

## Executive

### Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday, 16 February 2022

**Present:** Councillor Craig (Chair)

**Councillors:** Akbar, Bridges, Midgley, Rahman, Rawlins, White, Butt, M Sharif Mahamed, Ilyas and Taylor

**Also present as Members of the Standing Consultative Panel:**

**Councillors:** Akbar, Bridges, Midgley, Rahman, Rawlins, White, Butt, M Sharif Mahamed, Ilyas and Taylor

**Apologies:** Councillor Karney

**Exe/22/12 Minutes**

#### Decision

The Executive approved as a correct record the minutes of the meeting on 19 January 2022.

#### **Exe/22/27 Rogue Studios – lease of former Varna Street school**

The Executive considered a report of the Strategic Director (Growth and Development), which sought approval to the lease of the former Varna Street school in Higher Openshaw for a term of 125 years to Rogue Artists' Studios CIC ("Rogue Studios") at less than the best consideration that could reasonably be obtained.

The grant of a long lease of the former Varna Street Primary School to Rogue Studios would void ongoing maintenance and holding costs on the premises that the Council would initially have to fund if the building was vacated by Rogue Studios and in the event of no immediate disposal of the property otherwise. In addition it offered an opportunity for major capital investment in the premises from outside sources. Without a long term occupier, committed to the maintenance and restoration of the property, it was likely that the Council would become liable for major capital repairs on the listed property in the future in the event the property was not disposed of either to Rogue Studios or on the open market.

#### Decisions

The Executive:-

- (1) Approve the lease of the former Varna Street school in Higher Openshaw for a term of 125 years to Rogue Artists' Studios CIC ("Rogue Studios") at less than the best consideration that could reasonably be obtained.
- (2) Authorise the Head of Development and the Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer to finalise the terms of the transactions as set out in the report.

- (3) Authorise the City Solicitor to enter into and complete all documents and agreements necessary to give effect to the recommendations.

### **Exe/22/28 Manchester's Corporate Peer Review**

The Executive received the feedback report from the LGA Corporate Peer Challenge of the Council, which took place between 30 November and 3 December 2021.

During their time with the Council, the team of independent reviewers – consisting of experienced local Government figures from around the country – spoke to over 300 people, including councillors, staff and partners.

In their initial feedback, the independent reviewer recognised Manchester to be a 'first-class council', where the workforce were passionate about improving outcomes for Manchester people and rightly proud to work for Manchester City Council.

In their final report, reviewers called Manchester a 'city of firsts' and highlighted the strength and depth of our partnerships, including health and social care. They also celebrated the improvements the Council had made in Children's Services, the strength of our neighbourhood working and financial leadership.

The next steps would be the production of a clear action plan which would address the key recommendations made by the Peer Review.

### **Decision**

The Executive note and welcome the findings from the Corporate Peer Challenge.