

**Manchester City Council
Report for Information**

Report to: Executive – 22 March 2023
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

Recommendation

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 Our Town Hall project

- 2.1 A delegation from the scheme to protect the Houses of Parliament for future generations visited the Our Town Hall project on Friday 17 March to gain insight into how a similar heritage task is being tackled.
- 2.2 The visitors from the Restoration and Renewal project, which is overseeing work to the historic Palace of Westminster complex, saw for themselves how painstaking work on the Grade I-listed Town Hall is progressing.
- 2.3 The delegation were given a tour of the extensive works, including a visit to the roof level where around 140,000 tiles are being replaced and to the Great Hall where restoration of the ceilings and leaded windows has been completed. They also saw where sympathetic interventions are being made to the building to bring it up to modern accessibility and safety standards, for example through the creation of five new lift cores.
- 2.4 Although the Palace of Westminster is a much larger complex, and its riverside location adds further challenges, there are parallels between the two heritage projects. The Houses of Parliament, only completed in 1870 after the original Palace of Westminster burnt down in 1834, are a near contemporary to Manchester Town Hall which opened in 1877. Visual similarities between the two Victorian neo-gothic masterpieces are such that the town hall has frequently been used as a 'double' for the interior of the Houses of Parliament in films and TV dramas. The London project is also intent on following the Our Town Hall project's lead in creating a legacy of heritage skills for residents.

Relates to Our Manchester Strategy themes:

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

3.0 Gorton Library

- 3.1 Gorton Library has become the latest in the city to benefit from the Council's Open Plus scheme.
- 3.2 Its opening hours have been extended to members the Open Plus programme, which allows library users to access the library and its facilities outside normal

staffed hours.

- 3.3 Users of the library, which opened within Gorton Hub in November 2022, can upgrade their library cards for free to become Open Plus members.
- 3.4 Gorton Library is now accessible to Open Plus members during the extending opening hours of Monday 8am-10am and 5pm-8pm, Tuesday 8am-1pm, Wednesday 8am-8pm, Thursday 8am-10am, Friday 8am-1pm and Saturday 9am-10am.

Relates to Our Manchester Strategy themes:

- Thriving and Sustainable City
- Progressive and Equitable City

4.0 Cultural Partnership grants

- 4.1 The Council has awarded almost £1 million of grants over the next three years to 12 key arts organisations delivering a wide range of cultural activities and opportunities for residents and wider audiences.
- 4.2 The funding, which runs from April 2023 to March 2026, will help make Manchester a thriving and liveable city with inclusive and accessible cultural and creative experiences.
- 4.3 The grants, which total £939,982, are deigned to help with organisations' core running costs and enable them to continue, and extend, their work with different communities across the city.
- 4.4 Successful bids were selected against stringent criteria including the creation of high quality work with life-enhancing impacts, a commitment to diversity and inclusion, and a commitment to widening access and participation in the arts. Organisations also had to demonstrate a commitment to the development of climate change actions contributing to the goal of the city becoming zero carbon by 2038 or earlier.
- 4.5 The 12 organisations are: Brighter Sound, Castlefield Gallery, Community Arts North-West, Contact, Hope Mill Theatre, Manchester Histories, Manchester Jazz Festival, Manchester Jewish Museum, Manchester Literature Festival, Odd Arts, Reform Radio and Venture Arts.

Relates to Our Manchester Strategy themes:

- Progressive and Equitable City
- Thriving and Sustainable City

5.0 Safer Streets funding

- 5.1 Funding has been secured for much-needed improvements along the Manchester Cycleway.
- 5.2 More than £300,000 has been secured from the Government's Safer Street Fund to make a range of improvements.
- 5.3 They include:
- Beginning work on a Safer Streets scheme for the Manchester Cycleway that will deliver improvements along the existing greenway along the Manchester Cycleway (Fallowfield Loop) and the Stockport Branch Canal (Yellow Brick Road.)
 - Providing a more open route.
 - Improving connections to surrounding neighbourhoods.
 - Revitalising the existing landscape to create a more open and less intimidating environment for people using the routes.
 - Upgrading access points to make the entrances more prominent and the route accessible, creating a more inviting route to travel.
- 5.4 Previous consultations highlighted how much the route's green setting and rural characteristics are valued by the people who use it and steps will be taken to ensure this element is preserved with new signage to encourage a sense of place.
- 5.5 The first stage of work, site clearance and landscaping on the Yellow Brick Road, began last month. Designs for wider improvements are being finalised and will be implemented in late spring/early summer this year.

Relates to Our Manchester Strategy themes:

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

6.0 Action Counters Terrorism training

- 6.1 More than 1,000 people have now taken part in Action Counters Terrorism (ACT) training to help venues to protect customers, visitors and staff.
- 6.2 The training – run in partnership between the Council, CityCo and Counter Terrorism Policing North West – was brought in to support the Council's early adoption of 'Martyn's Law', named in honour of Martyn Hett who lost his life in the 22 May 2017 Manchester Arena terror attack. This was done ahead of central Government's plans to implement a national Protect Duty requirement for venues.

- 6.3 The training helps equip venue staff across the city with the skills to identify and mitigate against potential risk, and to respond effectively in the event of a terror attack.
- 6.4 Businesses in the city have shown an impressive willingness to take on board the principles of Martyn's Law ahead of their legal duty to do so. Around 500 venues and more than 1,000 members of staff have taken part.
- 6.5 Martyn Hett's mother Figen Murray has championed 'Martyn's Law' and has personally taken part in some of the sessions.

Relates to Our Manchester Strategy themes:

Thriving and Sustainable City

7.0 Ancoats Green

- 7.1 A planning application for new public realm has been submitted to help create a new 'green heart' in the area.
- 7.2 The submission, which focused on three areas of public space – Ancoats Green, Prussia Street and Jersey Green – represents the final phase of the neighbourhood's regeneration story.
- 7.3 Under the plans Ancoats Green will act as the green focal point for the area, with walking and cycling routes through to Butler Street, and from Portugal Street to the Rochdale Canal. These routes will connect the community with the new Ancoats Mobility Hub, which is designed to reduce traffic in Ancoats and provide a more pedestrian-friendly, cleaner neighbourhood. This investment will encourage active travel as the natural way to move across the neighbourhood and create more opportunities for local people to enjoy time outside through new play areas and events spaces.
- 7.4 There will be a 76% increase in trees, with wildflower and wetland habitats also planted. Almost a third of new surfaces will be made from reclaimed material with permeable drainage systems.
- 7.5 The Ancoats Green work is due to be completed by 2024.
- 7.6 Jersey Green, where work is scheduled to start in 2025, will see this open space gain improved footpaths, extra seating and better connections to Miles Platting and New Islington.
- 7.7 Prussia Street work will commence in 2027. It will see the Jersey St bridge removed to allow for the creation of a new green corridor, linking the Rochdale Canal with Ancoat Green.

7.8 The investments are part of the third phase of the regeneration of Ancoats which will see 1,500 new homes built as well as the creation of a new Mobility Hub. Homes England has committed £28.1m to the project – along with Mobility Hub. Combined with £4.7m allocated by Greater Manchester Combined Authority through the Brownfield Housing Fund the total budget is £32.7m.

Relates to Our Manchester Strategy themes:

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

8.0 Youth Buzz Awards

8.1 Manchester's annual Youth Buzz awards have recognised the remarkable achievements of young people making a difference in their communities.

8.2 The awards, for people up to the age of 19, are organised by Manchester Youth Council with support from the Council and sponsors.

8.3 This year saw a record 160 nominations submitted across 12 different categories. For the first time the judging panel was made up entirely of young people, all members of the city's Youth Council.

8.4 Winners included Anisa Juma, who won the award for Outstanding Achievement for her Let Periods Flow campaign to make menstruation a less taboo topic and provide menstrual products across Manchester and Greater Manchester schools.

8.5 Blessing Bamidele, a young woman described by those who nominated her as 'the spirit of Manchester' and someone nurturing and kind who goes above and beyond to help people, took away the award for Young Achiever. She led a young carers fashion show at the Powerhouse in Moss Side focused on climate change and sustainability.

8.6 The Young Artists Project at the Royal Northern College of Music took the Youth Project of the Year award for its programme of training and support for pop musicians aged 11 to 18.

8.7 The Young Mentor Award went to 16-year-old Roberto Bayliss who volunteers at community youth group KYSO, using his musical talents to spread positivity and described as a great role model.

8.8 The Most Effective Youth Voice or Campaign award went to The Changemakers, a group recognised for the inspirational work they do in championing the voice of

disabled young people.

Relates to Our Manchester Strategy themes:

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

9.0 Great British Spring Clean

- 9.1 Manchester's Spring Clean, which supports Keep Britain Tidy's national event, was launched at Stanley Grove Primary School in Longsight last week, on Friday 17 March.
- 9.2 The campaign, which runs until 2 April is calling on schools, residents, volunteers and businesses to pitch in to help clean up litter and keep Manchester clean and green.
- 9.3 Many of the city's schools registered with the Eco Schools programme will be taking part this year and for Stanley Grove Primary School the launch marked the start of their Eco School journey. Manchester has 128 schools which are currently classed as Eco Schools which empower young people to take pride in their areas, learn about global issues and make environmentally-sustainable choices.
- 9.4 Hundreds of litter-picking groups are already in place across the city, with many businesses also working with the Council as part of their corporate social responsibility commitments.
- 9.5 Guidance on arranging a litter pick is at www.manchester.gov.uk/tidymcr

Relates to Our Manchester Strategy themes:

- Liveable and Zero Carbon City
- Progressive and Equitable City

10.0 Contributing to a Zero-Carbon City

- 10.1 Achieving Manchester's zero carbon target has been reflected throughout the work on the Our Manchester Strategy reset, with sustainability being a key horizontal theme throughout. Forward to 2025 restates Manchester's commitment to achieving our zero carbon ambition by 2038 at the latest.

11.0 Contributing to the Our Manchester Strategy

- 11.1 The reset of the Our Manchester Strategy will ensure that the city achieves its vision. The five themes have been retained in the reset Strategy, with the new priorities streamlined under the themes.

12.0 Key Policies and Considerations

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

13.0 Recommendations

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