

MAKING MANCHESTER FAIRER

Communities and Power

Communities and Power Steering Group

- The Steering Group meets quarterly
- Co-chaired by Cllr Rahman and Cllr Igbon
- Members of the group include:
 - Key internal stakeholders
 - 2 x staff who are part of the Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic Leadership Programme
 - 2 x external members who were selected to join the steering group after a recruitment process invited community representatives to apply

Key Projects

- Community Engagement Maturity Assessment
- Building Stronger Communities Together Strategy
- Community Development Review

Community Engagement Maturity Assessment - Background

- Equality, Diversity and Inclusion embedded within the Our Manchester Strategy
- Thriving and increasingly diverse population with over 200 languages spoken in the city
- Sound relationships in place with the city's communities and there is a strong commitment to maintain and build upon this.
- Rapid population growth and change in the city
- The 2021 Census showed the Black, Asian and Ethnic Minority population has increased from 33.4% to 43.2% since 2011. Over half of the population recorded (52%) were from groups that do not identify as white British.
- Diversity of population further demonstrated through the school census where 62% of school age children are of ethnicities other than 'white'
- Wide range of engagement activity embedded across different services within the organisation

Community Engagement Maturity Assessment - How?

- Research from a range of sources
 - Corporate documents
 - Interviews with relevant staff
 - Observations of practice in meetings or events
- Focus of observations in 3 key areas – Neighbourhoods (widest sense), VCSE Infrastructure Team, Public Health
- Development of Manchester Quality Standards for Engagement
- Analysis – Use a 'how are we doing?' Tool to judge where MCC is Emerging, Aspiring or Established for each standard.
- Reflection – development of an action plan.

Community Engagement Maturity Assessment - Timeline

- September - Kick off
- September/ October – Discovery
- October/ November – Engagement
- November/ December – Analysis and Reflection
- March 2024 – Update to Communities and Equalities Scrutiny on Communities and Power workstream.

Community Engagement Maturity Assessment - Why?

- Putting resident's voices at the heart of change
- Ensuring that our approach is appropriate, effective and delivered to a good standard
- Provide an evidence base that allows us to develop and strengthen our approaches
- Enable the development of a set of quality standards for community engagement in Manchester.

Building Stronger Communities Together Strategy

- Manchester's first strategy focused on social cohesion - 3-year strategy
- Bridging and bonding is key – it's about people
- Empowering communities to contribute towards making their neighbourhood and the city a better place for everyone
- Focus on what we have in common as well as celebrating our differences
- Distinct but complimentary of the 52+ Our Manchester strategies
- Consultation took place in 2022 – mixture of online survey, face to face focus groups and 1-1 interviews.
- Due to go to Scrutiny/ Executive in October with an aim to launch by the end of the year

Building Stronger Communities Together Strategy

3 Key Themes:

Relationships

- Not just about people who are like us and who we normally mix with
- Relationships are importantly about people who are not like us and who we do not normally mix with
- Understanding and respecting difference but importantly what we have in common
- Building trust is key – between people, communities and organisations

Participation

- Participation is about bringing people together to get involved in meaningful activities, for a shared purpose and engage in decisions about things that affect their lives
- Enabling and supporting communities and services to come together to co design solutions (shifting the power dynamic)

Belonging

- People and place – understanding the change and churn in neighbourhoods and impact on community relations and resources
- Connection between self and the neighbourhood you live in and then how this extends to other parts of the city and the city as a whole
- Valuing diversity and what we have in common

Building Stronger Communities Together Strategy

- Year 1 Action Plan currently in development
- Pilot areas in North, Central and South (street level)
- Complex area of work – first year will aim to:
 - Build our understanding about the impact of change in neighbourhoods and on our communities
 - Test ways of working and codesign activities with communities and identify what is successful in bringing people together and getting them involved in local activities
 - Consider how we celebrate what everyone has in common in an inclusive way and respect difference

Community Development Review

- In January 2023, the Community Development Service commissioned by Population Health transferred into the MCC Neighbourhood Teams from Greater Manchester Mental Health.
- Community development brings people together to take action on what is important to them. This might be with communities of place, or communities of shared identity or shared experience. It builds community power, control and resilience by enabling communities to develop their own solutions to the challenges and issues that are important to them.
- Community development practitioners work alongside people in communities to help build relationships with key people and organisations, identify common ideas and concerns, and create opportunities for residents to learn new skills, enabling people to act together.
- The service came over as a 'lift and shift' to allow a transition period for staff to understand each other's roles, responsibilities and work programmes, as well as embedding in the team structures and identifying opportunities for collaboration and sharing best practice.
- A review is underway to assess what approach should be taken going forward to ensure there is an embedded Community Development offer within the 3 x Neighbourhood Teams, which takes a whole place perspective.

Community Development Review

- The review aims to:
 - Clarify the roles and responsibilities within the Neighbourhood Team.
 - Apply proportionate universalism to the approach, using data and intelligence to understand where some communities may need more intensive support.
 - Identify how we can embed and integrate community development ways of working.
- This will allow resource to be used most effectively to meet the needs of Manchester's communities.