

Manchester City Council Report for Information

Report to: Executive – 18 October 2023
Subject: Our Manchester Progress Update
Report of: The Chief Executive

Summary

The report provides an update on key areas of progress against the Our Manchester Strategy – Forward to 2025 which resets Manchester’s priorities for the next five years to ensure we can still achieve the city’s ambition set out in the Our Manchester Strategy 2016 – 2025

Recommendation

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

Wards Affected - All

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

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion - the impact of the issues addressed in this report in meeting our Public Sector Equality Duty and broader equality commitments

Our Manchester Strategy outcomes	Summary of how this report aligns to the OMS/Contribution to the Strategy
A thriving and sustainable city: supporting a diverse and distinctive economy that creates jobs and opportunities	The work to reset the Our Manchester Strategy considered all five of the Strategy’s existing themes to ensure the city achieves its aims. The themes are retained within the final reset Strategy, Forward to 2025.
A highly skilled city: world class and home grown talent sustaining the city’s economic success	
A progressive and equitable city: making a positive contribution by	

unlocking the potential of our communities	
A liveable and low carbon city: a destination of choice to live, visit, work	
A connected city: world class infrastructure and connectivity to drive growth	

Full details are in the body of the report, along with any implications for

- Equal Opportunities Policy
- Risk Management
- Legal Considerations

Financial Consequences – Revenue

None

Financial Consequences – Capital

None

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Background documents (available for public inspection):

The following documents disclose important facts on which the report is based and have been relied upon in preparing the report. Copies of the background documents are available up to 4 years after the date of the meeting. If you would like a copy please contact one of the contact officers above.

Executive Report – 17th February 2021 - Our Manchester Strategy – Forward to 2025

1.0 Introduction

1.1 This is the latest in an ongoing series of reports highlighting examples of areas where strong progress is being made against key strategic themes identified in the Our Manchester Strategy.

2.0 Crossacres Family Hub

2.1 The Crossacres Family Hub is the third such one-stop-shop for families to open in city and follows the opening over the summer of similar family hubs in Longsight and Cheetham.

2.2 The hubs provide a range of advice, support and services, all targeted at parents, children, and young adults.

2.3 With more than 136,000 young people aged 0-19 in Manchester the family hubs aim to make sure they and their families get the support they need, at the time they need it, from birth through to adulthood.

2.4 Unlike Sure Start Centres which largely provide support aimed at younger children, the age range of those supported through the hubs is from pre-birth, through the infant and toddler stage, all the way up to age 19 years, or up to 25 for young adults who have special needs.

2.5 The hubs have been set up to provide access to a wide range of services to help families navigate all aspects of family life - from health issues such as infant feeding, mental health support, and stopping smoking, to building better relationships, accessing school and education support, as well as providing advice on jobs, skills training, and next steps post-18.

2.6 Manchester is one of 14 trailblazer areas nationally chosen earlier this year to receive additional funding from the government's Family Hubs and Start for Life programme, to fast-track delivery of these new services.

2.7 The family hubs are one element of the broader five-year Making Manchester Fairer action plan which aims to address inequalities in the city, recognising that these can start early on in life and affect everything from people's work and housing prospects to their life expectancy. The plan also includes work around tackling cost of living pressures and poverty, which are also integral to improving health and wellbeing.

Relates to Our Manchester Strategy themes:

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

3.0 Council Tax Support

- 3.1 Manchester residents are currently being consulted on proposals to increase Council Tax Support for the city's poorest working-age households.
- 3.2 Under the city's current Council Tax Support scheme, the Council will reduce the amount owed by a household by up to 100% for pension-age residents with the lowest incomes and up to 82.5% for working-age residents with the lowest incomes.
- 3.3 It is proposed that from April 2023 the maximum reduction for working-age residents is increased by 2.5% to 85% - meaning that the maximum those eligible for Council Tax Support would need to pay would be 15% of the bill rather than 17.5%.
- 3.4 At the same time, it is proposed that rules allowing reductions to be backdated where someone has a good reason not to have claimed sooner are extended to allow up to a year's back payments rather than up to six months as is currently the case.
- 3.5 It is estimated that these proposed changes which are part of a wider package of support for residents struggling with the cost-of-living crisis - would cost the Council around £770,000 in 2024/25.
- 3.6 The Council Tax Support scheme currently provides around one fifth of Manchester households with help paying their bills.
- 3.7 The consultation runs until Sunday 12 November and can be found at www.manchester.gov.uk/counciltaxsupportchanges

Relates to Our Manchester Strategy themes:

- Progressive and Equitable City
- Thriving and Sustainable City

4.0 Wythenshawe Town Centre

- 4.1 The procurement process has begun for a joint venture partner to drive the transformative development plan for Wythenshawe town centre over the next 15 years.
- 4.2 The Council acquired Wythenshawe Civic Centre in 2022 and has since undertaken consultation with local people and businesses around the investment proposals for the area.
- 4.3 Taken together, the 1970s shopping centre and surrounding cleared land and car parks represents an outstanding regeneration opportunity in South Manchester for an aspirational development programme to deliver a zero carbon commercial

and cultural space with new shops, a new public square and around 1,600 new homes. The housing will include a mix of tenures including homes for affordable rent and shared ownership.

- 4.4 The appointed partner will take a leading role in the ongoing management of the existing shopping centre while also considering the wider Council-owned land for redevelopment. The entire development opportunity consists of more than 7.5 hectares.
- 4.5 Expressions of interest from potential joint venture partners are being accepted until Friday 8 November 2023.

Relates to Our Manchester Strategy themes:

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

5.0 Rough sleeping and winter provision

- 5.1 Comprehensive plans are being drawn up to provide assistance and emergency accommodation for people rough sleeping during periods of severe cold or other extreme weather this winter.
- 5.2 Every year the Council works with local partners and health services to put plans in place under the Severe Weather Emergency Protocol (SWEP.) Nationally, the benchmark for such protocols to come into force is when the temperature is forecast to drop to zero or below for three consecutive nights. But in Manchester the temperature only needs to be forecast to drop below zero for a single night for the plans to be activated and emergency accommodation and assistance provided for people sleeping rough.
- 5.3 In 2022/23 the severe weather protocol was activated on three separate occasions – in December 2022, January 2023 and February 2023 – for a total of 29 days, helping up to 142 people on each occasion.
- 5.4 A verification process was introduced, based on interactions with the Council's Outreach team and other partners, to ensure that those accessing the service were sleeping rough and not sofa surfing or in other insecure accommodation to ensure that accommodation was available for those in immediate need.
- 5.5 During the February 2023 outreach a night time outreach offer was introduced between midnight and 4am with the Council's Outreach team together with partners from Manchester Homelessness Partnership working to ensure rough sleepers are located and encouraged to come indoors.

- 5.6 Accommodation was predominantly provided at Etrop Grange Hotel, which has been developed as an off-street offer for people sleeping rough. It has 74 bedspaces and can accommodate dogs, a key consideration for some people sleeping rough. Additional emergency overnight sit-up provision was also made available.
- 5.7 The proposed model for 2023/24 will build on lessons learned during 22/23 to deliver a comprehensive cold weather offer to people sleeping rough and be activated when temperatures are forecast to drop below zero for one night or when the Met Office issue a red weather warning.
- 5.8 When SWEP is activated it will trigger a robust street outreach operation from midnight to 4am, again from the Council's outreach team working with partner agencies, to target known rough sleeping 'hotspots' and respond to reports of rough sleeping. There will be at least 24 hours notice for partners ahead of the Council activating severe weather services.

Relates to Our Manchester Strategy themes:

- Progressive and Equitable City

6.0 Single Use Plastics

- 6.1 The Environment, Climate Change and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Committee meeting last Thursday, 12 October, received a progress update on the Council's work to eradicate the unavoidable use of Single Use Plastics (SUPS) by the end of 2024.
- 6.2 Plastic waste contributes to global pollution, litter and to climate change because fossil fuels are used in production. Tackling their use is complex because there are instances – such as for health and safety reasons – where no viable alternatives currently exist. The focus is therefore on eliminating non-essential use within the Council's operations as well as influencing stakeholders to follow suit wherever possible.
- 6.3 The Council's Climate Change Action Plan 2020-25 looks to cut out avoidable SUPs within the council's operational estate – cafes, markets, council-run events and other events held on public land and the procurement of goods.
- 6.4 A Sustainability Project manager has been appointed to lead this drive.
- 6.5 Extensive work has been undertaken to understand SUP use within the Council's operations and identify where such items can be removed altogether or, where they are necessary to service provision and no viable alternatives exist, reduced or recycled.
- 6.6 A working group, chaired by the Head of Commissioning and Procurement, was established in April 2023 to oversee this work and develop an action plan, helping

ensure that SUP reduction practices are embodied in decision-making process across the Council.

6.7 Actions already undertaken include:

- Catering: SUP reduction practices embedded in catering concession agreements
- Licensing: Under the new Licensing Policy, which is implemented later this year, applicants are required to meet SUP-free expectations.
- Cleaning: Engagement with cleaning product suppliers to deliver a switch to bulk containers rather than individual bottles.
- Key performance indicators on SUP reduction will be added to the Council's commissioning process from early 2024.

6.8 In June 2023 the Council signed up to the Refill campaign, working with not-for-profit organisation City to Sea in a 12-month pilot to encourage re-use, for example highlighting the Council and other buildings where members of the public can fill up reusable water bottles for free. The Council is also helping to raise awareness among residents and businesses of new national regulations, which came into force earlier this month, banning single use plastic plates, bowls, trays, containers, cutlery and balloon sticks (with some exemptions.)

The Council continues to play an active role in the Greater Manchester Single Use Plastics working group, chaired by GMCA working with the 10 local authorities.

Relates to Our Manchester Strategy themes:

- Liveable and Zero Carbon City
- Progressive and Equitable City

7.0 UEFA 20228

7.1 Manchester's Etihad Stadium has been named as one of the host stadiums for Euro 2028.

7.2 Manchester City FC's home ground is one of 10 stadia, and one of only six in England, which will hold matches in the tournament which UEFA confirmed earlier this month will be held in the UK and Ireland.

7.3 This is the first time a men's international football tournament has been hosted in this country since EURO 96, when Manchester was also a host city.

7.4 As a renowned football city, Manchester is recognised for a strong track record of welcoming major events including staging matches in last year's successful UEFA women's EURO 22.

- 7.5 It will be another in a long line of international sporting competitions hosted in the city, which recently included one of the group stages in the Davis Cup, the World Cup of tennis. Such events support the city's visitor economy as well as providing a legacy of inspiration and inclusion.
- 7.6 Fixture and ticket sales details for EURO 2028 will be released nearer the time.

Relates to Our Manchester Strategy themes:

- Thriving and Sustainable City
- Progressive and Equitable City

8.0 Youth and Play Commissioning

- 8.1 Manchester recognises that young people must be at the heart of its strategies and places great importance on developing and growing an enriched youth offer with access to a variety of services and activities. There are currently approximately 134,000 young people aged 10-24, which accounts for almost a quarter of the city's population.
- 8.2 Since the Covid-19 pandemic there has been a significant uplift in funding for youth and play provision. Through a combination of Council and external contributions, investment in these services has grown by £4.6m from a base budget of £2.8m since 2020.
- 8.3 The current commissioning programme was transferred from Young Manchester to the Council on 1 April 2022. It was scheduled to end on 31 March 2023 but was extended to 31 December 2023 at the request of the sector. Grant awards for the last quarter of 23/24 and 24/25, to commence on 1 January 2024 and subject to due diligence, have been announced.
- 8.4 The decision-making process had three stages: A young people's advisory panel, officer recommendations and ratification by the Executive Member for Early Years, Children and Young People and Strategic Director of Neighbourhoods. Considerations included ensuring a good spread across the city and demonstrable links to the Our Manchester Strategy and related initiatives such as the UNICEF child-friendly city programme and Making Manchester Fairer.
- 8.5 Altogether 48 individual applications and 13 partnership applications were received, with £400,000 available for the last quarter of 2023/24 and £1.6m in 2024/25.
- 8.6 The following individual applications are to receive funding for 15 months, the last quarter of 23/24 and the whole of 24/25:
- 42nd Street (services accessible to residents of all wards) - £104,114

- Yellow Jigsaw media clubs (delivering in all wards except Didsbury East and West, Fallowfield, Old Moat, Sharston and Northenden) - £20,700
- Manchester Youth Academy (Hulme, Levenshulme, Longsight, Piccadilly, Rusholme, Ardwick, Deansgate, Gorton & Abbey Hey) - £52,614
- The Proud Trust (services accessible to residents of all wards) - £106,123
- Z-Arts (Hulme and Rusholme) - £41,089
- Unity Radio (all wards except Charlestown, Deansgate and some in South Manchester) - £17,660
- Wythenshawe Community Initiative (Baguley, Brooklands, Northenden, Sharston, Woodhouse Park) -£36,264
- N-Gage (Baguley, Brooklands, Burnage, Didsbury East, Didsbury West, Fallowfield, Withington) - £52,750
- Manchester Young Lives (Wythenshawe, Moss Side, Ardwick, Baguley) - £152,800
- Community on Solid Ground (Burnage, Chorlton, Chorlton Park, Fallowfield, Whalley Range, Withington, Moss Side, Longsight and Hulme) - £71,075
- Whalley Range Youth Opps Assoc (Whalley Range, Chorlton, Rusholme) - £52,600
- Groundwork (citywide but concentrating on Crumpsall, Harpurhey and Gorton) - £35,220

8.7 The following partnership applications are to receive funding for 15 months, the last quarter of 23/24 and the whole of 24/25:

- 4CT (Delivering in Ancoats & Beswick, Clayton & Openshaw, Harpurhey, Miles Platting & Newton Heath, Gorton & Abbey Hey) - £162,463
- YPAC (Ancoats & Beswick, Clayton & Openshaw, Harpurhey, Miles Platting & Newton Heath, Gorton & Abbey Hey) - £86,092
- Manchester Youth Zone (Charlestown, Crumpsall, Harpurhey, Higher Blackley, Moston) - £144,449
- Young Manchester (Cheetham and Crumpsall) - £46,704
- Rainbow Surprise (Charlestown, Cheetham, Crumpsall, Harpurhey, Higher Blackley, Moston) - £46,092
- Hideaway (Moss Side, Hulme, Rusholme) - £31,870
- M13 Youth Project (Ardwick, Gorton & Abbey Hey, Levenshulme, Longsight, Rusholme) - £121,713
- Powerhouse (Moss Side, Moston, Ardwick, Gorton & Abbey Hey, Hulme, Longsight, Rusholme, Chorlton, Chorlton Park, Fallowfield) - £100,689
- Highway Hope (services available for children and young people in all wards) -£36,526
- Barlow Moor Community Association (Chorlton, Chorlton Park, Withington, Didsbury West) - £92,817
- Old Moat Outreach Project (Chorlton, Chorlton Park, Old Moat, Withington) - £89,502

- Wythenshawe Community Housing Group (Ancoats & Beswick, Clayton & Openshaw, Harpurhey, Ardwick, Gorton & Abbey Hey, Hulme, Longsight, Moss Side, Baguley, Brooklands, Burnage, Chorlton Park, Didsbury West, Fallowfield, Northenden, Old Moat, Sharston, Woodhouse Park) - £141,138

8.8 An additional £500,000 has been set aside by the Council in 2023/24 to support commissioning and sector development with organisations receiving up to £7,500 to support volunteer training, accredited training in youth and play work, capacity building and so on.

Relates to Our Manchester Strategy themes:

- Progressive and Equitable City
- Thriving and Sustainable City

9.0 Youth Investment Fund (YIF)

9.1 In August 2022 DCMS launched the second phase of its Youth Investment Fund (YIF) capital programme to deliver new and refurbished youth facilities in the most deprived parts of England. Manchester is eligible to apply for this funding, which must be spent by the end of March 2025.

9.2 Seven Council-led YIF bids for schemes totalling approximately £10.5m have been submitted, and a number of standalone schemes led by other organisations are also being supported.

9.3 The following Council-led site proposals have been submitted:

- NACRO: New modular build in Wythenshaw Park – approx £1.9m
- Groundwork and Rainbow Surprise: New modular build in Crumpsall Park – approx £1.2m
- N-Gage: Demolition and new modular build on Burnage Lane site – approx £2.94m
- OMYOP: Demolition and new modular build on the Old Depot site in Old Moat – approx £1m
- Unity Arts: Medium-scale refurbishment of Brookfield House in Chorlton Park – approx £400,900
- Unity Arts: New modular build on Field of Oz site in Chorlton - £1.2m
- 4CT: New modular build on Sterling Centre site - £1.7m

9.4 The below standalone proposals are also being supported by the Council.

- Powerhouse: Large scale renovation and refurbishment of existing building in Moss Side – approx £2.32m
- Manchester Youth Zone - £1m
- Community on Solid Ground: Large-scale renovation and extension of existing premises in Whalley Rang - £750k

- 42nd Street: Mid-scale renovation of existing building - £300k
- Anson Cabin: Small-scale renovation of existing building or mid-scale new build - £100k to £1m
- MYL: Mid-scale renovation or refurbishment to one or more of its existing adventure playgrounds - £250k to £1m
- Z-Arts: Small-scale refurbishment to existing building - £100k
- WRYOA: Small-scale refurbishment to existing building - £100k
- BMCA: Small-scale refurbishment to existing building in Chorlton Park ward - £50k
- Trinity House: Small-scale refurbishment to existing building in Rusholme - £50k
- Reform Radio: Small-scale refurbishment to existing building - £30k

9.5 A decision from DCMS on these applications is expected later this month.

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.