

Manchester City Council Report for Information

Report to: Economy and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee – 5 September 2023

Subject: Making Manchester Fairer - poverty, employment, skills, housing

Report of: Director of Inclusive Economy

Summary

Making Manchester Fairer: Tackling Health Inequalities in Manchester 2022-27 describes the actions that the city will take to reduce inequalities, with a focus on the social determinants of health. This report provides a progress update and next steps for the delivery of three of the key themes of the Making Manchester Fairer Action Plan - 'Cutting unemployment and creating good jobs', 'Lifting low-income households out of poverty and debt' and 'Improving housing and creating safe, warm affordable housing' in conjunction with the delivery of Manchester's new Anti-Poverty Strategy.

Recommendations

The Committee is asked to note progress on the relevant themes of the Making Manchester Fairer Action Plan and incorporation of the Anti-Poverty Strategy as a joint programme of work.

Wards Affected – All

Environmental Impact Assessment - the impact of the issues addressed in this report on achieving the zero-carbon target for the city

Improving health inequalities in the city with a focus on achieving this through better housing and good employment opportunities for in the city will have a positive impact on Manchester's commitment to being zero-carbon by 2038. Improving the condition of housing will improve the energy efficiency of homes reducing emissions.

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion - the impact of the issues addressed in this report in meeting our Public Sector Equality Duty and broader equality commitments
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All the three Making Manchester Fairer themes reported on have a strong commitment to addressing inequalities. This includes ensuring that the most disadvantaged are supported with employability skills and opportunities; preventing our residents from falling into poverty and identifying the specific needs of people from protected groups to increase the supply of suitable accommodation.
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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 activity outlined in this report supports the creation of an inclusive economy which provides a diverse range of jobs and opportunities for residents to reduce health inequalities.
A highly skilled city: world class and home-grown talent sustaining the city's economic success	The report references the Work & Skills strategy which is aligned to Making Manchester Fairer in its ambition to use learning and employment to help the OMS meet its vision for a highly skilled city.
A progressive and equitable city: making a positive contribution by unlocking the potential of our communities	Reaching disadvantaged communities including those with health concerns to sustain good well-paid employment is a key element of several initiatives such as the Real Living Wage, Age Friendly work and integration of health and work services.
A connected city: world class infrastructure and connectivity to drive growth	Digital exclusion is a barrier to work as it can include for example low level English skills. We will support residents who digitally excluded to get online and embed support in Manchester Adult Education setting. The Housing Strategy will promote residential development on sites close to public transport.

Financial Consequences – Revenue

None.

Financial Consequences – Capital

None.

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Background documents (available for public inspection):

- Manchester Housing Strategy (2022-2032) – Annual Monitoring Report - Economy and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee, 18 July 2023
- Making Manchester Fairer - The Anti-Poverty Strategy 2023-2028 – Economy Scrutiny Committee, 18 January 2023
- Making Manchester Fairer, Tackling Health Inequalities in Manchester 2022-2027 – Health Scrutiny Committee, 12 October 2022
- Work and Skills Strategy 2022-27 (February 2022)
- Build Back Fairer – Covid19, Marmot Review: Housing, Unemployment and Transport - Economy and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee, 14 October 2021

1. Background

1.1. Making Manchester Fairer 2022-2027

In June 2021 the UCL Institute of Health Equity, the leading global institute on health inequalities led by Professor Sir Michael Marmot, published 'Build Back Fairer in Greater Manchester: Health Equity and Dignified Lives'. Making Manchester Fairer is our five-year action plan to address health inequalities in the city. The Action Plan was endorsed by the Health and Wellbeing Board and Manchester Partnership Board in July 2022 and launched in October 2022.

1.2. The Action Plan describes the actions that the city will take to reduce health inequalities in the aftermath of the pandemic, with a focus on the social determinants of health.

1.3. These actions are based around eight key themes. Themes 2,3 and 5 will be the focus of this report.

1. Giving children and young people the best start in life.
2. **Lifting low-income households out of poverty and debt (Poverty, income and debt).**
3. **Cutting unemployment and creating good jobs (Work and employment).**
4. Preventing illness and early death from big killers – heart disease, lung disease, diabetes and cancer.
5. **Improving housing and creating safe, warm, affordable homes.**
6. Fighting systemic and structural discrimination and racism.
7. Improving our environment and surroundings in the areas where we live, transport and climate change.
8. Strengthening community power and connections.

1.4. Making Manchester Fairer is an ambitious plan and will take time to embed and develop. In the meantime, four schemes called the Kickstarters are being developed. These schemes will kickstart delivery of the plan by exemplifying its principles in terms of health equity, proportionate universalism, and involving and engaging Manchester's diverse local communities. The focus will be on some of the longer-term challenges to help start narrowing the health equity gap, particularly the need to tackle poverty and the additional barriers of racism and discrimination for some communities.

2. Integration with Manchester's new Anti-Poverty Strategy

2.1. The City Council and our partners have a long-standing commitment to tackling poverty which is set out in the Our Manchester Strategy under the theme a progressive and equitable city. Prior to the adoption of the Making Manchester Fairer Action Plan, Manchester's anti-poverty work was guided by the Family Poverty Strategy 2017-2022 which was developed specifically to support children and families living in poverty. While work was taking place to develop

Making Manchester Fairer, the Family Poverty Strategy reached the end of its life and work began on developing its replacement.

- 2.2. Because poverty was identified in the *Build Back Fairer* report as a key driver of health inequalities, it was decided that the Family Poverty Strategy's replacement would sit within the wider Making Manchester Fairer programme. This would allow greater alignment of resources and workstreams across the Making Manchester Fairer Themes. The new Anti-Poverty Strategy was adopted by Executive in January 2023 and seeks to tackle poverty affecting all residents, not just those households with children.
- 2.3. Since the adoption of Making Manchester Fairer and the Anti-Poverty Strategy, officers have been working to integrate and align the two programmes of work. Tackling poverty and debt is one of the eight themes of Making Manchester Fairer, with the Anti-Poverty Strategy forming the main route to delivering against that theme. Officers with responsibility for implementing the strategy are accountable to the Making Manchester Fairer governance structures, including Task Force and Programme Board.
- 2.4. Integrating the Anti-Poverty Strategy with Making Manchester Fairer has many benefits, which include:
 - Sharing lessons learned and best practice, particularly in relation to resident engagement and community involvement.
 - Bringing additional resources in to support Manchester's anti-poverty work.
 - Incorporating robust measurement and evaluation processes from Making Manchester Fairer into anti-poverty work.
 - Improved and more efficient stakeholder management.

3. Making Manchester Fairer Action Plan

3.1. Cutting unemployment and creating good jobs (Work and Employment).

Currently there are 19,912 residents in Manchester who aren't in work due to long-term sickness. That is 21% (one in five) of all unemployed residents and 5% of the entire working age population. Unemployment saw a sharp increase during the pandemic before falling but over the last few months we have seen increases in Universal Credit claimants with those over 50 years old accounting for 22% of all claimants. Long-term unemployment can contribute significantly to poor health, low well-being and increase the risk of early deaths whereas being in a good job is usually good for health and can contribute to managing ongoing health conditions.

- 3.2. The Work and Employment theme will deliver on six specific objectives as set out below.

1. Champion and embed social value; how staff are recruited and supported to progress, focusing on local residents and groups disproportionately impacted by COVID.

Drive employers' influence on adult education and skills provision, co-invest in upskilling workers & finding & developing the skills they need.

Increase apprenticeship numbers, promote provision & take-up of vocational qualifications.

2. Work towards becoming a Living Wage City.

Promote the Good Employment Charter and increase number of members and supporters.

3. Support social mobility by implementing the Manchester Adult Education Plan. Increase access to skills courses by linking up with GPs & Manchester's social prescribing approach.

Help neighbourhood teams co-deliver courses to support the management of long-term conditions and ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages).

Work with community organisations to increase their reach into communities with low skill levels.

4. Support employers and organisations providing employment and recruitment services to make recruitment more inclusive of older people, those with health conditions and disabilities.

5. Maximise integration of health and work services in a place-based & person-centred way.

Advocate for largescale work and skills programmes and increased Adult Education funding.

6. Promote the 'anchor institutions' approach to increase employment of local people (e.g., Manchester Airport); work with developments including Victoria North, North Manchester General Hospital & New Park House.

4. Work and Employment highlights and achievements

4.1. Strategic Approach

4.2. Manchester's Work and Skills Strategy (2022-27) received Executive approval on 29 June 2022 and was launched in September of that year. The Strategy responds to the recommendations made in the Marmot report 'Build Back Fairer in Greater Manchester', which makes clear connections between work and health outcomes. It sets out how we will use learning and employment to meet the Our Manchester Strategy vision of being a more highly skilled city and how we will help create a more inclusive economy aligned to Making Manchester Fairer where more of our residents are connected to our City's success.

4.3. We have worked closely with Greater Manchester Combined Authority to

influence and shape the commissioning of UK Government Shared Prosperity Funding (UKSPF). This includes ensuring that the proportion of the funding we receive matches the scale of need in Manchester. The provision will be place-focused and enable community level organisations to bid for funding to engage residents who are economically inactive. This represents a positive opportunity to fund trusted and culturally competent community organisations to engage residents on their journey back to work, in line with Making Manchester Fairer principles.

5. Operational Activity

5.1. Manchester Real Living Wage and Good Employment Charter

Manchester became accredited as a Living Wage City in October 2022 and have committed to a three-year plan to deliver the targets agreed with the Living Wage Foundation. Year 1 of this plan is underway, overseen by an Anchors delivery group, representative of key sectors in City. The Anchors Group is currently developing a communications strategy which will use communications materials to engage with residents, employees and employers and delivery will be led by communications leads from each organisation.

- 5.2. The Living Wage City action plan includes three metrics: number of organisations accredited as Living Wage Employers, total number of employees working for those organisations and employees for whom an accreditation by their employer meant that their wages were uplifted. The first and third of these are the most critical and employer accreditations (269 accredited employers against a Y1 target of 208) and number of uplifted employees (8,934 against a Y1 target of 6,056) are well ahead of target. The total number of employees working for accredited organisations (74,168 against a Y1 target of 82,055) is below, which reflects the fact that more Small & Medium-Term Enterprises (SMEs) have signed up. It is worth noting that for large companies that become Living Wage accredited, it is where their HQ is that counts in terms of where they are attributed to by the Living Wage Foundation.

The Living Wage Champions awards were hosted in Manchester this year at the Football Museum, this was the first time this event has been held outside of London and received positive feedback from the Living Wage foundation and the Anchors delivery group. As part of Living wage week this year, 6-12th November 2023, we will host an event to showcase the successes achieved to date one year on from becoming accredited.

In June this year the Council supported the first GM Good Employment Week (#goodemploymentweek) to raise awareness of what good employment means. During that week the Work & Skills team delivered several activities across Manchester including an Old Town Hall Podcast, a Disability Confident event in Wythenshawe and an Age in Employment roundtable with residents in Burnage.

Alongside this we support the GM Good Employment Charter team to increase the number of employers signing up to the charter. As of May there were 187 employers in Manchester registered as supporters with 38 approved as full members.

5.3. Individualised Placement Support in Primary Care

The DWP commissioned Working Well: Individualised Placement Support in Primary Care (IPSPC) programme will start taking referrals in September 2023 and support those with physical as well as mental health disabilities into employment. The programme is designed on a 'place and train' model with rapid job search from the start. The IPSPC will expand on other IPS models by taking referrals from primary care and introduce a job retention element for those struggling in work or off sick. The programme will be delivered by the Growth Company across Manchester and will run through to March 2025 engaging with 324 Manchester residents, 243 of whom will be out of work and 81 will be in employment. Work is underway to create the right referral pathways and will include referrals from Mental Health and Adult Social Care teams. IPSPC provides valuable extra resource to increase employment for people with a disability.

5.4. Ambition Manchester In-Work Progression

The Work and Skills Team has commissioned Manchester Adult Education Service to deliver an in-work progression service - 'Ambition Manchester'. The new service is built on the basis that better and good work can not only go some way towards mitigating against the current cost of living crisis but can contribute to good health. The service started in July 2023 and will run for 24 months, engaging a minimum of 300 people. Participants will be working on low-incomes or self-employed. The service will operate across the city with a targeted focus on the areas with higher numbers of households on low incomes who are struggling with the cost of living. The goal will be to enable individuals to progress within their current workplace or acquire the skills to move into a higher paid role elsewhere, improving the life chances of those residents and their families.

5.5. Age Friendly

Manchester's Over 50's Employment Support Group, a collaborative team including Work & Skills, DWP, housing providers, MAES, Growth Company, Ingeus and voluntary sector groups continues to develop and deliver a range of initiatives tailored to the needs of older jobseekers. We are supporting the DWP's 50+Choices programme including webinars to support employers to adopt age friendly practices. Alongside this we will be visiting the city's employer networks to promote the GM age friendly toolkit with the intention that more employers will review their recruitment practices to be more inclusive and attract and retain older workers.

5.6. Recruitment

The Council's Work & Skills Team works in partnership with employers across Manchester to support their current recruitment needs including support with the recruitment process. This includes vacancy promotion, applications, events like roadshows and recruitment fairs.

In the last 12 months three major recruitment events have been held within the Performance Space in Central Library. The aim of these events is to create links for Manchester residents wanting to secure jobs with Manchester businesses who are struggling to recruit due to the tight labour market and skills shortages. Several themed recruitment fairs focused on sectors where there are volume opportunities, for example health & social care, retail and hospitality have also been held. The team continues to work intensively with Manchester Airport Group to meet some of their labour market shortages.

Jobs Fair	Attendees	Employers /providers
November 2022	173	16
January 2023 (Specialist emergency services)	76	25
March 2023	259	25
July 2023	280	25

5.7. North Manchester

The North Manchester Strategy sets out the shared ambition of key partner organisations to use the planned investments as a stimulus to drive economic regeneration and improved health and wellbeing of the local population. The Council facilitated the development of the North Manchester Social Benefits Framework, which enables partners across North Manchester to work collaboratively to achieve social value outcomes for residents. This includes a commitment to moving Manchester residents into sustainable, good quality and living wage employment opportunities connected to North Manchester General Hospital and the Victoria North developments.

In the last two years we have seen 1,239 jobs created or retained through North Manchester Strategy developments social value (North View, North Manchester General Hospital, Victoria North). All these jobs are paid Real Living Wage or above and 15% of roles are filled by North Manchester residents, a further 44% are filled by residents of the wider catchment area of North Manchester General Hospital.

6. Employment and Wellbeing Kickstarter

- 6.1. The Employment and Wellbeing Kickstarter has been in development since Spring 2022 and reframed in April 2023 following feedback relating to referral pathways. The focus is on integrating employment, health and wellbeing services for people who are out of work or at risk of being out of work due to physical or mental ill health. This is in recognition of the important contribution good work can have on wellbeing and condition management.
- 6.2. A new model and approach will be developed to take into account the current environment of the UK Shared Prosperity Funded provision for adults with complex needs and reorganisation within the NHS. How the Kickstarter supports the Making Manchester Fairer themes will be reflected within the new model with a clear message about how the project proactively addresses the needs of communities who have experienced racial inequalities and supports the wider anti-poverty theme.
- 6.3. A Health and Work workshop session is being arranged with key stakeholders across the system in August to map a strategic vision for Health and Work integration over a 3-year period. The aim of the workshop is to sign up all partners to a clear pathway for integrating services. This will be underpinned by a Kickstarter that is fully aligned to the current day needs of the work and health systems. The intention is to launch the new project in early 2024.
- 6.4. In the meantime, plans are underway to deliver training to Manchester Case Management and Integrated Neighbourhood Teams on enhanced work-related conversations and establishing referral pathways into new programmes such as the Working Well Individual Placement Support in Primary Care Service (IPSPC).

7. Lifting low-income households out of poverty and debt (Poverty, income and debt).

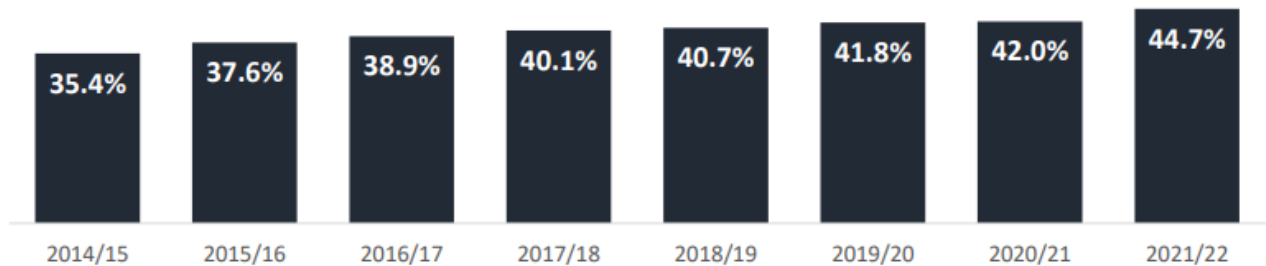
- 7.1. Data on poverty in Manchester is inconsistent in that we do not have a reliable measure of the overall poverty rate in the city, though we do have annual data on *child* poverty that we can draw on and supplement with other data that help illustrate where and who experiences poverty and their circumstances.

Updated child poverty data was released earlier this year and brings data up to the year 2021/22. The child poverty measure is derived from other data that provides information about household incomes. If a household has income less than 60% of the median UK household income, then they are considered as living in poverty. In the child poverty rate, children are defined as being someone under the age of 16.

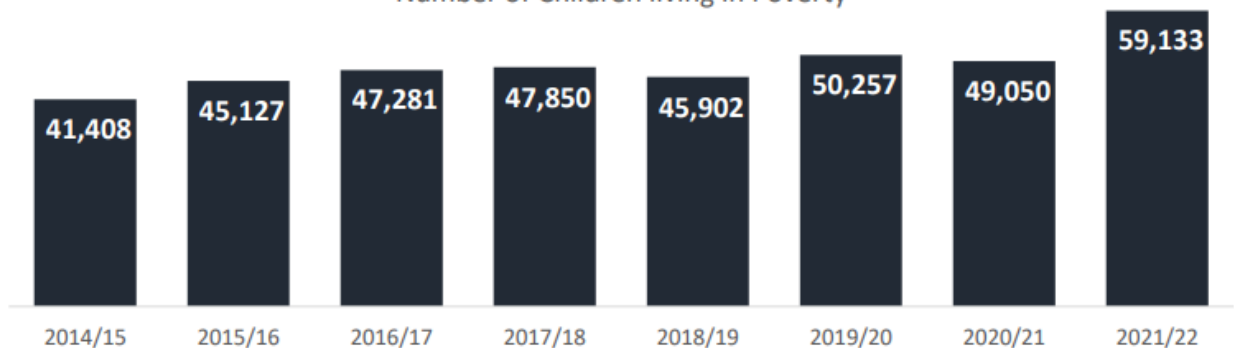
Based on official child poverty statistics, we know that 44.7% of children in Manchester were considered as living in poverty in 2021/22. This is an increase of 2.7% on the previous year and an increase of 9.3% since 2014/15. 59,133 children are now considered to be living in poverty in Manchester which is 10,083

more than the previous year. This means that Manchester now has the 3rd highest proportion of children living in poverty in the UK, and the highest rate in Greater Manchester. The rate has increased every year since 2014/15.

Percentage of children living in poverty



Number of Children living in Poverty



Note: Officers are working with the End Child Poverty Coalition to determine the cause of a discrepancy between the rate of child poverty and the number of children living in poverty which is likely to affect the above figures, however we believe that whatever the outcome Manchester will still record an increase in both figures from 2020/21 to 2021/22.

7.2. We consider the most significant drivers of the increase since to 2014/15 to be:

- The value of welfare benefits declining in relative terms over time
- The cost of housing increasing relative to benefits and earnings over the same period
- Worklessness

These factors sit mainly outside of local control. However, through the Anti-Poverty Strategy we can ensure that Manchester is doing everything that is within its control to mitigate these issues.

7.3. The current data precedes the more recent cost of living crisis and we anticipate

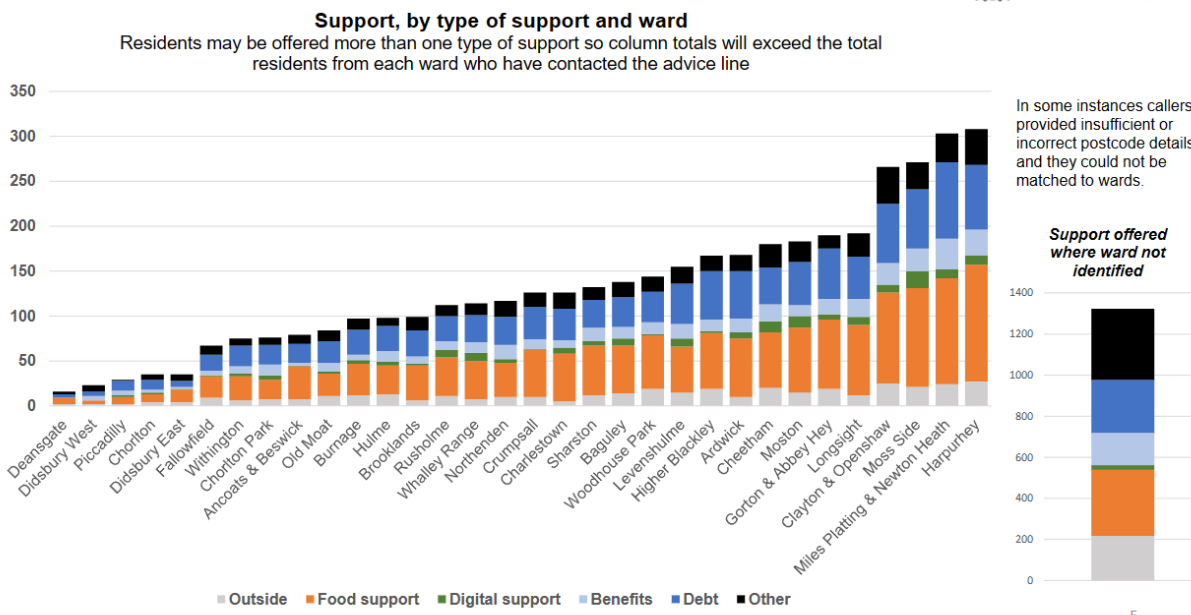
the child poverty rate is very likely to get worse despite any local action to address the problem.

7.4. We can use other sources of information to build our understanding of how poverty is being experienced in Manchester. Two useful sources are the data provided by Citizens Advice Manchester who are contracted by the city to run our Citywide Advice Service, and the data provided by the Council's own Cost of Living Support Line. We can also make use of data provided by other external agencies including Universal Credit data. This shows us that:

- The Universal Credit claimant count in Manchester has increased to 79,925, the highest figure on record.
- Of this number, 27,649 are in employment. The share of claimants in/out of work has remained roughly stable since the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The average amount of debt of those seeking debt advice has increased from £2,001 to £3,347 between 2018 and 2021
- The proportion of callers seeking help with debt who are also in employment has increased from 6% to 13% of all callers between 2018 and 2021
- The number of households in fuel poverty has increased from 33,216 to 40,064 between 2018 and 2021
- The number of food parcels distributed by Trussell Trust has increased from 12,194 to 31,311 between 2018 and 2021.

Our Cost-of-Living Advice Line has now handled over 5,300 calls since launching on 3 October 2023:

- The main reasons for calling are roughly evenly split between food support, housing and benefits support and debt advice.
- Harpurhey, Miles Platting & Newton Heath, Moss Side and Clayton & Openshaw account for significantly more calls than any other ward.
- Demographic trends are hard to ascertain due to the larger number of callers who prefer not to disclose equalities monitoring information, but of those that do the trend is towards unemployed younger white women.
- Over 500 callers have disclosed that they live with a disability.



At ward level we know that there are circa 100,000 households in Manchester who are likely to be on very low incomes and struggling with cost-of-living increases over the last 12 months. Spatially, these households are concentrated in the north and east of the city as well as in Wythenshawe. We also know that there are pockets of poverty concentrated in other wards around the city. Manchester’s cost of living response work has targeted these households specifically.

8. Poverty, income and debt highlights and achievements

8.1. The main achievement against this theme in the last 12 months has been the development and adoption of the new Anti-Poverty Strategy (APS) which sets out in more detail how we will work collectively with our partners to tackle poverty in Manchester. This committee was involved in the development of that strategy prior to being taken to Executive. As a result of a wide range of inputs, the strategy that emerged was set out under four themes:

- Preventing Poverty – the action we can take to prevent residents from experiencing poverty.
- Mitigating Poverty – making life easier for the people that are experiencing poverty.
- Pathways out of Poverty – raising people’s incomes.
- Inclusive and effective delivery – working together to tackle poverty and ensure that tailored support is available to the communities which are most affected by poverty.

8.2. Since adoption, officers have been working to integrate the Anti-Poverty Strategy

with the wider Making Manchester Fairer work programme, as well as identifying and working up a delivery plan for the first year of action. This was approved by Making Manchester Fairer Task Force in May 2023. In choosing the year one actions we have prioritised those things which are important, achievable, or which need to happen first. We have also tried to include a mix of actions that will be MCC led and which can be substantially led by our partners.

8.3. In summary, priorities for year one includes:

- Completing and updating data products that allow us to better understand who experiences poverty in Manchester (particularly in relation to some protected characteristics, e.g., race, age) which will allow us to design and target future interventions more effectively.
- Review approaches to charges and debt recovery action taken against residents experiencing poverty.
- Looking at how we can expand access to advice and make sure that advice provision is of consistently high quality.
- Work with anchor institutions to explore how we can make better use of social value in supporting people who experience poverty.
- Set up an “insight group” of people with personal or professional experience of poverty to support and challenge officers and our partners in delivering the strategy.
- Create opportunities for people in Manchester working on tackling poverty to come together and share best practice.
- Ensure that access to food is secured for the least well off.

Most of this work is now in progress. Notable updates include:

- The Council’s Executive has recently adopted a new Revenues and Benefit Cost of Living Mitigation Policy that establishes arrangements to enable the repayment of Council tax arrears over a longer period; enables a more proactive approach to writing off summons costs, introduces an informal breathing space arrangement and moves towards a more intelligence-based approach to referrals to Enforcement Agents.
- An external organisation will be commissioned to manage the Anti-Poverty Insight Group, helping build trust between participants and bringing in expertise in making marginalised voices heard. A scope of service is currently being finalised to commission this.
- A refresh of ward level data that has previously been used to inform cost-of-living response work is underway.
- We are working with representatives from other anchors networks in Manchester to design and progress joint areas of work, likely initially centred on employment.
- We are working with colleagues in commissioning to re-tender the Citywide Advice Service contract to ensure it reflects our learning from developing the anti-poverty strategy.

8.4. At the same time there are elements of the APS that are already in motion and against which substantial progress has already been made. This includes:

- Wider cost of living support, including the cost-of-living support line, direct funding support for households via Household Support Fund and other funding streams, community food response, communications resources to signpost residents to support and more. MCC is investing approximately £3.5m in support this year.
- Working with employers in Manchester to increase the number of organisations paying the real living wage and the number of Manchester residents earning a real living wage, as well as supporting employers to sign up to the GM Good Employment Charter. This group successfully gained “living wage city” status with the Living Wage Foundation.
- Supporting residents who are digitally excluded, with MCC’s Digital Inclusion team supporting 2641 people to get online and providing 1420 residents with a device. Work now underway includes production of a digital inclusion toolkit, device lending from libraries, embedding support for residents in MAES (Manchester Adult Education Service) settings.
- Ensuring access to food by working with food providers to put in place a standalone body to coordinate work and bid for funding, helping maintain a strong ecosystem of food provision.
- The Council’s Work and Skills Team, alongside other organisations and agencies, support residents to move towards and into secure and fairly paid employment, which for most of our residents is the most effective route out of poverty.

8.5. Towards the end of 2023 and into early 2024 we will also begin work to embed the socio-economic duty in the decision-making processes of the Council before influencing our partners to do the same. The socio-economic duty is contained in Section 1 of the Equality Act 2010 but has never been enacted by government. The duty would place a requirement on public organisations to consider the way their decisions affect inequalities that result from socio-economic disadvantage, similar to the way in which we do for other protected characteristics. In the absence of enactment by UK Government, many public sector organisations have implemented the duty voluntarily.

9. Improving housing and creating safe, warm, affordable homes.

9.1. We know that poor quality housing is harmful to physical and mental health and widens health inequalities. Similarly unaffordable housing contributes to poverty and can lead to homelessness. Compounding this is the high demand for housing

across the city due to population increases. The Making Manchester Fairer action plan bring to the fore some of the areas that the newly approved Housing Strategy seeks to address and will go some way towards supporting communities experiencing racial inequality who quite often further disadvantaged by the housing stock in the private rental sector.

9.2. Improving housing and creating safe, warm and affordable homes has six specific objectives within the plan, as set out below, developed to drive the delivery of this theme.

- Deliver 36,000 new homes, including 10,000 new affordable homes, over the next 10 years. Capture opportunities of place making & wider regeneration initiatives, create attractive public spaces, capture local identity & community heritage.
- Improve property & management standards in private rented housing. Scale up selective licensing pilot areas (from 4 to 12) and maximise the benefits and impacts of Selective Licensing for residents and landlords in a sustainable way.
Increase the proportion of affordable low- and zero-carbon homes by 50% by 2025 and zero-carbon retrofit at least a third of the 68,000 MHPP socially rented homes by 2032.
- Develop a clear retrofit programme with a focus on inner urban, poorer quality, overcrowded & expensive-to-heat terraced housing and enforce minimum energy efficiency standards for properties with Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) below band E/advertised without an EPC. Share pipeline of schemes with colleges & training providers.
- Bid for and deliver energy efficiency and renewable heat/power programmes in the city, targeting them at low income/vulnerable households to ensure maximum impact is achieved.
- Work with Registered Providers and Planning to meet the evidence need for adapted and new build wheelchair accessible general needs housing and new supported housing.
- Reduce rough sleeping and homelessness - maximise opportunities to acquire & refurbish older properties. Adopt whole-system approach to the Homelessness Transformation Programme (advice, tenancy support & temporary accommodation) and focus on tenancy sustainment and support including Multi-Agency Prevention and Support (MAPS) Forums.

10. Improving housing and creating safe, warm, affordable homes highlights and achievements.

10.1. The Covid-19 pandemic has highlighted again the importance of good quality housing to the health and wellbeing of our residents. Similarly, our work on the Anti-Poverty Strategy and the Making Manchester Fairer action plan highlights how poor quality and overcrowded housing is harmful to health and widens inequalities for residents. This knowledge and experience remain critical as the

cost-of-living crisis continues to bite. In July 2022 the Executive endorsed the Council's new Housing Strategy (2022-2032). Considering the current climate, the strategy has a strong focus on tackling inequalities. Furthermore, the commitment to Making Manchester Fairer, through improved housing, goes far beyond our own council homes and is a strategic priority of the Manchester Housing Providers Partnership.

- 10.2. A target of delivering 10,000 affordable homes between 2022 and 2032 has been set. In 2022/23, 415 new affordable homes were delivered. Completions include 45 homes on Edge Lane Business Centre (Your Housing Group) and 43 homes at the Former Belle Vue Stadium site (Great Places). Over 1,280 affordable homes are under construction and a further c.1,760 with planning permission. 105 new affordable homes were built on MCC owned land in 2022-23 - representing 25.3% of total delivery.
- 10.3. During the past 10 years we have delivered a significant Extra Care and age-friendly programme, where an evidence-led approach regarding older peoples housing needs, commissioned from the Housing LIN, resulted in the Council putting forward sites and capital funding to develop a programme of extra care with Registered Provider partners, along with developing 3 schemes ourselves. With 12 new schemes (762 homes) now open and 3 more in the pipeline, including one to meet the needs of Manchester's older LGBT community, not only have health outcomes for residents improved, but family homes have also been released by rightsizing and a cost benefit analysis indicates a return on investment of approximately £1.90 for every £1 spent.

The above programme includes two completed specialist dementia schemes in Wythenshawe and central Manchester with a third dementia scheme in the pipeline for north Manchester.

- 10.4. Significant progress has been made in tackling the complex issue of homelessness within the city, which is in many ways counter to the national trend, numbers in temporary accommodation have been reduced by over 400 to 2750, whilst the number of families in Bed and Breakfast accommodation for more than six weeks has reduced from a peak of 131 to zero.
- 10.5. For MCC managed social housing the council recently approved £25m capital programme for 2023/24, to improve the quality of our residents' homes through a wide range of projects such as decent homes, energy efficiency, building safety, various estate based environmental improvements and adaptations, as well as bringing homes back into use. All of which are significant investments into maintaining and creating safe, secure and sustainable homes.
- 10.6. The strategy recognises that improving the quality and the management of the homes we already have is also key to addressing inequalities, particularly in the private rented sector where housing inequality is most acute. Following consultation with communities in October 2022, in May 2023 the city council's

Selective Licensing scheme was extended into 4 new areas of the city, helping address the impact of poor-quality homes and management standards.

- 10.7. The Strategy commits to completing the zero-carbon retrofit of at least one third of the 68,000 homes managed by Manchester Housing Providers Partnership partners by 2032. In March 2023 over £20m grant funding was secured to make over 2000 existing homes warmer, healthier and cheaper to run. The Council is also working with partners to deliver the Energy Company Obligation Round 4 (ECO4) which provides grant funding to improve the energy efficiency of poorly insulated homes where households are on low incomes and is promoting a range of other funding opportunities for Manchester residents.

11. Conclusion

- 11.1. The Making Manchester Fairer action plan is ambitious, challenging and it will take time to deliver well particularly given the ongoing cost of living crisis and economic climate. However, solid and good progress is being made with the implementation and delivery of the Anti-Poverty, Work & Skills and Housing Strategies, all of which align and drive activity to meet the ambitions of the plan, in line with the Making Manchester Fairer principles.
- 11.2. There is still work to do around the existing housing supply matching the demand and in particular for communities experiencing racial inequalities living in overcrowded poor-quality housing. The Strategic Housing Board will continue to oversee this and wider work and will report to this committee on progress made.

We also have challenges around coordinating resources and programmes for a long-term ambition to integrate health and work support services. The Employment and Work Kickstarter will provide a mechanism to test a new approach to this area of work.

- 11.3. Robust governance is in place to oversee the implementation of the strategies referred to and to ensure commitment to achieving the objectives of the Making Manchester Fairer action plan.