

**Manchester City Council
Report for Information**

Report to: Executive – 16 February 2022

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

Recommendation

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 eighth 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 UNICEF Child Friendly City programme

2.1 Manchester City Council has been accepted onto UNICEF's Child Friendly Cities and Communities programme.

2.2 It is the first step on a journey which is set to culminate in two or three years time with the official award of Child Friendly status. To achieve this we must demonstrate that Manchester is a city where the local council and its partners are committed to advancing children's rights and have worked with UNICEF UK to put them into practice: A place that has demonstrated how more children feel safe, heard, cared for and able to flourish as a result.

2.3 The goal is that Child Friendly status will reflect the permanent legacy of the Council's Our Year campaign which aims to create an array of activities, opportunities and experiences for the city's children and young people and help make Manchester one of the best places for young people to grow up in.

2.4 The Council is determined to place children and young people at the heart of decision-making, as we recognise the direct correlation between positive outcomes for children and young people and the extent to which their views and experiences are understood and taken into account.

2.5 The Child Friendly Cities programme director confirmed that the Council's application set out a strong strategic commitment to the vision and how it will support Manchester's ambitions for – and with – its children and young people.

2.6 The official programme start date will be confirmed in due course.

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

3.0 Climate Change Action Plan

3.1 Manchester City Council's climate change plan has been rated one of the strongest of any local authority by campaigning organisation Climate Emergency UK.

3.2 Their analysis put the Council's Climate Change Action Plan third best out of 409 UK local authorities – the highest placed metropolitan council – with a score of 87%. The average score across all local authorities was 46%.

3.3 Plans were scored against nine categories including the council's commitment to tackling climate change integrating measures into its policies, how well plans would mitigate against the impact of climate change locally and how well plans were funded and overseen.

3.4 Councils' climate change plans were assessed by a team of volunteers trained by Climate Emergency UK. Only West Somerset and Taunton Council (91%) and West Midlands Combined Authority (89%) scored higher than Manchester City Council.

3.5 Manchester City Council's Climate Change Action Plan 2020-25 sits within a wider framework for the city. Both aim for significant reduction in damaging carbon emissions, with the ultimate target of Manchester becoming zero carbon by 2038 – 12 years ahead of the national target of 2050.

3.6 Actions being undertaken include decarbonising public buildings through the use of solar energy and ground and air-source heat pumps, mass tree planting and the creation of new green spaces such as Mayfield Park, increasing use of electric vehicles including electric bin lorries, improved walking and cycling infrastructure, developing new approaches to community engagement and the creation of new low carbon social homes.

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

4.0 Special Education Needs services

4.1 Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission have praised services for children with Special Educational Needs (SEND) in Manchester.

4.2 Inspectors conducted a rigorous five-day inspection in November 2021 during which they spoke with children and young people with special educational needs, their parents and carers and with council and health staff, as well as visiting a range of providers the city.

4.3 The clear vision of local leaders for improving the outcomes of children and young people with SEND was praised by inspectors who said their vision is communicated to stakeholders with passion and ambition. Inspectors noted the progress and pace of change in improving the quality of provision for children and families in Manchester since the 2014 Children and Families Act SEND reforms came in, and said leaders know what is working well in the city and what the priorities are for further action.

4.4 Another key strength identified by inspectors included the strong working relationship with parents and carers through the Parent Carer Forum which works in partnership with city leaders on the key strategic and operational SEND boards. Inspectors found the forum both challenges and supports area leaders, acting as a critical friend to ensure leaders' plans incorporate the views, wishes, and feelings of parents and carers across the city.

4.5 Inspectors also highlighted the culture of co-production and collaborative working in Manchester and the strength of multi-agency working between professionals who inspectors said worked well with parents, children, and young people.

4.6 Putting the views of children and young people at the heart of decision-making

through the 'changemakers' - a large group of volunteer children and young people with SEND in the city who work closely with area leaders to help shape future projects and to challenge existing services, was also noted by inspectors as a positive.

4.7 Despite the pandemic, inspectors found that leaders have continued to make improvements. No serious weaknesses were identified by inspectors who noted the capacity of city leaders to make any changes necessary in the few areas identified for further improvement - all of which had already been identified by leaders themselves and have robust improvement plans in place.

4.8 The findings can be read in full at: <https://files.ofsted.gov.uk/v1/file/50176624>

*Relates to Our Manchester themes:
Progressive and Equitable City*

5.0 This City

5.1 This City, a wholly Manchester City Council-owned housing development company crated to accelerate the number of new homes available to Manchester people, has been officially launched.

5.2 Schemes developed by This City will focus on high quality, low carbon homes and delive a mix of accessible rent and market properties – with the latter helping to subsidise the development of homes priced at or below the Local Housing Allowance rate. This means they will be accessible to people in receipt of housing benefit.

5.3 The first development site has been unveiled as Rodney Street in Ancoats. It will consist of 128 apartments and town houses – 30% of which will be for accessible rent. Wates Construction has been appointed as lead contractor. All future This City developments will include a minimum of 20% of homes available at an accessible rent.

5.4 This City is a new concept that will allow the Council to take control of part of the affordable housing delivery pipeline for the city and has the ambition to scale up to deliver up to 500 new homes each year – thereby increasing the number of accessible rent homes available to Manchester people.

5.5 The Rodney Street site forms part of a coordinated phase of development by the City Council, Manchester Life Development Company and Great Places across four underused sites in the Poland Street area of Ancoats and two sites in New Islington to deliver over 400 new homes to meet a range of housing needs in support of Manchester's housing requirements, and space for more local businesses and the community.

5.6 A consultation about the Rodney Street scheme is open until 27 February at www.manchester.gov.uk/consultations

5.7 Planning applications are expected to be brought forward this summer.

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

6.0 Dahlia House

6.1 A new 'with care' social housing development for older people has been completed in Burnage and is preparing to accept new tenants.

6.2 The £8m development, which has transformed a brownfield former industrial laundry site into 56 age-friendly apartments for social rent for people over 55, has been delivered as part of Southway Housing Trust's partnership with Manchester City Council to provide much-needed social housing 'with care' in the city.

6.3 Occupants will also have access to a flexible range of on-site care packages and support, depending on their current and future needs.

6.4 The environmentally friendly scheme will also provide affordable heating and hot water for tenants from a ground source heating system.

6.5 The first tenants are due to start moving in later this month.

6.6 The scheme, in Burnage Lane, has 34 one-bedroom homes and 22 two-bedroom apartments. There is also a community café for both residents and the general public, communal lounge, scooter room, landscaped gardens and assisted bathroom, as well as offices and a meeting space.

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

7.0 Silk Street

7.1 Work has started to build 69 new low carbon social homes in Silk Street, Newton Heath.

7.2 The project is bringing back into use a brownfield site to build 36 one-bedroom apartments, 12 two-bedroom apartments, 17 three-bedroom houses and four three-bedroom houses. Sixteen of the apartments will be available to people aged over 55.

7.3 Apartments will be built to HAPPI design principles, with a larger internal space which can easily accommodate someone using a wheelchair as standard.

7.4 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.

7.5 Electric vehicle charging points will be included as part of the development.

7.6 Once complete, the homes will be managed by Northwards Housing.

Relates to Our Manchester Strategy themes:

Progressive and Equitable City

Thriving and Sustainable City

Liveable and Low Carbon City

8.0 Manchester Day

8.1 The return of Manchester Day, the free day-long celebration of the city, has been announced for this summer after a two-year absence due to Covid-19 impacts.

8.2 The event, including the Manchester Day Parade, will take place on Sunday 19 June 2022 for the first time since 2019. This year, in keeping with the city's wider Our Year campaign, the focus will be firmly on Manchester's children and young people with an afternoon of family entertainment, food and drink promised. More details will be announced in the coming weeks.

8.3 The huge task of creating all the amazing artworks, costumes, and props for what promises to be a spectacular return to the streets for the Manchester Day Parade begins now, and will once again be overseen by award-winning arts organisation, Walk the Plank.

8.4 Hundreds of participants and volunteers from local communities will spend the next few months working with local artists to help bring Manchester Day to life.

8.5 Manchester Day strives to limit its carbon footprint and impact on the planet. Sustainability is key to the event which aims to be as green as it can be, recycling materials as much as possible, limiting waste and training participating teams in carbon literacy. Fossil-fuelled vehicles are banned from the parade which instead harnesses people power and embraces structures that can be pushed, pulled, wheeled, or walked.

Relates to Our Manchester Strategy themes:

Thriving and Sustainable City

Progressive and Equitable City

Liveable and Zero Carbon City

9.0 Covid-19 Vaccination milestone

9.1 Manchester reached the milestone last month of more than a million Covid-19 vaccinations having been administered.

9.2 Primary care, pharmacy and hospital trust teams as well as thousands of volunteers have worked together in a remarkable effort to achieve the total.

9.3 Additional work is also still being carried out so that the multi-cultural population of Manchester is not missed out of the vaccination programme.

9.4 Work in our communities has continued to ensure that people living in

Manchester have the information at their disposal to make an informed choice about getting the vaccination, as well as additional resources being put into place to make sure people from all walks of life have fair and equal access to the vaccine.

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

10.0 Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport

10.1 The Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) has announced the creation of a new hub in Manchester.

10.2 Its new office at Bloc in Marble Street in the city centre will accommodate up to 400 staff, making it the largest DCMS hub outside London.

10.3 The move will also bring DCMS closer to arms lengths bodies doing related work. The head office for Building Digital UK (BDUK) will be the new DCMS Manchester HQ and is the driving force behind the £5 billion broadband rollout to rural areas across the UK.

10.4 Manchester is also already home to a number of national sports governing bodies and DCMS' new Manchester presence will further cement the city's role as a sporting capital.

10.5 DCMS cited Manchester's location at the heart of a large and diverse talent pool as a significant factor in its decision.

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

11.0 Contributing to a Zero-Carbon City

11.1 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.

12.0 Contributing to the Our Manchester Strategy

12.1 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.

13.0 Key Policies and Considerations

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

14.0 Recommendations

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