

**Manchester City Council  
Report for Information**

**Report to:** Executive – 29 June 2022

**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**

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<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	
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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*

## **1.0 Introduction**

- 1.1 This is the latest 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 Manchester Living Rent**

- 2.1 The new Manchester Living Rent was launched earlier this month as a way to increase the homes that all Manchester people can afford.
- 2.2 The Manchester Living Rent (MLR) is a rent level that people on housing benefit can access, meaning new housing – regardless of where it is built – will be affordable to anyone in the city.
- 2.3 Manchester is a growing city and the population is increasing and diversifying quickly. This means more houses of all types need to be built in every part of Manchester. However, to ensure that everyone in the city can thrive there needs to be a specific focus on improving access to homes that everyone can afford.
- 2.4 The Manchester Living Rent will be set at or below the level of Local Housing Allowance (LHA), the amount set by the Government to cover a person's rent if they are on housing benefit. The Manchester Living Rent is also cheaper to residents than the standard Government definition of Affordable Housing – or 80% of market value for a particular area.
- 2.5 The Council's home building company, This City has already made a commitment that at least 20% of all the homes built by the company will be set at the Manchester Living Rent. And most Registered Providers and Housing Associations already cap their affordable homes at the Manchester Living Rent to ensure people on housing benefit can access their properties.
- 2.6 However, the ambition is that all Registered Providers and Housing Associations sign up to the Manchester Living Rent movement, as well as developers making a commitment to the Manchester Living Rent to improve access to affordable housing for Manchester residents. Find out more at [www.manchester.gov.uk/livingrent](http://www.manchester.gov.uk/livingrent)

*Relates to Our Manchester Strategy themes:*

- *Progressive and Equitable City*
- *Thriving and Sustainable City*

## **3.0 Global Liveability Index**

- 3.1 Manchester has made a strong showing in an annual report rating the liveability of 172 prominent world cities, once again coming out as the highest ranked UK city.
- 3.2 The city is one of the biggest climbers in this year's Global Liveability Index

report produced by The Economist magazine's Intelligence Unit, rising 26 places to 28th position. Manchester's position had dropped during the pandemic, due to national Covid restrictions and other impacts, but is now above pre-pandemic levels and has broken into the Top 30.

- 3.3 Assessed based on stability, healthcare, culture and environment, education and infrastructure, Manchester continues to place above London (which is in 33rd.) It also ranks above Barcelona (35th), Los Angeles (37th), Auckland (34th), Madrid and Adelaide (30th.)

*Relates to Our Manchester Strategy themes:*

- *Liveable and Low Carbon City*
- *Thriving and Sustainable City*
- *Connected City*
- *Progressive and Equitable City*

#### **4.0 Manchester Town Hall story**

- 4.1 Plans for a new attraction in Manchester Town Hall telling the story of the iconic building and showcasing some of its civic treasures have taken a big step forward with the appointment of leading exhibition designers Mather & Co.
- 4.2 The new visitor experience will welcome people into the Grade I-listed building when it reopens in 2024, following the completion of the Our Town Hall project to repair and restore the Grade I-listed building while sympathetically upgrading it to modern safety and access standards.
- 4.3 Part of the project involves ensuring that the Town Hall's story, including tales of the people who have played a part in its long history and the treasure trove of objects they have left behind, is told in an immersive and interactive way.
- 4.4 The 328 sq m ground floor exhibition space, accessed via the main Albert Square entrance, will have no admission charge. There will also be a chance to explore some of the town hall's hidden spaces which have rarely if ever been open to the public, such as the Victorian police cells, courtyard area and clock tower, on guided tours.

The new exhibition will complement the city centre's existing vibrant cultural offer.

*Relates to Our Manchester Strategy themes:*

- *Thriving and sustainable city*
- *Progressive and equitable city*

#### **5.0 Selective Licensing**

- 5.1 More selective licensing schemes are being brought forward as analysis of the Crumpsall scheme, which has now come to an end following a five-year designation, has demonstrated its positive impact on improving private rental

standards.

- 5.2 There are currently seven live Selective Licensing areas in Manchester and a further eight areas have been proposed to help improve standards in the city's private rented sector.
- 5.3 Selective Licensing allows Councils to introduce compulsory licences for all private rented properties in areas which are experiencing one or more of the following - significant and persistent problem caused by antisocial behaviour, poor property conditions, high levels of migration, high levels of deprivation, high levels of crime, low housing demand – or are likely to become such an area.
- 5.4 Councils are able to issue civil penalties of up to £30,000 or prosecute a landlord (with an unlimited fine) if they are not complying with the conditions of the licensing scheme. In extreme cases, Councils can also prevent the use of a property or assume control of it.
- 5.5 In Crumpsall, 18% of properties inspected were found to have serious hazards and officers agreed appropriate timescales with landlords to complete the necessary improvement works.
- 5.6 Through the licensing process, 31 non-compliant properties were found, including serious issues around fire safety, damp and mould, and excessive cold. Some 20 Improvement Notices were served on landlords ordering them to address property standards, while two prohibition notices and two suspended prohibition notices were served that prevent a dangerous property from being used until standards are improved.
- 5.7 Eight enforcement notices were issued to landlords ordering them to address issues around statutory nuisance. This relates to an activity which is either causing a nuisance or posing a health risk and unreasonably causes substantial interference in the use and enjoyment of a person's property.
- 5.8 Through the period of licensing in Crumpsall, six Civil Penalty Notices were issued to landlords relating to housing offences enforced during the scheme, including failure to comply with the conditions of the licensing scheme. This amounted to a total of £36,050 in fines, which will be used to support further work to improve the city's Private Rented Sector.
- 5.9 Eight future schemes of Selective Licensing already have executive approval based on analytical work of the local areas, which confirmed they meet the criteria for licensing. They are:
  - Moss Side: Claremont Road / Great Western St – 346 Private Rented Sector (PRS) properties
  - Levenshulme: Matthews Lane – 264 PRS properties
  - Longsight: The Royals – 138 PRS properties
  - Cheetham - Esmond/Avondale – 162 PRS properties
  - Cheetham: Heywood St/Cheetham Hill Rd – 631 PRS properties

- Rusholme: Birch Lane – 129 PRS properties
- Rusholme: Laindon/Dickenson – 83 PRS properties
- Cheetham: Flats Over Shops: Cheetham Hill Rd – 131 PRS properties

5.10 These schemes are subject to consultation with local residents, businesses and landlords. If agreed, these designations could come into effect in spring 2023.

*Relates to Our Manchester strategy themes:*

- *Progressive and Equitable City*
- *Thriving and Sustainable City*

## **6.0 Manchester Day**

6.1 Thousands of people attended the 11<sup>th</sup> Manchester Day parade, which took place on Sunday 19 June after a two-year absence because of the Covid-19 pandemic – including 1,300 participants from across the city.

6.2 Those taking part included 896 dancers, 298 musicians and 50 different community groups, in the parade created by outdoor arts company Walk The Plank working with Manchester City Council and creative director Dan Potra.

6.3 In keeping with the Our Year campaign to promote opportunities for those growing up in our city, young people played a key role in the day which included programming the day's activities in Piccadilly Gardens which ranged from street dance and rapping to sports sessions and a photo-friendly Instagram Wall.

6.4 This year's parade was the most sustainable yet. Single use plastics were banned in its food and drink hubs and reusable cups employed at all bars and eateries which were part of the event. Parade floats continue to be pushed, pulled or pedalled rather than requiring less green power while the event's other power requirements are met from sustainable sources. Artwork created for the parade is either repurposed or recycled for use in future parades.

6.5 Events such as Manchester Day help attract visitors to the city and support its businesses as they continue to recover from the impacts of the pandemic.

*Relates to Our Manchester Strategy themes:*

- *Thriving and Sustainable City*
- *Progressive and Equitable City*
- *Liveable and Low Carbon City*

## **7.0 Platinum Picks**

7.1 Keep Manchester Tidy – a partnership between Manchester City Council and Keep Britain Tidy – is delivering 70 community clean-ups across the city to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

7.2 Schools, community groups and local businesses are among those

participating. Young people are heavily involved – in keeping with the spirit of the Our Year campaign as well as taking part they have had their say in which areas were cleaned up, and there has been a particular focus on parks and play areas to ensure they have a clean place to socialise.

- 7.3 A launch event at Queen’s Park in Harpurhey at the end of May attracted around 100 participants.

*Relates to Our Manchester Strategy themes:*

- *Liveable and Low Carbon City*
- *Progressive and Equitable City*

## **8.0 HS2 Crewe-Manchester Bill**

- 8.1 The HS2 Crewe-Manchester Hybrid Bill, paving the way for the arrival of HS2 in Manchester, received its Second Reading in the House of Commons on Monday 20 June.
- 8.2 Done right HS2 has huge potential to act as a stimulus for jobs and investment, with Manchester as its northern hub, as well as providing much-needed extra rail capacity.
- 8.3 The Council has concerns about the plans as they currently stand, including the proposed new six-platform overground station next to the existing Manchester Piccadilly Station to accommodate HS2 and improved northern links (Northern Powerhouse Rail.)
- 8.4 An overground station and its associated infrastructure would swallow much more development land, which could have been used to create jobs, green space and other opportunities. Estimates from independent advisers put the amount of extra land which will be lost, relative to having an underground station, at almost half a million sq m of prime land which could have supported around 14,000 jobs.
- 8.5 There would also be greater disruption to existing jobs and businesses within the larger construction zone required by an overground station.
- 8.6 The unsightly overground infrastructure, such as the concrete viaducts required to take Northern Powerhouse Rail lines from Ardwick to a new overground station, would blight parts of the city and sever connections.
- 8.7 Analysis suggests that by 2050 the economic benefits to the city and wider region of the underground option would be £333m per annum greater than those delivered by the overground plan.
- 8.8 Modelling commissioned by the Council and TfGM (the Bechtel report) has also shown that a new station would immediately be at full capacity – compromising its reliability and resilience and preventing future growth in passenger numbers. Not only would it not be future-proof, it would be struggling from day one.

- 8.9 An underground station, by contrast, would address all of these issues and have much greater future flexibility.
- 8.10. The Council intends to submit a petition objecting to elements of the Bill and calling for changes, which will then have to be considered by a Select Committee.

*Relates to Our Manchester Strategy themes:*

- *Connected City*
- *Thriving and Sustainable City*
- *Liveable and Low Carbon City*

## **9.0 Clean Air Plan Review**

- 9.1 Work has been progressing on the Greater Manchester Clean Air Plan (CAP) review. GM Leaders are continuing to call for a non-charging, investment-led clean air plan. Manchester City Council and other GM local authorities are committed to cleaning up the air our residents breathe in the shortest possible time, and in a way that does not put jobs, livelihoods and businesses at risk, particularly considering people already suffering with the current cost of living crisis.
- 9.2 Transport for Greater Manchester, on behalf of the 10 GM local authorities, is preparing a response to Government setting out the case for a new GM Clean Air Plan. This is to be submitted to Government by 1 July, in line with the legal direction to GM authorities. A draft of the CAP review response will be considered by the joint GM Air Quality Administration Committee, in line with that committee's remit. Due to the timeframes for completion of the review, local authority committees will consider the plan after 1 July, following further policy development and as part of wider participation and engagement for a new clean air plan. The plan will not become a final submission until all local authorities involved have had a chance to do this. The plan will go to the Environment and Scrutiny Committee in July which will ensure input before it is finalised.

*Relates to Our Manchester Strategy themes:*

- *Liveable and Low Carbon City*
- *Connected City*

## **10.0 Contributing to a Zero-Carbon City**

- 10.1 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.

## **11.0 Contributing to the Our Manchester Strategy**

- 11.1 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.

## **12.0 Key Policies and Considerations**

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

## **13.0 Recommendations**

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