

Manchester City Council Report for Information

Report to: Executive – 14 December 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 UNICEF Child Friendly programme

- 2.1 As we approach 2023, Manchester City Council is determined to keep up the momentum of 2022's Our Year campaign to help realise its ambitions for children and young people.
- 2.2 The Our Year campaign has delivered a wealth of opportunities, experiences and support children and young people across the city – as well as restating its commitment to ensuring the views of children and young people are at the heart of decision-making.
- 2.3 The last meeting of full Council saw children and young people from local schools, along with members of Manchester's Youth Parliament, quiz councillors and speak to them about their hopes and aspiration for their futures and the city's.
- 2.4 As a legacy of this work, Manchester has been accepted by UNICEF UK onto their Child Friendly City programme. It is hoped in the coming months this will culminate with Manchester being internationally recognised as a child friendly city by the organisation.
- 2.5 If recognised as a UNICEF UK Child Friendly City, Manchester will join cities and communities in 40 countries taking part in the global programme.
- 2.6 In order to be recognised the city will need to show evidence of sustainable progress in six different 'badges' - areas that children and young people think Manchester should prioritise to help make the city more child-friendly.
- 2.7 Progress in this will be closely monitored by an independent panel of experts in human rights, child well-being and public services, as well as an advisory board of local children and young people.
- 2.8 Child Friendly Cities and Communities is a UNICEF UK programme that works with councils to put children's rights into practice. The programme aims to create cities and communities in the UK where all children – whether they are living in care, using a children's centre, or simply visiting their local library – have a meaningful say in, and truly benefit from, local decisions. For more information visit [unicef.org.uk/cfc](https://www.unicef.org/uk/cfc)

Relates to Our Manchester Strategy themes:

- Progressive and Equitable City

- Thriving and Sustainable City
- Highly Skilled City

3.0 Anti-Poverty Strategy

- 3.1 Responses to a consultation asking residents for their views on the Council's updated Anti-Poverty strategy are currently being analysed.
- 3.2 With poverty remaining a significant problem across the city, the reworked strategy takes account of the impacts of the health and economic challenges which highlight and exacerbate poverty. Whereas previously the focus was on families with children, this has been expanded to include all households.
- 3.3 The proposed strategy, which reflects input from earlier consultations with organisations and residents, will help tackle poverty over the next five years.
- 3.4 The strategy sets out the ways in which the Council and partners will help people through four key themes:

Preventing Poverty: Identifying residents at risk and connecting them to support, helping residents to manage their household expenditure and reduce debt, and avoid taking action that will push residents into debt.

Mitigating poverty: Ensuring people have access to good advice, access to food, warmth and shelter, as well as access to culture and leisure opportunities to ensure people have a good quality of life.

Pathways out of poverty: Tailoring support and services for people ensuring they get the help and financial support they're entitled to as well as increasing good quality employment opportunities.

Inclusive and effective delivery: Making sure that people who have experienced poverty have a voice in this area and working to increase funding opportunities for voluntary and community organisations working to alleviate poverty and using data to tailor support to the communities that need it most.

- 3.5 The consultation closed last Sunday, 11 December 2022 and was designed to ensure the refreshed strategy reflects the needs of residents across the city.

Relates to Our Manchester Strategy themes:

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

4.0 Silk Street low carbon homes

- 4.1 Building works in Newton Heath to deliver 69 zero and low carbon social homes on Council-owned land have reached their highest point, as some of the new homes near completion.
- 4.2 The Silk Street project is bringing a long-term brownfield site back into use. Already 20 of the houses have been built with solar panels fitted and are currently receiving the finishing touches. Each of the homes will be zero carbon on completion.
- 4.3 Steel framing and roofing is currently underway for the third and final apartment block – marking the highest point of development.
- 4.4 In total the project is creating 36 one-bedroom apartments, 12 two-bedroom apartments, 17 three-bedroom houses and 4 four-bedroom houses. Sixteen of the apartments will be made available to people over the age of 55.
- 4.5 The first completions are expected in spring next year with the first residents moving in shortly afterwards.
- 4.6 All of the homes have solar panels, electric vehicle charging points and generous gardens. Each of the apartments will have green living roofs and shared outdoor green space as part of the development's low carbon commitment.
- 4.7 This also includes the use of Ground Source Heat Pumps and mechanical ventilation with heat recovery to keep utility costs down for residents as well as cutting carbon emissions.
- 4.8 The homes are being built by Rowlinson and will be managed by the Council.

Relates to Our Manchester Strategy themes:

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

5.0 Our Town Hall project: Artisan studio

- 5.1 A new artisan studio on Albert Square is giving the public a fascinating window into the work of the skilled craftspeople working on the Our Town Hall project.
- 5.2 As well as safeguarding the Grade I-listed Town Hall building, improving access to its heritage and bringing up to modern safety standards, one of the project's objectives is to leave a legacy of jobs, skills and inspiration.

- 5.3 The artisan studio enables people to watch and listen as specialists carry out painstaking and intricate work while explaining what they are doing and how they forged their own careers in the built environment.
- 5.4 Presentations take place every Wednesday from 12.30pm-1.30pm up to and including Wednesday 21 December, resuming in early 2023.
- 5.5 First up to showcase their skills, from now until the Christmas break, are restoration and conservation experts Stone Edge. They are explaining the story of the stone, from the quarry to its final installation in the building, as they carve ornate new pieces to replace worn and damaged stonework from the town hall.
- 5.6 Stone Edge will be followed in the New Year by craftspeople including Heritage Mosaic, who are restoring the Town Hall's intricately designed marble piece-patterned floors.
- 5.7 So far 237 new jobs have been created through the project, 75 apprenticeships (level two and three) - 68 of them taken up by Manchester people – and a further 48 higher level apprenticeships. This includes three apprentices taken on by Stone Edge.
- 5.8 A new short film providing an update on Our Town Hall project works can be viewed at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FdgQHQ_yIz0

Relates to Our Manchester Strategy themes:

- Highly Skilled City
- Progressive and Equitable City

6.0 UNESCO City of Literature

- 6.1 Earlier this month Manchester marked the fifth anniversary of becoming a UNESCO City of Literature. Over the last five years, the Council along with the city's universities and literary community have worked together to deliver a programme of events showcasing Mancunian talent and giving Manchester people the chance to take part in, and benefit from, being a City of Literature.
- 6.2 In that time the Manchester City of Literature Charity has raised more than £200,000 to support literature in – and from – the city.
- 6.3 The funding has been used to support projects such as:

Festival of Libraries: An annual event that celebrates and showcases the City's wide range of libraries and the diverse cultural scene of Manchester recently welcomed over 27,000 people to over 90 events that took place in public and heritage libraries across the city.

Poetry Library: Since being recognised as a UNESCO City of Literature, the Manchester Poetry Library, located in Manchester Metropolitan University, has opened - the fourth poetry library in the UK and the first in the Northwest of England.

Made in Manchester: The Poetry Library is home to the Made in Manchester poem, created in 2019 by school children and community groups in collaboration with local poet Zahid Hussain. The poem is a live piece of work, written in over 70 languages, with new verses added in new languages each year. The Made in Manchester installation, celebrates the diverse communities in the city and rich cultural heritage of Manchester.

Relates to Our Manchester Strategy themes:

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

7.0 Tree Action MCR

- 7.1 Activity is well underway for 2022/23's tree planting season. A total of 397 trees and 4,721 native hedgerow whips are being planted in the next few months up to next spring.
- 7.2 It means that by May next year the number of trees planted across the city under the £1m+ Tree Action MCR programme will reach 2,685.
- 7.3 The total number of trees planted using funding purely from the Council's Tree Action MCR scheme will be 1,989 while a further 696 will have been planted using funding secured through the Urban Tree Challenge matched by Tree Action MCR funding.
- 7.4 So far 2,288 new trees have already been planted since late 2020 – 1942 in streets across the city, 287 in parks and 59 in cemeteries.
- 7.5 Tree species have been carefully chosen for their resilience to climate change, ability to store carbon and biodiversity benefits. As well as their visual appeal, they also help improve air quality.
- 7.6 Tree Action MCR is part of a wide range of measures being taken by the Council in response to the challenge of climate change.

Relates to Our Manchester Strategy themes:

- Liveable and Zero Carbon City

- Progressive and Equitable City

8.0 Residents Communications Survey

- 8.1 Communicating and engaging with our residents, communities and businesses is vital to supporting thriving neighbourhoods. Sharing information about Council services, how to participate locally, celebrating successes and letting people know how to report issues helps our communities to come together and share a sense of belonging.
- 8.2 To support this process, a survey has been launched asking residents how they would like us to communicate with them to ensure that this is done as effectively and conveniently as possible.
- 8.3 The survey will provide useful information about existing Council and local communication channels and enable insight into how they can be strengthened and improved in the future. It will also enable the Council to gather insight on digital exclusion and build up a picture of the other ways our communities seek or share information locally.
- 8.4 The survey – which is being advertised via resident and community groups as well as on Council channels – can be found at www.manchester.gov.uk/consultations and is open until Sunday 19 February 2023.
- 8.5 In January neighbourhood teams will be running some focus groups, particularly targeted at our harder-to-reach audiences. The teams will be working hard to ensure the responses are representative of our communities.

Relates to Our Manchester Strategy themes:

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

9.0 Contributing to a Zero-Carbon City

- 9.1 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.

10.0 Contributing to the Our Manchester Strategy

10.1 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.

11.0 Key Policies and Considerations

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

12.0 Recommendations

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