

**Manchester City Council
Report for Information**

Report to: Executive – 14 September 2022
Subject: Our Manchester Progress Update
Report of: The 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

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

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion - the impact of the issues addressed in this report in meeting our Public Sector Equality Duty and broader equality commitments

Our Manchester Strategy outcomes	Summary of how this report aligns to the OMS/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	

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 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 This City: First development approved

- 2.1 The first project by the Council's This City housing company has been given planning approval to be built at Rodney Street in Ancoats.
- 2.2 Almost a third of the 128 homes – 30% - will be made available at the Manchester Living Rent, which is capped at the Government's Local Housing Allowance rate and therefore affordable to residents on housing benefit, increasing the number of homes available to people on lower incomes in the city centre.
- 2.3 This City is a housing development company wholly owned by the Council. The ambition is to build high quality, low carbon new homes to help deliver the housing Manchester people need, subsidising the creation of the affordable properties through the market rent properties.
- 2.4 All the homes in the Rodney Street development will be energy-efficient and have strong environmental credentials.
- 2.5 The development brings back into use a brownfield site bounded by Rodney Street, Jersey Street, Wadeford Close and Butler Street is a highly sustainable location close to the city centre enabling residents to walk, cycle and use public transport to access local services and employment.
- 2.6 A greening scheme and a significant number of new trees will be planted as part of the place making public realm works, which will complement a wider public realm strategy that looks to make Ancoats a low-carbon, sustainable neighbourhood with a focus on active travel, walking and cycling routes.
- 2.7 £32m has been approved to invest in the wider public realm, which will make Ancoats Green (adjacent to the Rodney Street development) the green heart of this community.

Relates to Our Manchester Strategy themes:

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

3.0 Wythenshawe town centre

- 3.1 A £20m bid for Levelling Up funding to jump start the transformation of Wythenshawe town centre has been submitted to the government by the Council.
- 3.2 It would enable the creation of a culture hub, food hall, new civic square and improved public realm and employment space – as well as helping to fund the decarbonisation of some town centre buildings.
- 3.3 The bid takes priority elements of a long-term vision which the Council is currently developing to ensure Wythenshawe town centre is fit for the future; complementing existing retail uses to create a multi-functional and sustainable place to live, work and go out.
- 3.4 If successful it would represent a leap forward for the regeneration of the town centre and help support the creation of hundreds of jobs – and thousands of new homes, including affordable homes, on nearby Council-owned brownfield land.
- 3.5 The main elements of the Levelling Up Fund bid are:
- **Culture hub:** Artist studios, performance space and a community cinema in the former Co-op department store
 - **Food Hall:** A large, flexible events space championing local produce by day and leading a new night-time economy through a food, drink, live music and street food offering by night.
 - **Employment spaces:** New flexible employment accommodation ranging from co-working spaces through to a new enterprise centre with a focus on local start-up and small and medium-sized businesses and larger floorplate managed office space.
 - **New civic square and public realm:** A large new focal point representing the new heart of the town centre and capable of hosting community events. Improved accessibility and the creation of small naturally- planted ‘sponge parks’ designed to increase biodiversity and help adapt to the impacts of climate change while reducing the risk of flooding.
 - **Decarbonisation:** Sustainable retrofit of existing building to improve energy performance and reduce carbon emissions plus the installation of solar PV cells on rooftop spaces.
- 3.6 The Council recently announced an agreement to buy the existing 1970s shopping centre and multi-storey car park from previous owners St Modwen in order to support the regeneration of the area.
- 3.7 Wythenshawe, a ‘garden city’ with plentiful green spaces has a proud community, a strong property market and is well-placed to benefit from its incredibly well-connected location, served by Metrolink and close to the motorway, airport and

the planned nearby HS2 airport station. The town centre regeneration will complement both the redevelopment of Wythenshawe Hospital Campus - set to generate thousands of jobs and spearhead Manchester's growing biomedical science sector - and Manchester Airport's current investment programme.

- 3.8 Progress in the town centre is already evident with a new Lidl supermarket proposed for the former Gala Bingo site and the launch of the new monthly Grub street food market.

Relates to Our Manchester Strategy themes:

- Thriving and Sustainable City
- Progressive and Equitable City
- Liveable and Low Carbon City
- Highly Skilled City
- Connected City

4.0 Brooks Bar junction improvements

- 4.1 Work has begun on a new CYCLOPS (Cycle Optimised Protected Signal) junction designed to improve safety and access for cyclists and pedestrians.
- 4.2 Improvements at the busy Brooks Bar junction in South Manchester are part of an ongoing commitment to improve walking and cycling provision, supporting active travel, across the city.
- 4.3 The new junction, where Chorlton Road, Moss Lane West, Withington Road, Upper Chorlton Road and Shrewsbury Street intersect, will allow pedestrians, cyclists and vehicles to make their movements whilst remaining entirely segregated.
- 4.4 As part of the design changes will also be made to road access to make sure that traffic can flow smoothly through the junction and to minimise any future congestion. Shrewsbury Street at Upper Chorlton Road will be closed, and a ban on turning left will be implemented at Chorlton Road into Moss Lane West.
- 4.5 This latest CYCLOPS junction will join several others that have been successfully installed as part of the Manchester to Chorlton Cycleway.
- 4.6 Work is expected to continue until spring 2023. Visit www.manchester.gov.uk/improvements for more information on the project.

Relates to Our Manchester Strategy themes:

- Connected City
- Liveable and Low Carbon City

5.0 Wythenshawe Hall

- 5.1 Wythenshawe Hall has this month reopened to the public for the first time since a devastating arson attack in 2016 forced its closure.
- 5.2 The Council has carried out a £6.7m repair and restoration programme to bring the Grade II-listed treasure, which dates back to the 16th Century, back to its former glory and ensure Manchester people can enjoy it once again. Works have also taken place to protect it for future generations by enhancing security.
- 5.3 The extensive restoration work, carried out with partners Conlon Construction, has been recognised nationally with the project winning a Civic Trust Architects Accredited in Building Award for historic building conversation.
- 5.4 The completion of the repair works complements Manchester City Council's wider ambition to improve the facilities within Wythenshawe Park, where the Hall is located. In recent months there has been investment into a Cycle Hub in the park and other sporting facilities.
- 5.5 For more information on tours conducted by the Friends of Wythenshawe Park please visit: https://wythenshawehall.com/www_main/index.html

Relates to Our Manchester Strategy themes:

- Thriving and Sustainable City
- Liveable and Low Carbon City

6.0 Our Manchester Voluntary and Community Sector grants

- 6.1 The latest round of the Our Manchester Voluntary and Community Sector (OMVCS) grants programme has been launched.
- 6.2 The OMVCS is the Council's largest grant programme for voluntary and community sector organisations.
- 6.3 The refreshed grant programme, which has been co-designed following extensive engagement, is for grants covering a three-year period from April 2023.
- 6.4 It aims to support VCS organisations with a track record of delivering services to Manchester people, with a focus on some of the city's key priorities such as inclusion, health, tackling poverty and addressing climate change.
- 6.5 Applicants must deliver activities which fit in with the Our Manchester strategy themes.

Relates to Our Manchester Strategy themes:

- Progressive and Equitable City
- Thriving and Sustainable City
- Liveable and Low Carbon City
- Highly Skilled City
- Connected City

7.0 National Play Day

- 7.1 As part of the Our Year campaign, a Play festival was hosted last month on National Play Day to celebrate children's right to play.
- 7.2 The event, held in partnership between Manchester City Council, the Manchester Play Network and Play England, attracted more than 3,000 attendees. It featured free activities - ranging from messy play and sensory activities for toddlers and younger children to a climbing wall and DJ and circus workshops - for children of all ages, abilities and backgrounds.
- 7.3 As Manchester plans its journey with UNICEF UK to become recognised internationally as a child friendly city, play is more important than ever: It is enshrined as a human right in the United Nations Convention Rights of the Child (Article 31.)

Relates to Our Manchester Strategy themes:

- Progressive and Equitable City
- Thriving and Sustainable City

8.0 Protecting Playgrounds

- 8.1 A scientific study partly funded by the Council and involving four Manchester primary schools has demonstrated that selective planting of 'tredges' (trees managed as hedges') between buy roads and playgrounds can help protect children from air pollution.
- 8.2 Researchers led by Barbara Maher, Emeritus Professor at Lancaster University, and supported by Groundwork Greater Manchester, installed tredges of different species at three Manchester primary schools in 2019. A fourth school which had no planting served as a control.
- 8.3 Findings recently published in the journal Scientific Reports show that the school where a western red cedar tredge (Abbott Community Primary School in Collyhurst) was planted achieved the best results in removing pollution from the

air – with almost half of black carbon and a significant proportion of fine particulates captured by its leaves.

8.4 The study was supported by funding from Manchester City Council and Transport for Greater Manchester.

8.5 The Council is now considering how learnings from the study can be applied within the city as part of its wider measures to improve air quality.

Relates to Our Manchester Strategy themes:

- Liveable and Low Carbon City
- Progressive and Equitable City

9.0 Exam results 2022

9.1 While we have not yet published any results due them being unvalidated at this point, it is positive to note that the provisional A Level and GCSE outcomes for our schools, sixth forms and colleges compare very favourably to the national picture and to the last examined GCSE and A results in Manchester from 2019.

9.2 Both the A Level and GCSE outcomes are a significant achievement for our young people and the schools/colleges which have supported them, particularly in the light of the considerable challenges of the last two years.

Relates to Our Manchester Strategy themes:

- Progressive and Equitable City
- Highly Skilled City
- Thriving and Sustainable 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.