

**Manchester City Council
Report for Information**

Report to: Executive – 19 October 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 Council support for Cost of Living emergency

2.1 The council has unveiled an £8m package of support in response to the cost of living crisis which could adversely affect up to 100,000 Manchester households this winter.

2.2 The money is being made available to support residents across the city through the expansion of welfare schemes, as well as helping to provide access to food.

2.3 The response has been inspired by the Council's work during the Covid-19 pandemic when emergency hubs were set up to help provide people with essentials. It also builds on the existing Anti-Poverty strategy and efforts to tackle inequalities and build an inclusive economy as well as the £34m included in the 2022/23 budget to work with residents, community groups and charities on anti-poverty measures.

2.4 To ensure the widest safety net possible will be created, the Council will also take the lead in organising a cost-of-living summit that will bring together partner organisations in Manchester, marshalling their resources and providing a united front to help residents at risk.

2.5 Extra support being made available to residents will include:

- Free school meals being expanded throughout the holiday period this winter.
- The Local Welfare Fund being expanded in order to provide emergency hardship support.
- Provision of dedicated call handlers who can help callers find a food offer, whether that is a foodbank, pantry service or other meal provision. Support will also be offered to ensure that food providers in the city have sufficient storage, and funding will be made available for culturally-appropriate food offerings.
- A Cost of Living Advice Line has been launched allowing residents to contact the Council via phone, or online, to get advice on how to access support this winter. It operates Monday to Friday, 9am – 4pm. The hub, which functions in a similar way to the pandemic response by putting residents in touch with local support and advice services, can be contacted on 0800 023 2692.
- A dedicated web page - manchester.gov.uk/financialsupport - has also been set up to clearly outline the Council's Welfare Provision Scheme offer, making it easy for residents who are financial difficulty or crisis to apply for grants and support.

- Another web page – manchester.gov.uk/helpinghands – has been live for several years signposting residents to a library of debt and money advice and support. The pages have been expanded to include additional resources across a range of topics that residents affected by the cost-of-living crisis are experiencing.
- 2.6 The Council will also continue to lobby central government on the urgent need to provide a Covid-like package of support to residents and businesses. Calls will also be made urging the government to increase the National Minimum Wage to match the Real Living Wage, and to increase Universal Credit and other benefits in line with inflation.
- 2.7 Helping people move into more highly paid and sustainable employment is one of the key elements of the Council’s new Work and Skills Strategy
- 2.8 Additionally, the Council and its health partners will be getting in touch with residents about Winter wellbeing information, including Flu and Covid-19 vaccination details set within help around food, heating and household bills linked to the Cost-of-Living crisis.

Relates to Our Manchester Strategy themes:

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

3.0 Living Wage City

- 3.1 Manchester was recognised by the Living Wage Foundation at this month’s full Council meeting for its Making A Living Wage City action plan.
- 3.2 As part of the foundation’s Making Living Wage Places scheme, employers in the city are being encouraged to pay workers the real Living Wage (which is higher than the nationally set minimum wage) and become accredited as Living Wage Employers. This work is even more important in the context of the cost of living crisis.
- 3.3 The Manchester alliance consists of Living Wage accredited employers from across the public, private and third sectors as well as civil society representatives and includes the University of Manchester, Bruntwood, KPMG, Manchester International Festival, Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce, MACC, One Manchester and Brighter Sounds.
- 3.4 Each of the alliance living wage institutions have agreed to a range of targets over the next three years as part of their commitment to support Manchester in becoming a Living Wage City. They will use their influence in their sectors to urge more organisations to become Living Wage accredited employers.
- 3.5 The Making a Living Wage City action plan sets out how the alliance intends to double the number of workers covered by Living Wage accreditation in

Manchester over the next three years. This would result in 4,000 extra workers being uplifted to the real Living Wage by 2025.

- 3.6 More than 160 employers in the city have already committed to ensure all their staff and subcontracted staff receive a real Living Wage of £10.90 an hour, significantly higher than the government-set minimum of £9.50.
- 3.7 The Council has been an accredited Living Wage Employer since 2019.

Relates to Our Manchester Strategy themes:

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

4.0 Climate Change Action Plan

- 4.1 The latest quarterly update report on the Council's Climate Change Action Plan 2020-25 shows that we remain on target to halve the organisation's direct emissions by 2025, in line with the goal to become completely net zero carbon by 2038 or earlier.
- 4.2 For the Council to stay within its science-based organisational carbon budget, set by the Tyndall Centre at the University of Manchester, a 13% reduction in direct emissions – which relate to council buildings, streetlights, waste collection, operational vehicles and business travel – must be achieved.
- 4.3 Since 2018/19 the Council has remained within this carbon budget. Figures for the first three months of municipal year 2022/23 (April-June inclusive) showed that the Council had emitted 5,366 tonnes of CO₂ – 9% less than last year and just 22% of the total budget for the year which is 24,784 tonnes.
- 4.4 Other progress continues to be made as an organisation – for example a new sustainable travel officer is now in post in HROD to support reductions in business travel emissions and so is a zero carbon workforce development manager who is charged with helping embed carbon literacy across the workforce.
- 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:

- Liveable and Zero Carbon City
- Thriving and Sustainable City

5.0 Mayfield Park

- 5.1 Manchester's first new city centre park in more than a century was officially opened on 22 September 2022, creating a new 6.5 acre green oasis in the heart of the city.
- 5.2 The new park – the first phase in the £1.5bn Mayfield masterplan which is creating a new sustainable, mixed-use neighbourhood close to Piccadilly train station – creates a family-friendly and inclusive green space with significant ecological benefits.
- 5.3 Built on the site of what was once the site of heavy industry at the height of the Industrial Revolution, Mayfield Park is now home to a diverse range of 140 mature and semi-mature trees, 120,000 plants and shrubs, a large lawned area, riverside walkways along the newly-opened up Irwell and the city's largest play area.
- 5.4 The park will act as a green lung for Manchester city centre. By recycling and reusing materials during the construction, more than 240 tonnes of CO2 have already been saved. The park's lawns and plants will benefit from a sustainable source of irrigation thanks to a series of functioning Victorian wells discovered during construction, saving one tonne of carbon per year and three million litres of water.
- 5.5 Mayfield Park was created by the public-private Mayfield Partnership with consists of the Council, Transport for Greater Manchester, regeneration specialist U+I and LCR, the UK Government's placemaking expert. In 2020 the park project secured £23m of investment from the Government's Getting Build Fund designed to support shovel-ready schemes to help stimulate economic recovery in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Relates to Our Manchester Strategy themes:

- Thriving and Sustainable City
- Liveable and Zero Carbon City
- Progressive and Equitable City

6.0 Wythenshawe Cycle Hub

- 6.1 A state-of-the-art cycle hub opened at the end of last month (September 2022) in Wythenshawe Park.
- 6.2 The new space, located around the park's existing athletics track area, includes a pump track, a learn to ride area, mountain bike skills zone, woodland trails and a family trail.
- 6.3 With facilities for all ages and cycling abilities, the new hub is designed to encourage Manchester residents to get on their bikes and enable them to practice cycling in a safe, traffic-free environment.

- 6.4 It is hoped the hub will help motivate more Mancunians to learn how to cycle, to choose cycling as their mode of transport and, encourage people to take advantage of the cycle routes and e-bikes in and around the city.
- 6.5 The £1.55m facility was made possible with £500,000 from Sport England's Place 2 Ride Fund delivered in conjunction with British Cycling and the Department of Digital, Culture, Media and Sport as well as funding through the Council's Parks Development Programme.

Relates to Our Manchester Strategy themes:

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

7.0 Victoria North

- 7.1 Construction work has begun to deliver 274 low carbon homes – 130 of them for social rent – in Collyhurst as part of the transformative Victoria North project.
- 7.2 Ground has been broken on the first phase of development in Collyhurst Village and South Collyhurst – two of seven neighbourhoods which collectively represent one of the largest urban regeneration projects in the country.
- 7.3 The first phase of development will see the joint venture, which consists of the Council working with Far East Consortium (FEC) create 130 high quality homes for social rent and a new 1.3 hectare park for the benefit of everyone in the area as well as 2,000 sq ft of new commercial and retail space.
- 7.4 This phase of development includes more than £35m of public investment. Victoria North will deliver 15,000 homes to the north of the city centre over the next decade, at least 20% of them affordable housing.

Relates to Our Manchester Strategy themes:

- Liveable and Zero Carbon City
- Thriving and Sustainable City
- Progressive and Equitable City

8.0 Women's Nighttime Safety Charter

- 8.1 A new charter has been launched to help improve the safety of women in Manchester's night-time economy.
- 8.2 City businesses which operate at night-time are being encouraged to sign and pledge support to the Women's Nighttime Safety Charter, implemented by the Council, which sets out how organisations can prioritise the safety of women employees and customers at night.

8.3 The charter was launched at the end of September 2022 by Council Leader Cllr Bev Craig, London's Night Czar Amy Lamé and other stakeholders.

8.4 Businesses who sign up will be asked to pledge their support for seven commitments:

- *Appoint a Champion* - Nominate a champion in your organisation who actively promotes women's night safety.
- *Communicate* - Demonstrate to staff and customers that your organisation takes women's safety at night seriously, for example through a communications campaign.
- *Support your staff* - Remind customers and staff that Manchester is safe, but tell them what to do if they experience harassment when working, going out or travelling.
- *Support the public* - Encourage reporting by victims and bystanders as part of your communications campaign.
- *Training and responding* - Train staff to ensure that all women who report are believed.
- *Training: recording* - Train staff to ensure that all reports are recorded and responded to.
- *Design*: Designing space for safety

8.5 These steps are intended to help businesses identify and prevent the harassment of women as well as bring about a cultural change by putting the safety and wellbeing of female staff and customers at the heart of the night-time economy.

Relates to Our Manchester strategy themes:

- Thriving and Sustainable City
- Progressive and Equitable City

9.0 Our Town Hall: Social Value

9.1 With the Our Town Hall project to safeguard the Grade I-listed Town Hall building approximately half way through its 'construction' phase, it continues to report strong social value impacts which in many cases are exceeding its key performance indicators.

9.2 One of the project's key objectives is to create as much social value as possible for the city through its spending and employment practices – supporting local businesses and creating a legacy of skills, jobs and inspiration for Manchester residents.

9.3 It is not just meeting those targets but exceeding them, generating an estimated £13.1m worth of social value benefits. Almost 60% of its spending has been with Manchester-based businesses, compared to a target of 40%. And 45% of the workforce consists of local labour, against a 30% target. Some 237 new jobs have been created through the project with 40% of these filled

by Manchester residents. So far 75 apprenticeships (level two and three) have been created with 68 of them taken up by Manchester people, and a further 48 higher level apprenticeships. Our Town Hall has also provided 110 work placements and almost 6,000 hours of volunteering on community and charity projects in the city.

Relates to Our Manchester Strategy themes:

- Progressive and Equitable City
- Highly Skilled City

10.0 COVID inquiry

- 10.1 The COVID Inquiry opened in London on Tuesday 4th October chaired by Baroness Hallett.
- 10.2 The Council Chief Executive and Council Senior Management Team have been collating documentation in anticipation of the Inquiry. The inquiry will take a modular approach to its investigations: Module one will examine the resilience and preparedness of the UK for the Coronavirus pandemic; module two will examine core political and administrative governance and decision making; module three will investigate the impact of COVID including government and societal responses to it, on health care systems including patients, hospitals, health care workers and staff.
- 10.3 The Council Executive has received and endorsed a number of key documents over the time period of the pandemic including the Local Prevention and Response Plans and the Manchester Public Health Annual Report 2020/21. The Public Health Annual Report for 2021/22 will be presented to the Health and Wellbeing Board and Health Scrutiny Committee in November and contains detailed information on the city's response to the Delta variant in summer 2021 and the Omicron variant in winter 2021/22.
- 10.4 The Inquiry timetable and the process for calling in individuals and organisations to give evidence will emerge over the next three months.

Relates to Our Manchester Strategy themes:

- Thriving and Sustainable City
- Progressive and Equitable City

11.0 Selective Licensing

- 11.1 Consultation is taking place with the public and landlords on plans to expand Selective Licensing to eight new areas in five wards across the city.
- 11.2 There are already seven areas in which Selective Licensing is in operation to help improve standards in Manchester's private rented sector.

- 11.3 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 a property.
- 11.4 Consultation is taking place on news areas in Cheetham (Esmond/Avondale; Heywood St/Cheetham Hill Road; Flat over shops on Cheetham Hill Road), Levenshulme (Matthews Lane), Longsight (The Royals), Moss Side and Whalley Range (Claremont Rd/Great Western St) and Rusholme (Birch Lane; Laidon/Dickenson.)
- 11.5 The consultation, which relates to more than 1,100 properties, runs until 14th December. If agreed, these new designations could come into effect in spring 2023.

Relates to Our Manchester Strategy themes:

- Thriving and Sustainable City
- Liveable and Zero Carbon City

12.0 Contributing to a Zero-Carbon City

- 12.1 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.

13.0 Contributing to the Our Manchester Strategy

- 13.1 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.

14.0 Key Policies and Considerations

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

15.0 Recommendations

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