

**Manchester City Council
Report for Information**

Report to: Executive – 15 November 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 Affordable Housing

- 2.1 Manchester has secured more than £3 million to support housing projects across the city which are bringing long-term brownfield land back into use.
- 2.2 The funding, through Round 2 of the Government's Brownfield Land Release Fund, will help build 210 homes in total, 119 of which will be affordable housing – at sites across north and east Manchester, and one city centre site.
- 2.3 These new homes are part of the ambitious targets set in the Council's Housing Strategy up to 2032, which aims to build 36,000 new homes across the city with 10,000 of these new homes being affordable and 3,000 located in the city centre.
- 2.4 81 of the affordable homes being supported through the new brownfield funding are part of the Council's Project 500 initiative which works in partnership with the city's registered housing providers to make available smaller, harder to develop pockets of land to increase the number of affordable homes available in the city.
- 2.5 All of the Project 500 homes will be capped at the Manchester Living Rent. This is a level of rent capped at the Local Housing Allowance (LHA) rate and ensures that these homes will be affordable to as many people as possible, including those in receipt of housing benefit.
- 2.6 The other site is the first development brought forward at Rodney Street in Ancoats by This City, the Council's wholly-owned housing development company. The city centre will deliver 38 affordable homes capped at the Manchester Living Rent. The Rodney Street site will deliver a total of 129 homes with 91 market homes subsidising the cost of the affordable homes at the site.

Relates to Our Manchester Strategy themes:

- Progressive and Equitable City
- Thriving and Sustainable City

3.0 Tree and Woodland Action Plan

- 3.1 The Council's emerging Tree and Woodland Action Plan, which was considered at Environment, Climate Change and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny committee last week.

- 3.2 A council-commissioned Growing Manchester's Trees study, looking at how the city's treescape has evolved and how it can be improved, concluded that there is significant scope to increase the city's tree canopy cover from its current level of almost 19% of tree cover to almost 22%.
- 3.3 The draft Tree and Woodland Action Plan envisages the Council working with organisations and other stakeholders across the city towards that goal -which it is estimated will require 64,000 new trees, equivalent to 320 hectares of extra tree cover (an area the size of 600 football pitches.)
- 3.4 Reaching this ambition will require new collaborative bids to sources such as the Government's Urban Tree Challenge Fund.
- 3.5 Manchester people will be consulted on the new Tree and Woodland Action Plan, sits alongside the Council's existing Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy (to promote and protect green open spaces and waterways) before it is officially adopted early in 2024.
- 3.6 Since the Council launched Manchester's first tree strategy in 2005 more than 125,000 trees and tree hedges including 125 community orchards and fruit tree groves have been planted across the city by the Council, partner organisations such as City of Trees, the orchard project and others.

Relates to Our Manchester Strategy themes:

- Liveable and Zero Carbon City

4.0 Warm Welcome/Cost-of-Living support

- 4.1 Warm welcome spaces are again being provided for Manchester residents this autumn and winter as part of the Council's cost-of-living support for residents.
- 4.2 The city's 22 libraries are again operating as warm welcome spaces, providing somewhere people can get out of the cold – especially if they are worried about heating costs – and a range of other support for people who need it.
- 4.3 This ranges from free hot drinks, free Wi-Fi, free data SIM cards and newspapers to information and advice about other support services in the city.
- 4.4 In addition to the libraries, there are dozens of other community and volunteer-led spaces are joining the offer of support this year.
- 4.5 All these spaces are free to access and people can stay as long as they like during opening hours. Location details can be found at

<https://www.warmwelcome.uk/find-a-space#map>

- 4.6 The Council continues to respond to our residents who have been worst affected by the Cost of Living on a day-to-day basis. Any Manchester resident needing support can ring 0800 0800 023 2692. The line is open Monday to Friday 9am to 4:30pm.
- 4.7 People can also visit www.manchester.gov.uk/helpinghands to obtain access to support for a range of issues.

Relates to Our Manchester Strategy themes:

- Progressive and Equitable City
- Thriving and Sustainable City

5.0 Strangeways SRF

- 5.1 A multi-disciplinary team has been appointed to draw up a Strangeways and Cambridge Strategic Regeneration Framework (SRF) to guide the transformation of the neighbourhood over the next decade and beyond.
- 5.2 Avison Young will lead a specialist team to deliver the framework on behalf of Manchester and Salford City Councils, which will include economic analysis, masterplanning, urban and landscape design, heritage, and strategic property advice.
- 5.3 The group will work with both councils to develop the SRF through the autumn prior to public consultation next year, with the document being reported to Manchester and Salford's respective executive committees next summer.
- 5.4 Strangeways is a gateway to the city centre and a priority area for regeneration, following months of intensive operations between Manchester City Council, Greater Manchester Police and other agencies to remove the criminal enterprises which had undermined the area's reputation.
- 5.5 The SRF will support existing employment in the area while setting out an ambitious low-carbon development programme to deliver new homes, high quality public realm and new commercial spaces.
- 5.6 The production of the Strangeways and Cambridge Strategic Regeneration Framework will be part-funded with grant from Homes England and by the city-region's allocation of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF), which is being managed and distributed by Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA).

Relates to Our Manchester Strategy themes:

- Thriving and Sustainable City
- Liveable and Zero Carbon City

6.0 Oxford Road Cycle Route

- 6.1 Latest data shows that the Oxford Road cycle route is more popular than ever with the millionth journey of the year being recorded on 20 October 2023 – a month earlier than last year.
- 6.2 The record for the highest usage on a single day since the cycleway opened in 2017 was smashed on 10 October 2023 when 6,980 riders were clocked using it – breaking the previous record of 5,862 set before the pandemic in October 2019.
- 6.3 Between 26 September and 26 October there were nine separate days when more than 6,000 people cycled along the route.
- 6.4 The cycleway is a flagship of the Council’s ambition to improve cycling provision throughout the city as part of an effort to encourage active travel for shorter journeys, contributing towards the city’s goal of becoming zero carbon by 2038 or earlier. At the same time, the route has improved the experience for pedestrians and created new public realm and green spaces.
- 6.5 Based on a rolling average, analysis of Manchester’s transport network shows that the proportion of people choosing active travel or public transport was 15% higher than pre-pandemic.
- 6.6 Earlier this year the Council announced the ambitious Manchester Active Travel Strategy and Investment Plan which set out how it plans to further improve people’s access to cycling and other active travel options.

Relates to Our Manchester Strategy themes:

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

7.0 Cultural Strategy conversation

- 7.1 The Council has begun a major conversation with Manchester people to inform the city’s 10-year cultural strategy.
- 7.2 Feedback gathered from individuals and groups will help shape thinking around the plan.
- 7.3 The It All Starts With A Spark consultation aims to understand what type of creativity gives city residents ‘goosebumps’ and invites ideas big and small to ensure that culture is at the heart of our communities.

- 7.4 This could be anything from galleries and museums to theatre or music performance arts to more hands-on art and crafts opportunities.
- 7.5 It is intended that the decade-long plan will build on the investments in culture which the city has made, building on the existing cultural vibrancy and extending its reach further.
- 7.6 The consultation is open until 30 November 2023 at www.startwithaspark.co.uk

Relates to Our Manchester Strategy themes:

- Thriving and Sustainable City
- Progressive and Equitable City

8.0 Living Wage City

- 8.1 A year on from Manchester receiving initial Living Wage City accreditation the number of employers paying the Real Living Wage has increased by more than 50%.
- 8.2 In October 2022, the Council received formal recognition from the Living Wage Foundation for Manchester's plan to become a Living Wage City.
- 8.3 Since then the Council has worked with key city businesses and anchor institutions to encourage more to pay employees at least the Real Living Wage – and become accredited Living Wage Employers themselves.
- 8.4 The number of Manchester employers now paying the Real Living Wage has increased to 282 – a rise of 50.8% in the last year. This exceeds the target set for both 2023 and 2024.
- 8.5 Within newly-accredited Real Wage employers, the number of jobs uplifted to a real wage has increased by more than 9,000 people – exceeding the 2023 target of 6,056 employees.
- 8.6 Citywide, the number of people employed or contacted by Real Living Wage employers has increased by 13.2% since this time last year – with the proportion of jobs employed by accredited Living Wage employers increasing from 16.3% to 18.4%.

Relates to Our Manchester Strategy themes:

- Progressive and Equitable City
- Thriving and Sustainable 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.