing. Work is expected to begin on site in the New Year.
- 5.5 The development is being part-funded through the Government's Brownfield Land Fund, which will help deliver 522 new homes on disused land across the city over the next five years.
- 5.6 The city is already on track to surpass the affordable homes delivery target, which was to support at least 6,400 affordable homes to be built in the city

between 2015 and 2025. The Council now expects to deliver more than 7,000 affordable homes in this period, more than meeting the 20% affordable target for all housing development in the city.

*Relates to Our Manchester themes:
Liveable and Zero Carbon City
Progressive and Equitable City*

6.0 Green Flag Awards for city open space

- 6.1 Two Manchester parks and four cemeteries have been awarded the prestigious Green Flag Award, the international quality mark for well-managed parks and green spaces.
- 6.2 Heaton Park and Alexandra Park, along with Gorton, Phillips Park, Southern and Blackley Cemeteries, have all been awarded the status which is a recognition of the hard work of both staff and volunteers to maintain and improve the spaces.
- 6.3 Heaton Park has also been awarded the coveted Green Heritage Site accreditation, supported by Historic England, for the management of its historic features.
- 6.4 For more information about the Green Flag scheme, which is overseen by environmental charity Keep Britain Tidy, visit www.greenflagaward.org

*Relates to Our Manchester Strategy themes:
Liveable and Low Carbon City
Thriving and Sustainable City*

7.0 Contributing to a Zero-Carbon City

- 7.1 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.

8.0 Contributing to the Our Manchester Strategy

- 8.1 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.

9.0 Key Policies and Considerations

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

10.0 Recommendations

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