

**Manchester City Council
Report for Information**

Report to: Executive – 26 July 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 significant progress is being made against key strategic themes identified in the Our Manchester Strategy.

2.0 Retrofitting and Decent Homes

- 2.1 Funding has been approved to decarbonise and upgrade more than 2,000 homes in the city's biggest ever sustainable homes investment programme.
- 2.2 The Council has already successfully bid for two major funding pots from the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ), with one of the bids (Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund) being part of a consortia bid by Greater Manchester Combined Authority.
- 2.3 £49.7m will be invested in 1,603 Council-owned homes to improve sustainability through a range of works, which include better property and roof insulation, solar panelling, new boilers or heating systems, and air and ground source heat pumps.
- 2.4 This includes £11.6m from DESNZ's Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund and a £38m contribution from the Council's capital programme. At the same time, part of this funding will be also used to deliver a range of decent homes investments in the same properties, including building safety and fire safety work, to limit disruption to the residents while work is taking place.
- 2.5 Currently, the grant funding is limited to properties rated EPC D or below with the expectation that the measures will improve most properties to EPC C rating - and to EPC B in some cases.
- 2.6 Retrofit surveys to inform the extent of the programme of work are already underway. The whole programme is expected to be completed in September 2025.
- 2.7 There are a further 1,538 social homes owned by the city's Registered Providers that will be retrofitted through their own SHDF schemes (*Southway - 1,112; One Manchester – 150; and Wythenshawe Community Housing Group – 276*)
- 2.8 Home Upgrade Grant (HUG phase 2) funding will be used to support low-income households in the private sector to improve the energy efficiency of their homes.
- 2.9 £10m from DESNZ's Home Upgrade Grant fund will be provided to help improve the EPC rating of 500 privately owned homes from D or below to C. The funding targets properties which do not currently use gas as their main heating fuel and those meeting other criteria set by DESNZ.
- 2.10 This programme of work will begin later in 2023 and will be completed by March 2025.

- 2.11 The Council's Housing Strategy that was agreed last year looks to retrofit a third of all social housing in the city to become EPC band B by 2032 as part of the journey to become a net zero carbon city by 2038.
- 2.12 Manchester has a high number of social homes compared to similar cities. Around 70,000 homes are for social rent and of these, circa 16,000 are owned by the Council.
- 2.13 The Council's Housing Services team is leading the way in this work with a plan to retrofit 60% of the Council-owned properties by 2032.
- 2.14 The Council is committed to reducing the carbon impact of the city and will need to navigate a range of major challenges to meet these targets. Manchester's homes are dominated by pre-war and mid-century homes with a high number of uninsulated homes and low levels of roof insulation. Gas heating is also the most common heating system in 80% of our homes with new technologies such as heat pumps representing around only 2% of the housing stock.
- 2.15 Nationally, there is relatively little funding to invest in Council-owned homes at scale, which means Councils must pay for retrofitting works through its Capital Programme and Housing Revenue Accounts – competing for investment with wider capital projects and the need to deliver decent homes works alongside retrofit projects.
- 2.16 The Climate Change Framework 2022 document says that to reduce the city's emissions by 50%, 84,000 properties need to be retrofitted with an estimated cost of £2.1bn - which means private sector homes will also need to take up the low carbon challenge, using all available opportunities available to the Council and homeowners in the city.
- 2.17 There are currently 79,000 owner occupied homes in the city and 93,000 rented by private landlords. A key issue in this sector remains cost and some owners may be either unwilling or unable to afford retrofit works to their homes.
- 2.18 In addition to the HUG2 funding that the Council has secured to deliver energy efficiency improvements in private homes, a number of other initiatives are underway.
- 2.19 To date, significant progress and investment has been made towards city-wide retrofitting projects:
- £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.
 - 2,100 Residents received energy advice since 2013, saving them an estimated £370k and 500 tonnes of CO2.

- 2.20 Investment in the Council's own stock to date 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
 - This investment has been supported by a £12m contribution in the form of external grants since 2010.

2.14 **Relates to Our Manchester Strategy themes:**

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

3.0 ID Manchester

- 3.1 Public consultation is now underway on the draft strategic regeneration framework for the new £1.7bn innovation district ID Manchester.
- 3.2 The newly published draft Strategic Regeneration Framework (SRF) sets out the scale, ambition and opportunities that ID Manchester brings to the city and includes a series of place-based principles that will guide detailed plans for development and future planning applications.
- 3.3 Along with setting out the vision for ID Manchester to be recognized internationally as one of the world's leading applied innovation districts, the SRF shares artists' impressions of what the district could look like, including a new civic square, a revitalised Vimto Park and the repurposing of key heritage assets such as the Sackville Street and Renold buildings.
- 3.4 The SRF also details ID Manchester's aim to build a diverse and inclusive community of innovators, and transform what was a purpose-built academic campus into a welcoming and accessible new area of the city. Through creative repurposing of existing buildings and spaces, such as Pariser and Renold buildings, a "meanwhile" use strategy has been implemented to bring early activation to the site ahead of redevelopment, with a mix of commercial office, lab and makerspace premises, pop-up retail and leisure spaces, events and programmed activities focused on science, technology, arts, culture and innovation.
- 3.5 Once completed, ID Manchester will create over 10,000 new jobs and bring significant economic, social and environmental benefits to the city. Totalling more than 4 million sq ft, the illustrative masterplan has the potential to accommodate over 2 million sq ft of commercial and retail space, and more than 1,500 homes.
- 3.6 The public consultation will run until 8 September with feedback reported to the Council.

3.7 Project partners The University of Manchester and Bruntwood SciTech, a 50:50 joint venture between Bruntwood and Legal & General, have produced the SRF in collaboration with a world-class design team and specialist consultants, including: Allies and Morrison, SLA, Stanhope, Deloitte, ARUP, Stephen Levrant Heritage Architecture, Useful Projects, Ekosgen and Arcadis.

3.8 **Relates to Our Manchester Strategy themes:**

- Thriving and Sustainable City
- Highly Skilled City

4.0 This City

4.1 Council-owned housing development company This City marked its first start on site earlier this month as construction began on 128 new low carbon homes at Rodney Street, Ancoats.

4.2 The development will include 118 apartments across two buildings (a mix of 27 one bed and 91 two bed homes), alongside 10 town houses (eight three bed and two four bed homes) - and will overlook an improved and expanded Ancoats Green.

4.3 A third of the homes will be made available at the Manchester Living Rent, which is capped at the Government's Local Housing Allowance rate (LHA). This means that these homes will be affordable to residents on full housing benefit and expands the housing offer for people on low incomes in the city centre. The remaining homes will be available at market rent.

4.4 This City is bringing long-term brownfield land at Rodney Street in Ancoats back into use, creating high quality housing in a highly sustainable location, allowing residents to walk, cycle and use nearby public transport to access local services and employment.

4.5 Each of the townhouses will include off-street parking with electric vehicle (EV) parking and private gardens to the rear. Seven disabled parking spaces within the development site will also each have an EV charging point.

4.6 Parking spaces will also be made available at the nearby Ancoats Mobility Hub alongside bicycle parking.

4.7 The Mobility Hub is a new concept in urban design, which centralises car parking for multiple new developments, minimising on-site parking (other than disabled parking) and reduces traffic across the local area, helping to create a pedestrian first community.

4.8 Significant planting and new trees will green the development and complement the wider public realm strategy to make Ancoats a low-carbon, sustainable neighbourhood – focused on active travel rather the car.

4.9 The Rodney Street development will benefit from a wider £32m investment package funded by Homes England in this part of Ancoats, helping to unlock

1,500 new homes and bring the 20-year regeneration story of the area to a close.

4.10 This includes major investment in Ancoats Green that borders the This City development site alongside new public realm that will connect the community to the green space, the new Ancoats Mobility Hub, and the surrounding neighbourhoods.

4.11 Work to Ancoats Green and the wider public realm will begin later in 2023.

4.12 **Relates to Our Manchester Strategy themes:**

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

5.0 **Cost-of-living support**

5.1 Support for residents during the cost-of-living crisis will continue throughout Manchester this summer.

5.2 Since the onset of the current crisis, the Council has been working to provide a safety net for the thousands of Mancunians believed to be affected.

5.3 As the summer holidays approach, a known pinch point for families during the year, the Council wants to make sure people know what support is available and how they can access it.

5.4 A new leaflet has been created which sets out the range of support that is on offer over the summer. This includes:

- Food and transport for children during the holidays
- Loads to Do – free activities for families this summer
- Benefits support
- Mental health support
- Cost-of-living advice hotline
- Financial support
- Free Wi-Fi

5.5 The Council has also set up dedicated webpages both for financial support as well as the Helping Hands platform, which sets out a wealth of information for people in need. Visit manchester.gov.uk/helpinghands to find out more.

5.6 This continuing support plays a part in the recently announced Making Manchester Fairer initiative, which is at the forefront of Council policy looking at how systemic inequalities in the city can not only be addressed, but reversed.

5.7 **Relates to Our Manchester Strategy themes:**

- Progressive and Equitable City

- Thriving and Sustainable City

6.0 Free summer books

- 6.1 More than eight thousand copies of the same book are being given to all final year primary school children in Manchester this summer to help them settle into their new high schools in September and keep them reading over summer.
- 6.2 The unique book giveaway by Read Manchester will see every Year 6 child at the city's school given a copy of *The Lion Above The Door* by author Onjali Q Rauf. Pupils will also get a special workbook full of fun, practical activities and challenges related to the book, as part of the shared learning project for pupils as they make their move from primary school.
- 6.3 This year marks the fourth year of the city-wide reading project and it's hoped that giving every child the same book as they leave primary school will create some common ground between pupils as they move up to their new high schools in the autumn.
- 6.4 The Year 6 transition read for primary pupils is part of a broader five-year action plan called *Making Manchester Fairer*, which aims to address inequalities in the city that can start early on in life and even affect how long people live for, and their opportunities around work and housing. The plan also includes work around tackling cost of living pressures and poverty, which are also integral to improving health and wellbeing.
- 6.5 **Relates to Our Manchester Strategy themes:**
- Progressive and Equitable City
 - Highly Skilled City

7.0 Social Value

- 7.1 The wider social value benefits generated from the construction of the new Co-op Belle Ve Academy have been pinpointed.
- 7.2 The 1,200-place co-educational secondary school welcomed its first cohort of pupils in January this year and expects to be at full capacity by 2027.
- 7.3 But as well as the obvious benefits the school itself will bring to the community, social value formed an integral part of project decisions with lead contractor Sir Robert McAlpine and supply chain partners creating new jobs and apprenticeships, hosting T-level and work experience students and helping support community groups.
- 7.4 Analysis carried out by Sir Robert McAlpine, using the Loop social value tool which follows government methodologies, the social return on investment for the project was £1.8m and it generated an economic impact of £30m for the wider area.

7.5 In total 58 jobs were created, 43% of them going to Manchester residents, and 18 apprenticeships. The project also hosted eight T-level students from Manchester College and 16 work experience placements. Six candidates from Ingeus' Restart Scheme, which supports people looking to take the first step into employment in construction, were also hosted for week-long trials. All six went on to find employment.

7.6 Almost £10,000 was also raised for local community groups.

7.7 Relates to Our Manchester Strategy themes:

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

8.0 Station South

8.1 The Council has secured the future of a much-loved community asset in Levenshulme after agreeing to purchase its freehold.

8.2 The purchase has been carried out in support of Station South's long-term presence in the area and to ensure that they can continue to deliver their services within the community.

8.3 Station South, on Stockport Road, has become an important fixture in the neighbourhood, providing a community space for people who cycle as well as other amenities through their café and bar.

8.4 The move reflects the Council's commitment to supporting cycling as a sustainable transport option which can also play a role in a healthier lifestyle.

8.4 Relates to Our Manchester Strategy themes

- Liveable and Zero Carbon City
- Connected City

9.0 Contributing to a Zero-Carbon City

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

10.0 Contributing to the Our Manchester Strategy

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

11.0 Key Policies and Considerations

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

12.0 Recommendations

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