

**Manchester City Council  
Report for Information**

**Report to:** Executive – 17 November 2021

**Subject:** Our Manchester Progress Update

**Report of:** 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

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

<b>Our Manchester Strategy outcomes</b>	<b>Contribution to the strategy</b>
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	
-------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--

**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

---

### **Contact Officers:**

Name: Joanne Roney OBE, Chief Executive  
Position: Chief Executive  
Telephone: 0161 2343006  
E-mail: Joanne.Roney@manchester.gov.uk

Name: Alun Ireland  
Position: Head of Strategic Communications  
Telephone: 0161 2343006  
E-mail: Alun.Ireland@manchester.gov.uk

### **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 fifth 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 Levelling Up Fund award – Culture In The City**

- 2.1 The Culture In The City scheme has been awarded £19.8m in the first round of awards made under the Government's Levelling Up Fund.
- 2.2 The project is focused around two different locations in the city centre's creative district. It will see the Upper and Lower Campfield Market buildings, which are both listed but in need of renovation and refurbishment, brought back into life as an affordable tech hub with more than 1,000 workspaces. The Council will work with development partner Allied London to deliver the repairs and refurbishment works and manage the completed tech hub workspace as part of the Enterprise City district.
- 2.3 Work will commence on the vacant Upper Campfield Market in March 2022 with the Lower Campfield Market building, currently occupied by the Science and Industry Museum, to commence once objects housed there have been decanted to new locations.
- 2.4 Culture In The City will also see investment in three railway arches in Whitworth Street which will be converted to create a creative talent development centre for arts venue HOME, providing affordable co-working areas, a free rehearsal space and creative skills training for young people.

Relates to Our Manchester Strategy themes:

Thriving and Sustainable City  
Highly Skilled City  
Progressive and Equitable City

## **3.0 Albert Square**

- 3.1 Work to transform Albert Square into a world class public space – increasing its size by around 20 per cent – has got underway as part of the Our Town Hall project.
- 3.2 The changes involve the closure of two sides of the square to traffic with the former road space incorporated as part of the pedestrianised public space. Only the Princess Street will remain open to traffic.
- 3.3 The first phase, focused on the area outside the existing square, has been brought forward and will now be completed next year – two years ahead of the original schedule – to minimise the impact on surrounding businesses and ensure they can benefit from its traffic-free environment more quickly, supporting their recovery from the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic. Work to

the remainder of the square will complete in 2024.

- 3.4 Four local apprentices are being employed by Adana Construction, who are the public realm contractors for the Albert Square element of the project, as part of Our Town Hall's commitment to creating a lasting skills legacy.

Relates to Our Manchester Strategy themes:

Thriving and Sustainable City  
Liveable and Zero Carbon City  
Highly Skilled City

#### **4.0 Art Gallery visitor numbers**

- 4.1 Manchester Art Gallery has reported that its visitor numbers are back up to pre-pandemic levels.
- 4.2 Since re-opening in May this year, the gallery has welcomed almost 200,000 visitors despite social distancing measures in place to limit the number of visitors in the building at any one time. Pro-rata, taking into account the galleries reduced opening hours, this figure is equivalent to visitor numbers at the gallery before the first Covid-19 lockdown was imposed in March 2020. More than 3,000 paying customers visited on Saturday 16 October 2021 alone.
- 4.3 The blockbuster Grayson's Art Club exhibition, curated by artist Grayson Perry as a spin-off from the popular TV show of the same name, spearheaded the re-opening and has been a major factor in attracting people back through the gallery's doors.
- 4.4 Forthcoming shows include Derek Jarman PROTEST! Which runs from 2 December to 10 April 2022. This long-awaited exhibition was originally scheduled for March 2020 but had to be rearranged because of the pandemic.

Relates to Our Manchester Strategy themes:

Liveable and Zero Carbon City  
Progressive and Equitable City

#### **5.0 Covid Helpline launched**

- 5.1 A dedicated advice helpline was launched in Manchester last month to help support the ongoing push for vaccinations.
- 5.2 People are able to ring the number, for free, to speak with clinical professionals – nurses and patient advisors - about the Covid-19 vaccine and any concerns they have, or simply to get advice on how to book an appointment.
- 5.3 This helpline isn't limited to just getting the jab, as people can use it to find out

about Covid testing or what to do if they need to self-isolate.

- 5.4 For people whose first language isn't English a translation service is available to ensure that no communities are left without advice.
- 5.5 The Manchester Covid Helpline number is open 7 days a week from 9am to 5pm and people can call for free on 0800 840 3858. More information about support available this winter can be found at [www.manchester.gov.uk/winter](http://www.manchester.gov.uk/winter)

## **6.0 Extra winter provision for homelessness**

- 6.1 Manchester City Council and other members of the Manchester Homelessness Partnership have been working together to ensure the right support is in place to help people sleeping rough off the streets this winter.
- 6.2 Every year during the colder winter months, the council expands its accommodation provision with additional help for people sleeping rough over and above the year-round services that are always available. Extra provision is initiated when the temperature is forecast to drop below freezing and more people are likely to engage with services and come inside.
- 6.3 Learning from the experience during the pandemic, which included the success of bringing people into safe spaces for longer, the Council will be offering Covid-safe accommodation with the focus on individuals accessing extensive support services to help them rebuild their lives until they can be moved on to more permanent accommodation.
- 6.4 This year the Council's extended accommodation offer will run throughout the winter months from early December to 31 March and will include space for 50 individuals with en-suite rooms in a former hotel outside the city centre. These bed spaces will be targeted at people who have been identified by partners and outreach teams as having high priority need, and who have been on the streets for a long time and meet the criteria as set by the Homelessness Partnership. The Booth Centre will run the daytime Referral Hub to give easy access to the accommodation.
- 6.5 In addition to this, there will be 50 bed spaces provided in a hotel close to the city centre. These bed spaces will only be activated during prolonged cold weather, when the temperature is forecast to drop below zero, and will offer secure and Covid-safe spaces with support services in place to help people until they can move into more permanent accommodation.
- 6.6 To enable the city's winter plans to run smoothly, additional support has come through successful partner bids to Homeless Link's Winter Transformation fund. This £85,342 will fund a full-time Cold Weather Support Co-Ordinator working for Barnabus Charity, one of the members of the Homelessness Partnership, who will help coordinate the winter provision. It will also fund a part-time worker at Centrepont, a Mental Health worker, and will fund specialist support from MASH (Manchester Action on Street Health), On the Out, and the Boaz Trust. The Council will also receive funding from central

government through the Rough Sleeper Initiative scheme and the Winter Pressures Fund.

- 6.7 In addition to the enhanced offer in winter the council also has access to 186 - A Bed Every Night - spaces jointly funded by Manchester City Council and Greater Manchester Combined Authority, plus 30 additional spaces in a hotel in Fallowfield which is now an annual council scheme for people sleeping rough. Both schemes have also had funding through the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities Rough Sleeper Initiative.

Relates to Our Manchester Strategy themes:

Progressive and Equitable 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.