

## Manchester City Council Report for Information

**Report to:** Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee - 20 July 2022

**Subject:** Our Year 2022

**Report of:** Strategic Director (Children and Education Services)

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### Summary

The presentation and video provided give an overview of the activities and work against the 6 themes and outlines next steps.

- **'Safe and Secure'** -Young people told us that they need and want to feel safe in their communities
- **'Our Future'**- access to education and opportunities for environmental sustainability. A cleaner, greener city was cited amongst many responses.
- **'Feeling Connected'** – The need to feel connected to family and friends and also access to affordable and accessible transport across the city
- **'Health and Well-being'** – Young people need and want access to activities and services that promote good mental and physical health
- **'Equal and included'** – The need for activities and services to be inclusive and accessible to all
- **'Play and having fun stuff to do'**- it was recognised the importance of having safe, local and clean spaces for children and young people to play with their friends

### The Journey so far

Following our public call to action at the beginning of the year, we have seen a movement and culture shift to the way that individuals, directorates, services and partners have put young people at the heart of the year. From one-off bespoke events, campaigns, activities, city-centre large-scale events to localised neighbourhood offers. Notable events include, but are not limited to the 'Green Bee assembly' and Climate Summit designed by young people, a safeguarding conference co-designed and led by young people, babies week, Manchester Day Youth Festival, Career talks, free music sessions, prominence in parade's, a community iftar and a range community neighbourhoods events. There have also been a number of Our Year competitions, including library card design, Christmas illuminations design, poetry and art competitions.

### Quotes from young people

*"This has been the best year so far, that I can remember" Aged 8 at Chorlton Our Year family festival in May*

*"Today has made me feel better about the future" Young person – Piccadilly gardens*

*“This year we are going to change the way you adults think and behave” Beaver Rd pupil at the Our Year Beaver Road festival*

*“Did you know that this year belongs to us?” Young person to MCC officer at an event*

## **Business engagement/ pledges**

A number of local businesses have provided financial support, donations of equipment, competition prizes, space and time. Most notably Electra confirmed a financial contribution to expand the eco-schools award and other climate related projects. Impower have also committed a financial contribution towards our year activities. Cushman and Wakefield have donated over £60k of IT equipment which has been provided to young people at risk of digital exclusion. Other local businesses have changed the way they engage with young people and have invited young people in for career days and also offered bespoke packages to schools, around building resilience, enterprise and introducing young people to the world of work.

## **Directorate approach**

Each directorate has been asked to provide an Our Year pledge which outlines their commitments in addition to business as usual or where they have been able to amplify services/offers to make 2022 a better year.

## **Things still to come**

The slide pack and video highlights a number of key events, activities and opportunities that are still to come. On National Play Day (3<sup>rd</sup> August) the city will come together to celebrate children’s right to play (Article 31). There will be celebrations on International youth day, a full summer transition career programme, a programme of holiday activities and a month long activation of festivals at a local level in the lead up to the start of the UNICEF UK child friendly city programme.

## **Objectives:**

- To continue to celebrate and further support children and young people throughout 2022.
- To make a seamless transition to 2023 as we start the journey to become a UNICEF UK Child-Friendly City.
- To embed children’s rights across all we do in Manchester and make the city a truly ‘Rights’ respecting city.

## **Recommendations**

1. Promote initiatives/programmes within areas of responsibility that create activities, opportunities and celebrate the success of Manchester’s children and young people.
2. Endorse and support National Play Day on the 3<sup>rd</sup> August. An opportunity to raise the profile of play across the city, and celebrate children’s right to play. (Article 31, UN Convention of the Rights of the child)

3. Incorporate children's rights into decision-making, so that the people who make decisions are listening to Manchester's children.
  4. Support the transition to the UNICEF UK Child friendly city programme in November.
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**Wards Affected:** All

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

Manchester Strategy outcomes	Summary of how this report aligns to the OMS
A thriving and sustainable city: supporting a diverse and distinctive economy that creates jobs and opportunities	Our Year will provide young people with access to opportunities, skill development which will help them prepare for adulthood. Young people will have opportunities to access a range of universal and targeted provision, including a full summer transition programme, which will contribute to their personal, social and economic wellbeing
A highly skilled city: world class and home grown talent sustaining the city's economic success	Young people will have opportunities to succeed in education, employment and training to raise aspirations, achieve and gain economic independence. Young people will have access to Skills For Life through an enhanced offer that helps them develop the capabilities they need for learning, work and transitioning into adulthood.
A progressive and equitable city: making a positive contribution by unlocking the potential of our communities	Young people will have opportunities that enable them to think progressively and build resilience underpinned by the principles of equality, diversity and inclusion
A liveable and low carbon city: a destination of choice to live, visit, work	As part of Our Year there will be a focus on environmental sustainability. ie climate summit, green bee festival, re-launch of the youth climate wheel, more recycling, environmental projects and initiatives. Young people will be part of the solution. Young people will be supported to understand the impact they can make within their neighbourhoods and the wider community through participation in youth, sport and cultural activities.
A connected city: world class infrastructure and connectivity to drive growth	Young people will be listened to, valued and connected across their neighbourhoods and the city. As part of Our Year we will celebrate young people's achievements and successes across the city.

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**Background documents (available for public inspection):**

None