

**Manchester City Council
Report for Information**

Report to: Executive – 31 May 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

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

Contact Officers:

Name: Joanne Roney OBE, Chief Executive
 Position: Chief Executive
 Telephone: 0161 2343006
 E-mail: Joanne.Roney@manchester.gov.uk

Name: Alun Ireland
 Position: Head of Strategic Communications
 Telephone: 0161 2343006
 E-mail: Alun.Ireland@manchester.gov.uk

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 Victoria North

- 2.1 Two planning applications have been submitted for the city's emerging Red Bank neighbourhood, part of the wider Victoria North scheme.
- 2.2 The plans, submitted by developer Far East Consortium as part of the Victoria North joint venture partnership with the Council, represent one of the largest residential schemes to be brought forward in Manchester in recent years.
- 2.3 They set out ambition to transform more than 30 acres of largely brownfield land into a vibrant neighbourhood of 4,800 homes alongside commercial and social facilities to support the local community.
- 2.4 Red Bank is among the first of seven neighbourhoods being regenerated as part of Victoria North, which will create 15,000 homes over the next decade – including around 20% affordable homes overall.
- 2.5 An outline planning application proposes up to 3,250 of the new homes and more than 160,000 sq ft of non-residential floorspace including commercial uses, a health centre, primary school and community spaces. The outline proposals also include the creation of new public realm with extensive areas of landscaping, green space and wetlands; supporting a minimum 10% biodiversity net gain across the neighbourhood.
- 2.6 Alongside the outline planning application, a full application is also being submitted for three plots on Dantzic Street, next to FEC's 634-home Victoria Riverside scheme.
- 2.7 The proposed 1,550 home scheme will see the construction of seven buildings, varying in height between 6 and 34-storeys, designed by Manchester-based architect Hawkins\Brown and Maccreanor Lavington. It will bring to market a mix of one, two and three-bedroom apartments and townhouses across a range of tenures including build to rent, affordable and open market scale. The buildings have been designed with energy efficiency measures including low carbon and renewable technologies.
- 2.8 The proposals will support a new high street, including 20,000 sq ft of commercial and retail space earmarked for local independent businesses. The detailed proposals also feature high quality public realm, including extensive landscaping and significant improvements to the streetscape of Dantzic Street and Dalton Street with tree planting, resurfacing, widened footpaths and new cycle lanes.

- 2.9 The submissions follow an extensive design and consultation process to develop a masterplan for the neighbourhood centred on FEC's Wild Urbanism concept, which prioritises green space, biodiversity, active travel and public realm alongside city centre living.

Relates to Our Manchester Strategy themes:

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

Retrofitting funding awards

- 3.1 Manchester City Council has secured £21m in funding for retrofitting schemes to make existing homes more energy efficient.
- 3.2 The Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) has awarded £11m through the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund (SHDF) to support the retrofitting of the Council's housing stock, sourced through a combined bid made by Greater Manchester Combined Authority.
- 3.3 In addition to this, Manchester City Council successfully bid to DESNZ for another £10m in funding through its Home Upgrade Grant 2 (HUG2.)
- 3.4 The SHDF funding will enable improvements to approximately 1,600 Council-owned homes with additional insulation and ventilation and install renewable energy systems.
- 3.5 The HUG2 funding will support improvements to approximately 500 privately-owned homes.
- 3.6 The result will be warmer, more comfortable homes and lower energy bills for Manchester residents, a contribution to the city's Zero Carbon targets and the creation of significant employment, training and wider social value opportunities in the city.
- 3.7 The Council is developing the details and will set out in the coming months the locations and properties which will be targeted and included, in line with eligibility criteria for the funding.
- 3.8 The Council has set a target of retrofitting at least a third of the city's 67,300 social rented properties by 2032, working alongside registered providers to ensure the properties they manage are also upgraded. Significant action to retrofit the city's privately owned housing stock will also be needed.
- 3.9 To date, considerable progress and investment has been made towards city-wide retrofitting projects.

- 3.10 £83m has been spent on energy efficiency improvements to Council properties in north Manchester since 2005 leading to a 49% reduction in CO2 emissions (from 55,000 to 28,000 tonnes of CO2) in the homes that have received investment.
- 3.11 2,100 Residents received energy advice since 2013, saving them an estimated £370k and 500 tonnes of CO2.
- 3.12 Investment in the Council's own stock – which has been supported by £12m of external grants - also includes:
- External insulation to 1,600 solid wall properties and 14 high rise blocks of flats
 - Cavity wall insulation to 5,100 homes and top-up loft insulation to 7,000 homes
 - Installation of 580 heat pumps and 2,350 solar photovoltaic (PV) systems

Relates to Our Manchester Strategy themes:

- Liveable and Zero Carbon City
- Progressive and Equitable City
- Highly Skilled City

4.0 Former Chorlton Leisure Centre

- 4.1 A planning application has been submitted to create affordable 'Later Living' homes on the site of the former Chorlton Leisure Centre.
- 4.2 The new development will provide 50 apartments (a mix of one bed and two bed) for the over 55s. 7 of the apartments will be for sale by shared ownership, 3 will be neighbourhood apartments providing step up accommodation, with the remaining 40 capped at the Manchester Living Rent (i.e. priced at or below the local housing allowance level).
- 4.3 Lettings will be prioritized to over 55s with a housing priority need, including those wishing to right-size and free up a social rented family home in the local area for families on the housing waiting list. Affordable homes to rent in neighbourhoods like Chorlton are much needed and these homes are expected to be in high demand.
- 4.4 Working closely with the Manchester-based award-winning architects, Buttress, the development will be built to the HAPPI (Housing Our Ageing Population Panel) principles which include:
- space and flexibility and a focus on health and wellbeing so that occupants' changing requirements will be met over time
 - the inclusion of large balconies, increased light levels, and shared social spaces
 - high quality fixtures and fittings
 - the design will incorporate strong elements of the natural environment

- a strong emphasis on decarbonisation and sustainability
- 4.5 The apartments and development overall will have the flexibility to adapt over time to meet the changing needs of the occupants, meaning residents can move from their existing family home and right-size to a new more suitable home which provides everything they need for years to come.
- 4.6 In addition to well thought out communal spaces and hubs within the development, there will also be opportunities to bring in other external features, for example health services, wellbeing spaces and opportunities for community interaction and involvement.
- 4.7 The development, being delivered by MSV Housing, is expected to be completed in Summer 2025 and will see an investment of over £12m.

Relates to Our Manchester Strategy themes:

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

5.0 Selective Licensing

- 5.1 A further 700 private sector homes now require a landlord licence following the expansion of the city's Selective Licensing regime to five new schemes across four neighbourhoods.
- 5.2 Selective Licensing allows Council to require landlords of all private rented properties to obtain a licence in a particular area and is intended to address the impact of poor-quality homes and management standards.
- 5.3 Licensing can be introduced if an area is experiencing significant and persistent problems caused by antisocial behaviour, poor property conditions, high levels of migration, high levels of deprivation, high levels of crime, low housing demand – or is likely to become such an area.
- 5.4 The four new Selective Licensing areas that are now designated as of earlier this month are:
- Levenshulme: Matthews Lane – 170 PRS properties
 - Longsight: The Royals – 74 PRS properties
 - Moss Side & Whalley Range: Claremont Road / Great Western Street / Bowes Street – 346 PRS properties
 - Rusholme: Birch Lane – 70 PRS properties
 - Rusholme: Off Laidon Road and Dickenson Road – 38 PRS properties
- 5.5 All residents in properties that now require a licence will receive a letter explaining that licensing is now in operation and that their landlord will be required to apply. Landlords will be contacted by the Council and are

encouraged to apply for a licence as the earliest opportunity with an early bird discount being offered to all applications through until 8 August.

5.6 There are four previous schemes currently in operation in the city:

- The Ladders - Gorton and Abbey Hey
- Hyde Road - Gorton and Abbey Hey
- Trinity – Harpurhey
- Ben Street area - Clayton and Openshaw

5.7 And a further four schemes from the initial designation which have now closed:

- Crumpsall – 13th March 2017 to 12th March 2022 (now closed)
- Moss Side – 8th Jan 2018 to 7th Jan 2023 (now closed)
- Moston – 23rd Apr 2018 to 22nd Apr 2023 (now closed)
- Old Moat – 23rd Apr 2018 to 22nd Apr 2023 (now closed)

5.8 1887 properties have been fully licensed since 2017 ensuring that these properties are safe for residents and managed on behalf of tenants.

- 677 compliance inspections have now been carried out
- 170 found to be fully compliant with the selective licensing conditions.
- 425 were identified as broadly compliant where there were less serious hazards identified on the inspection where landlords were notified of the hazards and remediation work was suggested
- 82 properties were non-compliant with legal notices or fined

5.9 Enforcement action has been undertaken where necessary to target landlords who have failed to comply with the licensing scheme and to improve property conditions.

Relates to Our Manchester Strategy themes:

- Thriving and Sustainable City
- Progressive and Equitable City

6.0 CYCLOPS Junction

6.1 As part of the ongoing Manchester to Chorlton Cycleway project, Manchester City Council has been working to create a continuous link from the city centre to Chorlton.

6.2 The Council's goal is to improve our connections across the city to support long-term, sustainable economic growth and access to opportunities for all; the work also ties in with the Greater Manchester 2040 Transport Strategy, as well as the recently published Manchester Active Travel Strategy and Investment Plan (MAT SIP) which puts sustainable travel at its heart.

- 6.3 Over recent months a new CYCLOPS junction has been built, providing a way for cyclists, pedestrians and vehicles to safely travel through the junction whilst remaining segregated from one another.
- 6.4 This is intended to both smooth journey times through the junction, but also to improve people's safety during their travels.
- 6.5 As part of this project, some changes were made to the existing road layout, with Shrewsbury Street being closed at Upper Chorlton Street, as well as a ban on motor traffic turning left from Chorlton Road into Moss Lane West.

Relates to Our Manchester Strategy themes:

- Connected City
- Liveable and Zero Carbon City

7.0 EURO 2028 bid and Davis Cup group stages

- 7.1 Manchester has been put forward as one of eight host cities in a bid to bring the EURO 2028 football tournament to the UK & Ireland.
- 7.2 If successful, the bid would see the Etihad Stadium host matches in the competition along with 9 other stadiums in London, Cardiff, Liverpool, Newcastle, Birmingham, Glasgow and Belfast. UEFA is expected to decide later this year who will host the tournament.
- 7.3 The city is already confirmed as one of only four cities in the world to host the group stages of The Davis Cup, dubbed The World Cup of men's tennis.
- 7.4 Between 12 and 17 September this year the AO Arena will host group stage ties between Great Britain, Australia, France and Switzerland with each country playing three times over the six days. The top two nations will advance to a Final 8 knock-out competition to be held in Spain in November.
- 7.5 Hosting the matches in Manchester is part of the Lawn Tennis Association's strategic vision to broaden access to the sport and complements the city's range of high quality tennis facilities.
- 7.6 Tickets for the Manchester matches go on General Sale on Wednesday 31 May.

Relates to Our Manchester Strategy themes:

- Thriving and Sustainable City

8.0 Contributing to a Zero-Carbon City

- 8.1 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.

9.0 Contributing to the Our Manchester Strategy

9.1 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.

10.0 Key Policies and Considerations

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

11.0 Recommendations

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