

## **Executive**

### **Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday, 14 December 2022**

**Present:** Councillor Craig (Chair)

**Councillors:** Akbar, Bridges, Hacking, Midgley, Rahman, T Robinson and White

**Also present as Members of the Standing Consultative Panel:**

**Councillors:** Ahmed Ali, Collins, Foley, Leech, Lynch and Stanton

**Apologies:** Councillor Igbon, Rawlins, Butt, Douglas and Johnson

**Also present:** Councillor M Dar (Ancoats and Beswick Ward Councillor)

#### **Exe/22/105 Minutes**

#### **Decision**

The Executive approved as a correct record the minutes of the meeting on 16 November 2022.

#### **Exe/22/106 Delegation of Executive Functions to the Executive and Council Officers**

The Executive considered a report of the City Solicitor, which sought Executive to note the decision of the Leader of the Council to delegate all of the Council's executive functions to the Executive and endorse the decision of the Leader of the Council to arrange for the discharge of all of the Council's executive functions recorded at Part 3, Sections A and F of the Council's November 2022 Constitution.

#### **Decisions**

The Executive:-

- (1) Notes the decision of the Leader of the Council to exercise the power under Section 9E(2) of the Local Government Act 2000 to delegate the discharge of all of the Council's executive functions to the Executive;
- (2) Notes and endorses the decision of the Leader of the Council to delegate to officers the discharge of all of the Council's executive functions recorded at Part 3, Sections A and F of the Council's November 2022 Constitution as set out in the revised versions of those sections presented to Council at its meeting on 30 November 2022; and
- (3) In relation to the Scheme of Delegation to Officers set out in Part 3, Section F of the Council's November 2022 Constitution, note that such delegations of executive functions include those functions that are designated as "Executive

Functions” and those functions that are designated as “General Functions” insofar as these are executive functions.

### **Exe/22/107 Our Manchester Progress Update**

The Executive considered a report of the Chief Executive which provided an update on key areas of progress against the Our Manchester Strategy – Forward to 2025 which reset Manchester’s priorities for the next five years to ensure the Council could still achieve the city’s ambition set out in the Our Manchester Strategy 2016 – 2025.

The Executive Member for Children, Young People and Families reported that Manchester had been accepted by UNICEF UK onto their Child Friendly City programme. It was hoped in the coming months this would culminate with Manchester being internationally recognised as a child friendly city by the organisation. In order to be recognised the city would 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. Progress on this would 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.

The Deputy Leader reported that responses to a consultation asking residents for their views on the Council’s updated Anti-Poverty strategy were currently being analysed. With poverty remaining a significant problem across the city, the reworked strategy took 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. The proposed strategy, which reflects input from earlier consultations with organisations and residents, would help tackle poverty over the next five years.

The Executive Member for Growth and Development reported that building works in Newton Heath to deliver 69 zero and low carbon social homes on Council-owned land had reached their highest point, as some of the new homes near completion. The Silk Street project was bringing a long-term brownfield site back into use and already 20 of the houses had been built with solar panels fitted and were currently receiving the finishing touches. Each of the homes would be zero carbon on completion. The first completions were expected in spring next year with the first residents moving in shortly afterwards.

Councillor Leech enquired as to whether discussions were taking place between the Council and developers in regards to the layout and orientation of the properties on new development sites to enable all properties to benefit from solar power.

The Deputy Leader (Statutory) reported that 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 had 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. In that time the Manchester City of Literature Charity had raised more than £200,000 to support literature in – and from – the city.

## **Decision**

The Executive note the report.

### **Exe/22/108 Revenue Budget Monitoring**

The Executive considered a report of the Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer, which outlined the projected outturn position for 2022/23, based on the latest expenditure and income activity and future projections.

The Executive Member for Finance and Resources advised that the report identified a forecast overspend of £7.6m for 2022/23, based on activity to date and projected trends in income and expenditure, and included the ongoing financial implications of COVID-19, government funding confirmed to date and the impact of inflation and the agreed pay award on the financial position.

The above was a substantial change from the position reported to Executive in September 2022, resulting in an improvement of £12.5m since the last report to Executive.

The previous forecast included the provisional impact of the higher pay offer for local government and was during an extremely volatile period for energy prices, predating the additional government support announced for the public sector. Since then the actual impact of the pay award has been costed, taking into account the current level of vacancies reducing the cost by £2.2m to £7.3m. The decision to reverse the employer 1% national insurance increase had also resulted in savings of £0.6m. Energy prices had settled at a lower level along with some government compensation together (saving £3m) and price inflation had been mitigated where possible, reducing the budget requirement by £2.7m to £5.4m. These amounted to a £8.5m reduction in the inflation overspend. This was coupled with some improvements in the departmental position, many of which are one off and only impact the 2022/23 financial year.

It was positive that the main demand led services of Adults, Children's and Homelessness were underspending or breakeven, which put the Council in a better position than many other councils and reflected the investment in prevention strategies over the last few years.

Whilst the report focused on 2022/23, the implications of COVID-19 and record levels of inflation on the Council's cost base would have a significant impact on the Council's finances for a number of years. With the scale of funding pressures and future resource constraints, it was therefore vital that the Council continued with its programme of innovation and reform and developed its operating model to help tackle these challenges and keep the Council's finances stable and sustainable. A programme of savings totalling £42m had been developed and reported to scrutiny committees in November 2022.

Officers continued to work to reduce the overspend through identifying in year efficiencies and working with suppliers to reduce and mitigate inflation requirements and progress would be reported back to Executive in February 2023.

Councillor Leech welcomed the work of Officers in reducing inflationary pressures on the Council's Revenue Budget and sought clarification of similar work being undertaken to reduce inflationary pressures associated to the Council's Capital Programme. He also sought confirmation as to whether the Council would receive a rebate in relation to the additional profit made by the Greater Manchester Waste Disposal Authority (GMWDA) through the incineration of waste. The Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer gave assurances that the Officers were working on reducing the inflationary pressures associated to the Council's Capital Programme and that there would likely be an expected financial return from the GMWDA but discussions were still ongoing at the moment so no further detail could be provided.

## **Decisions**

The Executive:-

- (1) Note the global revenue monitoring report and forecast outturn position which is showing a £7.6m overspend.
- (2) Approve the release of reserve funding to support residents through the Cost of Living as detailed in paragraph 2.18 of the report.
- (3) Approve the use of unbudgeted external grant funding as detailed in paragraph 3.2 of the report.
- (4) Approve the request for contingency funding as detailed in paragraph para 3.3 of the report.
- (5) Approve the allocation of budgets to fund the pay award as detailed in paragraph 3.4, electricity increases reported in paragraph 3.5 and price inflation outlined in paragraph 3.6 of the report.

## **Exe/22/109 Capital Programme Update**

The Executive considered a report of the Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer, which informed Members of requests to increase the capital programme, sought approval for those schemes that could be approved under authority delegated to the Executive.

The proposals which only required Executive approval were those which were funded by the use of external resources, use of capital receipts, use of reserves below £10.0m, where the proposal could be funded from existing revenue budgets or where the use of borrowing on a spend to save basis is required. The following proposals required Executive approval for changes to the City Council's capital programme:-

- Public Sector Housing – Rough Sleepers Accommodation Programme (RSAP) Bring Bedsits Back in to Use. A capital budget increase of £0.350m in 2023/24 was requested, funded by £0.141m Government Grant and £0.209m RCCO from HRA Reserve to refurbish and bring back into use 11 of bedsits to be utilised as Move On homes.

- Growth and Development - Land at Withington Road. A capital budget decrease of £0.160m was requested in 2022/23 and approval of a corresponding transfer of £0.160m to the revenue budget, funded by Capital Fund to remove a restrictive covenant currently in favour of Barnardo's (previously The Tatton Estate), that potentially limits or prevents development that could take place.
- Highways Services - Manchester to Chorlton Cycleway Area 3A and 3B. A capital budget increase of £2.035m is requested, funded by External Contribution to deliver a significant improvement in the provision of infrastructure for cyclists, whilst also improving the walking environment through making junctions safer to cross and improving the public realm.

Councillor Leech queried whether the land at Withington Road would contain any affordable Housing in its development. The Executive Member for Finance and Resources advise that it was too early to determine what would be developed on Withington Road however the Council's ambitions for the city was to build affordable housing for Manchester residents and once the restricted covenant was removed discussions could take place as to what could be delivered on the land.

The report highlighted that if the recommendations in the report were approved the General Fund capital budget would increase by £2.225m across financial years which would also result in an increase in the prudential indicator for Capital Expenditure in corresponding years.

There had also been increases to the programme totalling £0.150m as a result of delegated approvals since the previous report to the Executive on 16 November 2022. The increase related to Highfield Country Park S106. The scheme would utilise the S106 for the benefit of local residents in improving the services within the vicinity of Highfield Country Park in the ward of Levenshulme as set out within the general obligations of the agreement.

## **Decisions**

The Executive:-

(1) Approve the following changes to the Council's capital programme:

- Public Sector Housing – Rough Sleepers Accommodation Programme (RSAP) - Bring Bedsits Back in to Use. A capital budget increase of £0.350m, funded by £0.141m Government Grant and £0.209m RCCO from HRA Reserve.
- Growth and Development - Land at Withington Road. A capital budget decrease of £0.160m and a corresponding transfer of £0.160m to the revenue budget, funded by Capital Fund.
- Highways Services - Manchester to Chorlton Cycleway Area 3A & 3B. A capital budget increase of £2.035m, funded by External Contribution.

- (2) Note the increases to the programme of £0.150m as a result of delegated approvals.

### **Exe/22/110 Manchester Piccadilly Strategic Regeneration Framework Addendum: East Village Central Framework**

The Executive considered a report of the Strategic Director Growth and Development), which provided details of a draft framework for the East Village area of the Manchester Piccadilly Strategic Regeneration Framework (SRF) and sought endorsement in principle of the draft East Village Central Framework and sought agreement for a public consultation exercise to be undertaken on the draft East Village Central Framework.

The Executive Member for Growth and Development report that the draft Framework would help to guide development in a way that reflected the physical and locational characteristics, meet the objectives and principles within the Manchester Piccadilly SRF, complement developments in adjacent neighbourhoods and support future growth.

The East Village area included 2 primary landowners. The draft framework had been produced in order to ensure that the area was developed in an appropriate and holistic manner in the future across all plots within the site

Furthermore the draft Framework was an addendum to the Manchester Piccadilly SRF. It represented a major strategic opportunity capable of delivering extensive and comprehensive redevelopment, close to a major transport hub. It had been prepared in order to shape and realise the city's ambitions to regenerate and transform the neighbourhood surrounding Piccadilly Station, with connected open spaces and public realm and a distinctive sense of place. The successful delivery of the draft framework would create a new vibrant, commercially-led, mixed use neighbourhood and community, boosting growth and new jobs. The development would be highly connected, functionally and physically, to the wider city centre and adjoining regeneration priority areas and will complement the arrival of HS2 and Northern Powerhouse Rail.

### **Decisions**

The Executive:-

- (1) Endorse in principle, the proposals set out in the draft East Village Central Framework which is an addendum to the Manchester Piccadilly Strategic Regeneration Framework (SRF);
- (2) Request the Chief Executive undertake a public consultation exercise on the draft East Village Central Framework with local residents, businesses and other stakeholder; and
- (3) Agree that a further report be brought forward, following the public consultation exercise, for consideration by the Executive which sets out the comments received.

## **Exe/22/111 Manchester Science Park (MSP) Strategic Regeneration Framework Addendum November 2022**

The Executive considered a report of the Strategic Director Growth and Development), which provided details of a draft addendum to the Strategic Regeneration Framework (SRF) for Manchester Science Park (MSP). It also updated the development principles across the SRF area to reflect the Council's target to be net zero carbon by 2035.

The Executive Member for Growth and Development advised that the addendum responded to the opportunity that had arisen for a proposed relocation of an internationally significant health research resource to Manchester Science Park. It related specifically to a site currently occupied by the Greenheys Building and adjacent car park, located within and to the north-west of the framework area. This latest update reflected increased ambitions for the area, following on from the ongoing success of MSP in establishing a world-class science park. The key principles underpinning the March 2014 MSP SRF, and the subsequent 2018 update, were carried forward into the 2022 addendum, and had been updated to provide a new emphasis on climate change, biodiversity, green and blue infrastructure.

It was noted that assets within Manchester Science Park and the wider Oxford Road Corridor area were vital to capture the commercial potential of research and innovation. The proposal would deliver several wider strategic and economic benefits including supporting academic advances in the Life Sciences sector; supporting growth in number of SMEs and start-ups in the city; driving clustering and agglomeration; building on Manchester's research strengths; raising Manchester's international profile; and creating new talent and graduate employment opportunities. It also represented an opportunity for the city to build upon the further development of its network of alliances and partnerships throughout the world.

### **Decisions**

The Executive:-

- (1) Approve in principle the draft Manchester Science Park SRF Addendum;
- (2) Request the Strategic Director to undertake a public consultation exercise on the addendum with local stakeholders;
- (3) Agree that a further report be brought back to the Executive, following the public consultation exercise, setting out comments received.

## **Exe/22/112 Former Central Retail Park - Updated Strategic Regeneration Framework**

The Executive considered a report of the Strategic Director Growth and Development), which provided details an updated Strategic Regeneration Framework (SRF) for the former Central Retail Park site, and sought approval of the Framework in principle, subject to public consultation.

The Leader reported that the redevelopment of the Former Central Retail Park was a long-standing strategic priority for the city and identified for development in previous planning documents, including the Ancoats and New Islington Neighbourhood Development Framework (2016) and Development Frameworks prepared for the Central Retail Park site in 2015 and more recently in 2020.

The 2020 Development Framework had now been reviewed to reflect the current market position and positively respond to the latest market requirements to provide purpose-built offices and high-quality facilities for workers.

A new Strategic Regeneration Framework had been produced, which built on many of the key design principles set out in the in the 2020 Framework, to provide a comprehensive approach to the future redevelopment of the site, supporting the Council's aspirations to drive economic growth through the provision of new high-quality Grade A offices to attract new companies to Manchester, surrounded by attractive and accessible public realm.

The updated SRF also responded to a potential interest from the Government Property Agency (GPA) to locate government offices on the site and work collaboratively with the Council to help unlock this development opportunity. Were GPA to commit to offices at the Former Central Retail Park, this would provide the catalyst to deliver the masterplan and provide socio-economic benefits, including new high-quality jobs.

Councillor M Dar addressed the Committee as Ward Councillor for Ancoats and Beswick. He welcome the revised SRF proposals as it took on board the concerns of the Ward Councillors and residents of Ancoats and Beswick in relation to the original SF and he welcomed the public consultation on the new proposals.

Councillor Leech welcomed the revised SRF proposals. He sought clarification as to whether the propose open space would be classified as a park and whether it would be publicly maintained by the Council. He also sought assurance that should the proposals in relation to GPA not come to fruition would there still be a commitment to include green space in the proposals. The Strategic Director (Growth and Development) confirmed that the proposed open space would be public space but it was not possible at the present moment to determine the management arrangements for this space. The site was a key strategic location for the city that had significant interest from third parties and as such the Council was confident there would be demand for the site including accessible public realm.

## **Decisions**

The Executive:-

- (1) Approve in principle the proposals set out in the draft updated Former Central Retail Park Strategic Regeneration Framework (SRF).
- (2) Request the Strategic Director to undertake a public consultation exercise on the draft updated Former Central Retail Park Strategic Regeneration Framework (SRF); with local residents, businesses and other stakeholders.

- (3) Agree that a further report be brought back to the Executive, following the public consultation exercise, setting out comments received.

### **Exe/22/113 Local Nature Reserve Declaration: Kenworthy Woods**

The Executive considered a report of the Strategic Director (Growth and Development), which sought approval to declare Kenworthy Woods as a Local Nature Reserve (LNR).

The Executive Member for Environment reported that the Council's new Biodiversity Strategy had, amongst others an objective to protect and recover biodiversity. One of the key ways to achieve this objective was to increase the number of Local Nature Reserves in Manchester. There were currently eight Local Nature Reserves in Manchester all of which had benefitted from the designation through increased public usage by local and regional visitors. These sites are nationally recognised by Natural England and other nature conservation organisations such as Lancashire Wildlife Trust

The designation of LNR status for Kenworthy Woods would help to establish the long-term maintenance and raise the profile of the site. The designation would also offer opportunities for funding as it reinforced Manchester's commitment to nature conservation and recreation. The location of the proposed LNR within the Mersey Valley also meant that the designation supported the ambition set out across a range of objectives in the City's Our River Our City Strategy, providing increased opportunity for increased practical action, community engagement and awareness raising. Natural England had confirmed their informal support for the declaration of LNR status for the site.

### **Decisions**

The Executive:-

- (1) To declare the area shown outlined on the "Location map of Kenworthy Woods" (Appendix 1) as the Kenworthy Woods Local Nature Reserve.
- (2) Note officers are to consult formally with Natural England on the declaration.
- (3) To instruct the City Solicitor (subject to the above) to prepare the formal declaration document as necessary.

### **Exe/22/114 Draft Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy**

The Executive considered a report of the Strategic Director (Growth and Development), which sought approval of the draft Manchester Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy.

The Executive Member for Environment and Transport advised that the Government's Taking Charge Strategy published earlier this year sought an obligation on local authorities to develop and implement local charging strategies to

consider how to best assist in the delivery of an accessible public charging network. The Manchester Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy (MEVCS) had been developed to meet this requirement and to set out the Council's main focus for the provision of EV charging infrastructure within the city.

The main focus of the strategy was in relation to public charging although it did note that the Council also had a role to play in transitioning its own vehicle fleet, encouraging growth through planning requirements for new developments and in generally raising awareness as well.

It was proposed that the council would assist in facilitating the installation of supplier owned, funded (possibly utilising existing grant funding opportunities), maintained and operated EV charging infrastructure within its own car parks and at facilities with parking such as leisure centres, parks, libraries, etc. These were proposed to be predominantly 'fast' chargers which would allow users of the car parks to top up their batteries and, where the car parks were operational 24h hours a day, may also allow for overnight charging by residents. It was also proposed that the Council could consider leasing small parcels of land for the development of charging hubs made up predominantly of ultra-rapid and rapid chargepoints which may be more suitable for those drivers with higher mileage requirements and for those who are more likely to charge when the battery levels are very low.

The draft strategy was not proposing the introduction of on-street public chargepoints at this time although it was considered that such locations may be suitable for particular groups such as taxis/PHVs as well as car club vehicles. There were a number of reasons for this including potential damage, pavement obstructions, visual street clutter, etc. Whilst technology did exist to connect EV chargepoints to lamp posts, the majority of lamp posts in the district were located at the back of the pavement and it was not considered appropriate to trail cables across the footway. Connecting the lamp post to a charging bollard at the kerbside could again cause issues of street clutter and pavement obstructions and would be a more costly solution. Lamp post chargepoints were also slow chargers generally operating at around the 3kW range which was now slower than many home chargers that could be purchased.

Councillor Leech stated that one of the largest challenges in trying to get residents to move to using electric vehicles was the ability to provide off street charging. He sought clarification as to whether consideration was going to be given to charging facilities from the footway for terraced properties. The Strategic Director (Growth and Development) state that the issue of off street parking for terraced properties had been looked at in detail but currently there was too many associated risks, such as trip hazards, to include proposals within this strategy at the present moment. It was noted that the technology for charging vehicles was changing very quickly and that this may be an area the Council looks at in the future.

## **Decision**

The Executive approve and endorse the Manchester Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy.

## **Exe/22/115 Youth, Play & Participation Service (YPPS) Grants Framework**

The Executive considered a report of the Strategic Director (Neighbourhoods), which set out the outcome from the design and development work to the proposed Youth, Play and Participation Service's commissioning process and framework including timescales for the implementation of the proposed new arrangements.

The Deputy Leader (Statutory) reported that In March 2021, Executive agreed several actions to build stronger and more effective arrangements for youth and play services to improve the outcomes for children and young people. The Youth and Play Commissioning Arrangements were presented to Executive in October 2021 and set out the principles of an alternative delivery model and the need to establish a revised Commissioning Framework to be designed and developed. Since April 2022, the Youth, Play and Participation service had been developing the Commissioning Framework.

The Council currently granted annual funding of £1.6m to Manchester's voluntary and community sector (VCS) to deliver youth, play and participation services. It was proposed and agreed in 2021 that the Council would administer the budget going forward, and that the budget would remain unchanged. The proposals set out in the report sought to protect the current levels of investment and to direct those funds in line with the proposed new commissioning arrangements as set out in the main body of the report.

The proposed new framework would build on the existing strengths and progress made over the last few years. It would aim to reduce operational overheads and seek to remove duplication. It was anticipated that more funding would reach grassroots organisations who were working directly with children and young people and would encourage and support applications from new and diverse non-white organisations that were not usually represented in the VCS.

### **Decision**

The Executive agree the proposed new commissioning framework.

## **Exe/22/116 Public Open Spaces CCTV**

The Executive considered a report of the Strategic Director (Neighbourhoods), which sought approval of a policy for the targeted placement of CCTV cameras across the city to ensure they are used effectively and in line with government guidance.

The Deputy Leader (Statutory) reported that the Council's CCTV Code of Practice reflects the Home Office Surveillance Camera Code of Practice and updated ICO Data Protection Code of Practice for surveillance cameras and personal information. It references the Home Office's Surveillance Camera Code of Practice, prepared in accordance with section 29 of the Protection of Freedoms Act 2012 and lists the guiding principles contained within it.

Historically CCTV cameras had been installed in the city for different of reasons, including investment in an area through regeneration, or in response to crime or anti-

social behaviour in an area. This meant that there were significant disparities of coverage across the city that do not correspond to a pressing need. To ensure the Council was complying with the requirements of the codes of practice, and to address the discrepancies in the CCTV coverage of the city, a review of Public Space CCTV Cameras in their current locations had been proposed.

Significant investment had also been made to upgrade the CCTV system in the city in recent years including the upgrade to the platform in 2018 and this year would see £618k investment in upgrading 169 cameras that were over 7 years old. Additional funds had also been secured to expand the number of fly tipping cameras that could be deployed across the city to address areas that were subjected to sustained fly tipping.

An initial review of effectiveness of all cameras would take place on approval for the policy so new replacement cameras were fitted in compliance with the guidance. There would also be regular opportunities to review whether the CCTV cameras were legitimate and addressing the areas with the greatest need, in accordance with the defined criteria

The policy had been drafted in line with legislative requirements with a particular focus on demonstrating whether each of the CCTV cameras operated by the Council met a pressing need and also achieved the specific purpose(s) for which they were being used. Where the proposed Review's finding was that a camera did not meet that criterion, it would recommend the camera was moved to a different location where its use was justified.

## **Decision**

The Executive Approve the Policy and Procedure for legitimacy and effectiveness of CCTV in the city.

## **Executive**

### **Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday, 18 January 2023**

**Present:** Councillor Craig (Chair)

**Councillors:** Akbar, Bridges, Hacking, Igbon, Midgley, Rahman, Rawlins, T Robinson, and White

**Also present as Members of the Standing Consultative Panel:**

**Councillors:** Ahmed Ali, Butt, Douglas, Foley, Johnson, Leech, Lynch and Stanton

**Apologies:** Councillor Collins

**Also present:** Councillor Newman (Woodhouse Park Ward Member) and Councillor Reid (Gorton and Abbey Hey Ward Member)

**Exe/23/1 Minutes**

#### **Decision**

The Executive approved as a correct record the minutes of the meeting on 14 December 2022.

**Exe/23/2 Our Manchester Progress Update**

The Executive considered a report of the Chief Executive which provided an update on key areas of progress against the Our Manchester Strategy – Forward to 2025 which reset Manchester’s priorities for the next five years to ensure the Council could still achieve the city’s ambition set out in the Our Manchester Strategy 2016 – 2025.

The Leader reported that the Council had entered into legal agreements with development partner Allied London for the Grade II-listed Upper Campfield Market and Lower Campfield Market buildings on Liverpool Road. Campfield was one of two schemes which together formed the Culture In The City project which the Council secured almost £20m of Government Levelling Up funding in autumn 2021. The Campfield market buildings would provide 83,000 sq. ft. of modern workspace and over a 15-year period, it was anticipated that 1,600 jobs would be created and a further 2,400 jobs sustained.

The Leader also reported that Manchester Libraries would be providing support for residents who need it to help navigate through new voter ID rules which will come into force ahead of the 4 May local elections. All 22 libraries in the city would offer free internet and wifi which residents could use if they needed to apply for a Voter Authority Certificate. Staff would be able to advise which forms of photo identification could be used at polling stations to avoid people applying for a Certificate unnecessarily. A Greater Manchester-wide communications campaign to make people aware of the changes and the need to ensure they had voter ID to participate

in elections would amplify and supplement a national campaign being led by the Electoral Commission.

The Executive Member for Children, Families and Young People reported that a Trust had been appointed to run what will be the first new primary school to open in the city centre in almost 20 years. The Laurus Trust would run the 210-place Crown Street Primary School. Building work was now well underway on its location at the end of Deansgate, with the first pupils expected through its doors in September 2024. The school would form an important part of the wider regenerations taking place in the Great Jackson Street area at the southern end of the city centre.

The Executive Member for Environment and Transport reported that strong progress had been made in reducing carbon emissions from the council's estate of more than 300 buildings. Emissions from the Council's operational estate had reduced by 7,161 tonnes CO2 per annum – a 29.7% cut – since 2019/20. It was referenced that a detailed report on the Decarbonisation of the Council's estate had been considered at the January meeting of Resources and Governance Scrutiny and the Executive Member for Environment and Transport encouraged members to read this report to get a fuller understanding of the work being done

## **Decision**

The Executive note the report.

## **Exe/23/3 Capital Programme Update**

The Executive considered a report of the Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer, which informed Members of requests to increase the capital programme, sought approval for those schemes that could be approved under authority delegated to the Executive.

The proposals which only required Executive approval were those which were funded by the use of external resources, use of capital receipts, use of reserves below £10.0m, where the proposal could be funded from existing revenue budgets or where the use of borrowing on a spend to save basis is required. The following proposals required Executive approval for changes to the City Council's capital programme:-

- Children's Services - New Secondary SEND School. A capital budget virement of £18.1m was requested, funded from Unallocated Special Educational Needs Grant to develop a new 150 place secondary SEND school for pupils aged 11-19 with an Education, Health, and Care Plan (EHCP) in north Manchester.
- Highways Services – Rochdale Canal. A capital budget virement of £0.230m in 2022/23 was requested, funded from borrowing to deliver improvements to the towpath in Newton Heath and Miles Platting, which would include patching and resurfacing to the towpath, repairs to the cobbled areas, new marker posts to indicate distances and new signage at accesses and exits to advertise local amenities.

- Highways Services – Safer Streets Manchester Cycleway. A capital budget increase of £0.030m in 2022/23 and £0.293m in 2023/24 was requested, funded by External Contribution – Safer Streets Fund, alongside a capital budget virement of £0.220m in 2022/23, funded by borrowing via the Highways Project Delivery Fund, to deliver a number of improvements including landscaping, removal, and addition of new barriers, new access points and signage on the Manchester Cycleway (Fallowfield loop and Yellow Brick Road) to help improve safety and perception of safety along the route.
- ICT – Contract Management. A capital budget decrease of £0.109m was requested and approval of a corresponding transfer of £0.109m to the revenue budget, funded by Capital Fund to introduce an ICT system for managing contracts across the whole Council, providing numerous benefits, including a central repository of all contract information, enabling recording of risks and issues, and contract management and performance information to be recorded.

The report highlighted that there had been increases to the programme totalling £4.002m as a result of delegated approvals since the previous report to the Executive on 14 December 2022.

Approval had also been given for the following capital budget virements:-

- £0.490m for the installation of Carbon Monoxide Monitors in council properties to comply with the Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Alarm (Amendment) Regulations 2022, through the utilisation of Unallocated Public Sector Housing budget.
- £0.026m allocation from the Parks Development Programme for the predevelopment stage to commission the Capital Programmes and Procurement Team to progress scheme design to RIBA Stage 2 for the Heaton Park Orangery
- £0.110m funding for Cringle Park – Grounded Coffee Offer to improve the existing offer in the park
- £0.700m allocation from Education Basic Need funding of to provide additional funding to Our Lady's RC High School and Manchester Enterprise Academy to deliver additional school places

If the recommendations in the report were approved the General Fund capital budget would increase by £0.214m across financial years which would also result in an increase in the prudential indicator for Capital Expenditure in corresponding years.

Councillor Leech sought an assurance that the proposed budget for the new Secondary SEND School had taken account of any potential inflationary costs so to avoid the need to seek further funding at a future point.

Councillor Johnson sought assurance that the consideration of carbon reduction was taken into account with any ICT projects.

The Deputy Chief Executive commented that there was a substantial allowance for inflation and contingency associated with the new Secondary SEND School budget and that all ICT projects took account of how they could contribute to carbon reductions..

## **Decisions**

The Executive:-

- (1) Approve the following changes to the Council's capital programme:
  - Children's Services - New Secondary Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) School – Varley Street. A capital budget virement of £18.1m, funded from Unallocated Special Educational Needs Grant.
  - Highways Services – Rochdale Canal. A capital budget virement of £0.230m funded from borrowing.
  - Highways Services – Safer Streets – Manchester Cycleway. A capital budget increase of £0.323m, funded by External Contribution and a capital budget virement of £0.220m, funded by borrowing via the Highways Project Delivery Fund.
  - ICT – Contract Management. A capital budget decrease of £0.109m and a corresponding transfer of £0.109m to the revenue budget, funded by Capital Fund.
- (2) Note the increases to the programme of £4.002m as a result of delegated approvals and the virements in the programme of £1.326m as a result of virements from approved budgets

### **Exe/23/4 Making Manchester Fairer - the Anti-Poverty Strategy 2023-2028**

The Executive considered a report of the Strategic Director (Growth and Development), which provided an overview of the work undertaken to date to develop a refreshed poverty strategy for the city and set out the approach, evidence base and engagement process for developing the strategy. The report also outlined the relationship between the new strategy and existing work on Making Manchester Fairer, developing a more inclusive economy, tackling the Cost-of-Living Crisis and other linked areas of work.

The Deputy Leader reported that Manchester had long recognised the significant challenge of tackling and reducing poverty in the city. In 2017, a Family Poverty Strategy was launched which focused on families with children and young people up to the age of 19. A significant amount of partnership work was undertaken to deliver the Family Poverty Strategy in the last five years, against a backdrop of health and economic challenges which had highlighted and exacerbated poverty in Manchester.

The new Anti-Poverty Strategy provided an opportunity to take account of the impact of these challenges and extend the strategy to cover all households in the city to include those without children. Extensive research and engagement work had taken place with residents and partners to determine the main themes and priorities for the new strategy:-

- Preventing Poverty
- Mitigating Poverty
- Pathways out of Poverty
- Inclusive and effective delivery

Learning from the experience with the Family Poverty Strategy 2017-2022 and considering the information that had been gathered from research and conversations with partners, there was an opportunity to make some changes to the governance for the new strategy to ensure that it was as effective as it could be. The strategy would be led by a Making Manchester Fairer and Anti-Poverty Programme Management Team made up of council officers and partners. Delivery would ultimately be accountable to the Making Manchester Fairer Programme Board and would be undertaken through partnership working and collaboration between Manchester's Voluntary and Community Sector organisations and public sector institutions with the support of the city's private sector.

Measuring the impact and success of the new strategy would be challenging due to external factors beyond the Council's control. The worsening economic context was likely to put pressure on household budgets in the medium term, whilst constraining the ability of the Council and our partners to deliver effective services. Additionally, the action that could be taken was already limited in scope when compared to the scale and complexity of the factors driving poverty in Manchester.

In response to these challenges, a series of indicators had been selected which would assist in identifying the risk of people experiencing poverty, and the volume and need of individuals accessing certain services. This would help the Council understand how external factors were likely to drive demand and adapt its collective approach in response to changing needs.

The current economic challenges and rising inflation meant that poverty was going to continue to be a significant issue in Manchester for several years to come. Manchester had a robust system and network of professionals and organisations who remained committed to this issue, and who worked together to ensure that everything possible was being done to reduce the number of people experiencing poverty.

It was also recognised that in some areas the Council's powers to tackle poverty were limited, and the Council was prepared to work with its partners to identify new solutions and ways of working to maximise the collective impact on this issue. Where the Council did not have the powers locally, it would continue to make the case to Government for the legislative changes that were required to create the right conditions to effectively reduce poverty in the city.

Councillor Leech questioned the impact of the Family Poverty Strategy and the measurements of success insofar as to how many people who had received help and

support were no longer deemed to be living in poverty. He also made a suggestion that to help families living in poverty the Council should consider increasing the amount of financial support available through the Council Tax Support Scheme from the current maximum of 82.5% to 100%.

The Director of Inclusive Economy explained how the Council measured the impact of the actions and initiatives put in place through the Strategy and the Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer explained that there was a significant lead in period to making changes to the Council Tax Support Scheme but it had been suggested by Government that for 2024/25 the Council should consider its current Council Tax Support Scheme and whether the threshold levels remained appropriate.

Councillor Johnson commented on the need to help ensure food banks had appropriate support and funding to continue to help those who relied on these through the cost of living crisis.

## **Decision**

The Executive agree to adopt the new Anti-Poverty Strategy for Manchester.

### **Exe/23/5 Revised Policy for Residents Parking Schemes**

The Executive considered a report of the Strategic Director (Neighbourhoods), which sought approval of a revised policy around the implementation and operation of Residents Parking Zones (RPZ) within the city. The revised policy reflected the feedback and issues that have been gathered during the process of extending the Christie Resident Parking Scheme and in the design of other planned schemes.

The Executive Member for Environment and Transport reported that the Residents Parking Scheme (RPS) Policy was last considered in September 2018. The existing policy had evolved over time in response to parking issues in neighbourhoods. The recent review had highlighted that the current policy created issues within the design of the schemes, primarily because of the approach taken to visitor parking.

The primary changes proposed were:-

- Provision of two (previously one) free (previously £45 per annum) digital visitor permits for all residents, that can be managed within the online system.
- Option for transferrable paper permits for those without digital access.
- Provision of physical temporary parking permits (scratch cards) to all residents in addition to the permits. A number of scratch cards would be provided free to each household per annum, with further scratch cards available at an additional charge.

It was explained that the overall approach was to promote the management of visitor permits online consistent with providing better and more efficient services through the Council's Digital Front Door. This also facilitated significant efficiencies within both enforcement activities and administration of the schemes.

The policy also amended the approach to businesses to ensure that each business impacted will be considered on a case-by-case basis. This was to reflect the potential diversity between businesses and their relative needs in order to operate sustainably.

The revised policy would be applied to all current and future resident parking zones. The enforcement of resident parking schemes would also be subject to review and monitoring. It was necessary to ensure that the resources deployed were proportionate to the scale of non-compliance, therefore, regular reviews would be conducted in each area to determine the level of non-compliance and the level of enforcement resource required.

Councillors Stanton welcomed the extension of the Christie Resident Parking Scheme and the fact that the Council had listened to feedback from local residents to ensure the scheme had been appropriately thought through.

Councillor Leech commented that he felt that issues that were now being resolved associated with extension of the Christie Resident Parking Scheme could have been avoided. He also welcomed the proposals around business permits and raised a concern that the scratch card system could be open to abuse if these were not parking scheme specific scratch cards.

The Strategic Director (Neighbourhoods) acknowledged the points made in association with the extension of the Christie Resident Parking Scheme and the concern around the scratch card system.

## **Decision**

The Executive agree the revised policy.

## **Exe/23/6     Wythenshawe Civic Centre Development Framework**

The Executive considered a report of the Strategic Director (Growth and Development), which provided an update on the next stages of the transformation of Wythenshawe Civic Centre.

The Executive Member for Growth and Development reported that the principles of the proposed Development Framework for Wythenshawe Civic Centre had been informed by the recent public consultations. The framework set out a long-term regeneration vision that would guide investment and would transform the Civic Centre,

The Development Framework had been prepared to guide future regeneration and redevelopment in the Civic Centre. This included long-term aspirations for the rebalancing between retail, community and residential functions, aimed at creating a sustainable Civic Centre that widened its uses and provided an improved environment.

The Council's aim was to create a vibrant centre that was appropriate for Wythenshawe in 2023 by increasing and diversifying its offer, driving new footfall, increasing visitors spend and capturing opportunities for considerable economic

growth. Vacant and underused office and retail buildings would be brought back in to use as new business, community and creative spaces. A new food hall would be developed with access to local, affordable, sustainable produce and an evening food and beverage economy would be introduced. New, improved public realm would be sustainably drained and naturally planted, designed to be accessible and to encourage walking and cycling.

The Development Framework would also act as the guide for future investment and elements also informed the Levelling Up Fund application submitted in 2022 with the outcome of the Round 2 bids expected at the end of January 2023

If approved, the Development Framework would be formally adopted to guide future investment and the regeneration of Wythenshawe Civic Centre. Work had commenced exploring procurement options in relation to an investment and development partner. A further report would be submitted to Executive once this implementation strategy had been finalised.

Councillor Newman (Ward Councillor) addressed the Executive, stating his complete support for the long-term aspirations for Wythenshawe and the Civic Centre, recognising that investment and improvement had been long overdue.

The Strategic Director (Growth and Development) advised that subject to approval, the Council would be progressing with the appointment of a development partner to help move the redevelopment forward and in the short term progressing a commercial lettings strategy to fill some of the remaining vacant units.

Councillor Johnson welcomed the proposals and commented on the level of responses to the consultation process and the need to ensure there would be more social housing provided for Wythenshawe residents.

Councillor Leech sought clarification on the mix tenure of social housing that would be delivered as part of this Development Framework.

## **Decisions**

The Executive:-

- (1) Note the outcome of the results of the public consultation on the Development Framework for Wythenshawe Civic Centre.
- (2) Approve the Development Framework for Wythenshawe Civic Centre and that the Council take its Framework into account as a material consideration when considering planning applications for the site.

## **Exe/23/7 Gorton District Centre Development Framework**

The Executive considered a report of the Strategic Director (Growth and Development), which provided an update on the on the future plans to regenerate Gorton District Centre and the outcome of the public consultation that had informed it.

The Executive Member for Growth and Development reported that the Development Framework was being prepared to guide future regeneration and redevelopment in the District Centre. This included, but was not limited to, long-term aspirations to maximise the potential of the centre through creating a more attractive environment that was more comfortable for residents/visitors to dwell in, extending the periods of activity of residents and visitors within the centre, beyond the traditional Monday to Friday 9am-5pm, encouraging more diversity through an increased provision of commercial offers and opportunities to deliver 400 new homes on brownfield land with a mixed tenure approach that matches local housing demand.

Consultation with thirty local businesses was carried out October 2022 and a public consultation was held online from 9 December 2022 to 6 January 2023. Overall, the consultation feedback was very much supportive of the objectives for the Gorton district centre.

92% of responses supported the objective of creating a more attractive environment that was comfortable to spend time in. Several respondents felt that the indoor market, as an asset to Gorton, had a good selection of stalls, but that the exterior of the building was unwelcoming and needed improvement. The wider commercial offer was noted to be limited by available space and that a diversified retail offer was welcomed.

87.5% of responses were supportive of extending periods of activity with a particular aspiration for new uses during evenings and at weekends and supported the diversification of uses that would appeal to different communities and age groups with reference to a lack of space for younger people. 81.6% of respondents supported making the centre more accessible by walking and cycling, especially through the improvement of non-car dominated connections north to the surrounding housing estates, south to Sunny Brow Park and west to Debdale Park. Additional comments were made in support of safer road crossings and cycle lanes, especially when crossing Hyde Road and accessing the new Gorton Hub. Furthermore, 87.5% of respondents supported the objective to make the centre greener, with comments regarding aspirations for new tree planting.

Following this feedback a number of amendments had been made to the draft Framework:-

- Early engagement indicated strong community feeling regarding any plans for the redevelopment of the existing gymnastics site. Amendments had been made within the document that any redevelopment would be subject to identification and delivery of a new futureproofed facility.
- Aspirations were very clear about the ability for the redevelopment of the town centre to unlock opportunities to walk and cycle as appose to drive. Strong linear connections to the adjacent neighbourhoods had been incorporated, footpaths had been widened and Garratt Way now included a best-in-class segregated cycle way.
- Along with better pedestrian crossings across highways, the carriageway width on surrounding secondary roads had been narrowed. Improved lighting

on all existing and new footpaths will improve perceptions along with improvements to the market frontage providing natural surveillance.

- Respondents agreed with the principle of promoting the historical Garratt Way as the new focus of the town centre and the framework proposes a new town square, reconnecting the indoor market back and providing opportunities for an outdoor makers market or facilitation of community events.
- It was also recognised that Gorton was well connected to the local public transport network yet the town centre currently felt disconnected to the nearest station. Improvements had been proposed to the public realm from Chapman Street along with new development investment to animate uses and build density running towards the new town square.

The feedback, engagement with stakeholders and local businesses had been invaluable in informing the formation of the future plans for Gorton District Centre. The interventions and future development opportunities outlined in the proposed framework would guide future investment in Gorton. And would provide a town centre that met the local community aspirations along with unlocking opportunities for new homes and employment.

Councillor Reid (Ward Councillor) addressed the Executive, stating her complete support for the long-term aspirations for Gorton District Centre, recognising that investment and improvement had been long overdue.

## **Decisions**

The Executive:-

- (1) Note the outcome of the results of the public consultation on the Development Framework Gorton District Centre.
- (2) Approve the Development Framework for Gorton District Centre and request that Planning and Highways Committee take the Development Framework into account as a material consideration when considering planning applications with Gorton District Centre.

## **Exe/23/8 Large Scale Renewable Energy Generation - Solar Farm Purchase (Part A)**

The Executive considered a report of the Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer, which provided an update on the progress of negotiation and Due Diligence for the purchase of a Large-Scale Renewable Energy Generation Project to help ensure the Council could achieve the CO2 savings as set out in the Council's Climate Change Action Plan 2020-2025.

In January 2022 Executive granted delegation for the Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer, in consultation with the Leader, Executive Member for Finance and the Executive Member for Environment to negotiate for the purchase of a solar asset / PPA and any associated corporate documentation to establish a Special Purpose

Vehicle if required. The report also highlighted the need to seek further capital approvals to increase the Council's borrowing limit, via full council approval, if a binding offer were to be made to purchase a large-scale generation asset.

It was explained that the volatility in the energy markets linked to the war in Ukraine, combined with uncertain government energy policy over the summer and autumn of 2022 including a likely Government ban on new solar farm developments (since abandoned) plus the financial volatility arising from the UK Government's short-lived financial policies of September 2022 had all contributed to a volatile market over the past 12 months. During this period, the Council had tracked the market for suitable sites and explored potential options when they had become available. These events had also very much shifted the balance in favour of asset purchase as it offered a number of key advantages:

In November 2022, officers identified a suitable large scale solar PV facility available for purchase and submitted an initial non-binding offer to the developer. This offer had been accepted by the developer and the Council had been invited to submit a final offer. The developer required all bidders to clearly state that their internal approvals required were in place for their Final Offer. For the Council, this included Executive approval and for the capital budget increase and borrowing requirement, full Council approval. These approvals would be conditional on the outcomes of the due diligence and negotiations. If the Council's final offer was accepted, the Council would be granted exclusivity to complete full detailed due diligence following which a further report would be submitted to Executive

The Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer commented that the acquisition of a large-scale solar generation asset would give the early guarantee of long-term access to direct supply of renewable electricity generation, immediate overall CO2 reduction and significant financial certainty of future electricity prices to be paid by the Council.

Based on the projected energy demand assumptions, progress to both achieving the interim target of 50% reduction in carbon emissions by 2025 and to our long-term science-based target to be Zero Carbon by 2038 at the latest had been mapped. The modelling showed that, if the proposed solar farm was to come online as expected by the developer in early 2024 and generate the projected levels of electricity, the Council would meet its target to halve its CO2 emissions by 2025. The renewable electricity produced should also considerably accelerate the Council's progress to meeting its 2038 targets in the following years, particularly between 2025 and 2030. After 2025, the effect of the solar farm would become less pronounced, as government-projected decarbonisation of the National Grid reached a consistently high level, although progress on National Grid decarbonisation was a variable outside of the Council's control. Without a source of renewable energy, achievement of the Council's Zero Carbon 2038 objective would be largely dependent upon National Grid Decarbonisation.

In the event that this or another suitable solar farm purchase of c.50MW was not secured, the impact would need to be mitigated via seeking to purchase renewable electricity through other means such as via a PPA,. With energy markets currently in a state of high uncertainty PPA costs would have risen sharply and did not offer the

same long term price hedge and security of supply offered by the large-scale generation option.

## **Decision**

The Executive note the report and that further details and recommendations are set out in Part B to this report.

**Exe/23/9 Exclusion of Press and Public**

**Exe/23/10 Large Scale Renewable Energy Generation - Solar Farm Purchase (Part B)**

The Executive considered a report of the Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer, which provided details around the commercial, financial and legal arrangements in respect of the purchase of a Large-Scale Renewable Energy Generation Project.

## **Decisions**

The Executive:-

- (1) Recommend to Council approval of a capital budget increase of a maximum of £50m funded by borrowing on an invest to save basis, noting that the purchase will only progress if the Council is successful in its submission and it can be demonstrated that there are sufficient revenue savings to fund the capital financing costs.
- (2) Endorse the proposal to submit a final offer for the purchase of a solar farm.
- (3) Note if the bid submission is successful the Council will enter into a period of exclusivity to undertake further detailed due diligence with a further report to be brought back to the Executive for approval at a later date
- (4) Note the indicative timetable for submission and completion of the transaction as set out in the report.
- (5) Note that should the bid be unsuccessful an update will be provided to Executive