

**Manchester City Council
Report for Information**

Report to: Executive – 13 September 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

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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 Cycling

2.1 Manchester City Council has formally submitted a bid to make Manchester the European Capital of Cycling for 2024.

2.2 The city welcomed a delegation from ACES Europe, who will decide the winning bid, on the same weekend as the National Cycling Centre reopened (on Saturday 3 September) following extensive refurbishment and the Greater Manchester stage of the Tour of Britain race finished on Deansgate (on Saturday 4 September).

2.3 It is hoped that being named the European Capital of Cycling for 2024 would not only recognise the work which has been done to promote cycling in the city but also help leverage further funding and other improvements and encourage even more Mancunians to get in the saddle.

2.4 Earlier this year, the Council made a significant statement on how important cycling would be in the future of the city. By the end of 2028 it is hoped that the mode share for cycling in the city will be doubled and it will become one of the default choices for people making short journeys. More than 13km of cycleways have been constructed, with additional routes in locations such as Ancoats and Deansgate also in the pipeline.

2.5 The National Cycling Centre's Velodrome re-opened on Saturday 3 September following £27m investment in improvements from the Council, Sport England and Government. As well as improving its facilities, it is now the UK's first all-electric Velodrome. Through the use of air source heat pumps, a heat recovery system and solar panels it is expected to reduce carbon emissions by 517 tonnes per annum.

Relates to Our Manchester Strategy themes:

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

3.0 Electric Vehicle Charging

3.1 The Environment, Climate Change and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Committee received an update on plans to create hundreds of new public electric vehicle charging points across Manchester when it met on 7 September.

- 3.2 The Council is preparing to begin a search for a charge point operator to supply, install and manage up to 200 connectors over a two-year period.
- 3.3 It aims to use Council-owned car parks plus those at parks, leisure centres, libraries and other facilities to spark a significant increase in charging point provision. Where no suitable sites exist, consideration is also being given to using small parcels of underused council-owned land to ensure the availability of charging points across the city.
- 3.4 £3.3m secured by the Council - £1.1m allocated by Greater Manchester Combined Authority as part of the City Regional Transport Strategy and an anticipated £2.2m from the Government's Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Fund – will go towards installation costs with the operator meeting the remainder.
- 3.5 The scheme is being brought forward as part of Manchester's Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy, which co-ordinates with the wider Greater Manchester strategy.
- 3.6 A list of more than 40 potential locations for public electric vehicle charging points is currently being reviewed. It is anticipated that procurement for a charge point operator for the Council-led scheme will begin later this year.
- 3.7 As of April this year, Manchester had 155 electric vehicle commercially-operated charging points (with around 300 connectors.) But this number will need to significantly increase - by 2038 the number of electric vehicles in Manchester is estimated to increase to 140,000, representing 75% of all vehicles. A national ban on the sale of petrol and diesel vehicles is due to come into force in 2030.

Relates to Our Manchester Strategy themes:

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

4.0 Digital inclusion

- 4.1 Manchester has been named as the most digitally inclusive city in the UK in a national survey.
- 4.2 Analysis of the number of databanks, digital inclusion hubs and digital skills workshops on offer nationally put the city out ahead in the survey carried out by Uswitch mobiles. It found that Manchester boasted 11 digital inclusion hubs per 100,000 people.
- 4.3 The findings reflect work which has taken place to combat issues such as digital exclusion, generational poverty and health inequality.

- 4.4 Since 2020 the Council has had a dedicated digital inclusion team based within its Libraries Service. The Let's Get Digital campaign has, to date, supported more than 6,000 Manchester residents to get laptops, access cheap broadband and generally enhance their digital skills.
- 4.5 More recently, all Manchester libraries have become databank centres where people struggling to pay for mobile data are able to request a donated SIM card. So far more than 1,000 people have benefitted from these donated SIMs.
- 4.6 The team is also set up to act as a consultancy for any organisation which wants to embed digital inclusion into their service and be set up as a digital inclusion hub. At the moment, the team is working with more than 50 organisations in this capacity, with groups such as Age UK Manchester, the Booth Centre and Rainbow Surprise.
- 4.7 Manchester City Council has recently worked with JCDecaux to roll out free and safe public Wi-Fi across 22 city centre smart screens. Over 26,000 users have accessed the service to date since its launch in May, with a 27% increase in users between June and July.

Relates to Our Manchester Strategy themes:

- Connected City
- Progressive and Equitable City
- Highly Skilled City

5.0 Former Chorlton Leisure Centre

- 5.1 An application to completely re-develop the former Chorlton Leisure site as an affordable later living housing scheme was approved by the Planning Committee on 31 August 2023.
- 5.2 The scheme has been brought forward as part of a partnership between Manchester-based MSV Housing Group and Manchester City Council and will bring the vacant site back into use.
- 5.3 The new development will provide 50 apartments (a mix of one bed and two bed) for the over 55s. Seven of the apartments will be for sale by shared ownership, three 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).
- 5.4 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.
- 5.5 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
 - Design incorporating strong elements of the natural environment
 - A strong emphasis on decarbonisation and sustainability
- 5.6 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.
- 5.7 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.
- 5.8 The development 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

6.0 Silk Street

- 6.1 The first residents have moved into a development of low carbon homes for social rent in Newton Heath.
- 6.2 As the first 11 homes were handed over to the council by builders Rowlinson following their completion at the end of July, they were allocated to local people on the Council's social housing register Manchester Move.
- 6.3 Altogether the 69-home development on a former brownfield site consists of 36 one-bedroom apartments, 12 two-bedroom apartments, 17 three-bedroom houses and four four-bedroom houses.
- 6.4 The houses are being completed imminently and the apartments will be handed over to the Council this autumn.
- 6.5 Some 16 of these homes will be available to people over the age of 55 who are right-sizing from other properties in Newton Heath and North Manchester, freeing up larger properties for social rent.

- 6.6 All of the houses in the development have solar panels fitted, new kitchens, generous gardens and private driveways with electric charging points, and will be heated through ground source heat pumps.
- 6.7 Each of the apartments will have a balcony and living walls will provide a green aesthetic to the development, along with shared outdoor green space, living green roofs and will be completed to low carbon standards.
- 6.8 This will also include the use of Ground Source Heat Pumps and mechanical ventilation with heat recovery to keep utility costs down for residents.
- 6.9 To date 12 apprentices, including three from the Newton Health area, have gained vital experience on the development. Site visits from local schools to see the building operation first hand have taken place throughout the construction process, with a work experience student from Wright Robinson College also being welcomed.

Relates to Our Manchester Strategy themes:

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

7.0 Manchester Adult Education Service

- 7.1 Government inspectors have praised Manchester's Adult Education Service (MAES) for its inclusive and ambitious curriculum, high quality education and training and passionate leaders.
- 7.2 Ofsted inspectors graded every aspect of the service Good - from its overall effectiveness, quality of education, and adult learning programmes, through to provision for learners with high needs, and its leadership and management.
- 7.3 The service - which has more than 3,000 learners studying at centres throughout the city, with most learners studying courses in English for speakers of other languages (ESOL), digital skills, English, maths, early years, and health and social care - was inspected over three days back in June.
- 7.4 Inspectors highlighted the respectful and inclusive environment in which learners study that gives them a sense of belonging, and enthusiastic tutors who are supportive and encouraging, with the result that learners are happy at MAES and proud of their achievements.
- 7.5 The report praises leaders, managers and governors who it says are passionate about their provision and promote a culture of compassion and care through an inclusive and ambitious curriculum that is adapted to meet the strategic skills priorities of Manchester and the wider city region.

- 7.6 Inspectors found that most learners make good progress and benefit from high-quality education and training that is informative and varied, delivered by tutors who are well qualified and hold relevant professional qualifications.
- 7.7 The range of opportunities on offer through MAES for learners to help them develop their personal and social skills was also identified as a positive by inspectors - including speaking clubs for learners on ESOL courses, and enrichment activities including a community football programme and charity work with a local food bank for learners with high needs.
- 7.8 Inspectors further praised the support provided to learners to find future employment through a comprehensive careers strategy across MAES provision, with a large majority of learners progressing on to employment or further learning after finishing their courses.

Relates to Our Manchester Strategy themes:

- Progressive and Equitable City

8.0 Abraham Moss Library and Leisure Centre

- 8.1 Abraham Moss Library and Leisure Centre reopened last month following a multi-million pound refurbishment.
- 8.2 A significant revamp has transformed the building into a bustling hub where residents can access state of the art services .
- 8.3 Abraham Moss Leisure Centre now boasts a six-lane swimming pool, learner pool, steam room and sauna, two squash courts, health and fitness suites, (including gyms and studios), sports hall and changing facilities. The Centre will also offer indoor cricket facilities and become the very first Indoor Urban Cricket Centre in the city.
- 8.4 Abraham Moss Library offers a welcoming space for the community complete with free high quality Wi-Fi, new books, self-issue facilities and a diverse range of events. The new library is open seven days a week.
- 8.5 The refurbishment of Abraham Moss Library and Leisure Centre is part of the Council's ongoing sport and leisure investment strategy. Leisure facilities and libraries across the city are being modernised so they can be better equipped to suit the needs of residents.

Relates to Our Manchester Strategy themes:

- Thriving and Sustainable City
- Progressive and Equitable City

9.0 Making Manchester Fairer: Employment

- 9.1 The Economy and Regeneration Committee received an update report on Thursday 5 September about the progress which is being made on key themes in the Making Manchester Fairer Action Plan, including cutting unemployment and creating good jobs.
- 9.2 Making Manchester Fairer: Tackling Health Inequalities in Manchester 2022-27 describes the actions which the city as a whole will take to reduce inequalities, with a focus on the social determinants of health.
- 9.3 While it is recognised that it is an ambitious plan which will take time to embed and develop, progress is already being made on a number of fronts.
- 9.4 Since the adoption of Making Manchester Fairer and the Anti-Poverty Strategy (which was adopted by Executive in January 2023), offices have been working to integrate and align the two programmes of work.
- 9.5 Initiatives underway on the work and employment theme include:
- 9.6 Manchester Real Living Wage and Good Employment Charter – with employers committing to paying the Real Living Wage, which is in excess of the national living wage, and encouraging others to do so. Manchester became accredited as a Living Wage City in October 2022 and has committed to a three-year plan with ambitious targets.
- 9.7 Individualised Placement Support in Primary Care – The DWP-commissioned Working Well: Individualised Placement Support in Primary Care programme, which begins taking referrals this month, will support those with physical and/or mental disabilities into employment. The programme, to be delivered across Manchester by the Growth Company, will run through to March 2025 engaging with 324 Manchester residents.
- 9.8 Ambition Manchester In-Work Progression – The Council’s Work and Skills Team has commissioned Manchester Adult Education Service (MAES) to help people with low-incomes to progress within their current workplaces or acquire the skills to move into higher-paid roles elsewhere. The service started in July 2023 and will run for two years, engaging a minimum of 300 people. It will focus on areas with higher numbers of households on low incomes who are struggling with the cost of living.
- 9.9 Manchester’s Over 50s Employment Support Group – this collaborative team, which includes the Council’s Work and Skills Team, continues to develop a range of initiatives tailored to the needs of older jobseekers.
- 9.10 Recruitment – The Council’s Work and Skills Team is working with employers across Manchester to support their recruitment needs and help connect Manchester residents with the opportunities available. In the past 12 months three major recruitment fairs have been held in the performance space in Central Library and several sector-specific fairs have also been organised.

- 9.11 The Employment and Wellbeing Kickstarter focuses 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. A new model is being developed to take into account UK Shared Prosperity Fund provision for adults with complex needs and the reorganisation of the NHS. This new model will ensure the Kickstarter supports the Making Manchester Fairer themes.
- 9.12 The report to scrutiny also detailed the work which is going on to lift low-income households out of poverty and debt, and to improve housing and create safe, warm and affordable homes.

Relates to Our Manchester Strategy themes:

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