

## **Executive**

### **Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday, 4 October 2023**

**Present:** Councillor Craig (Chair)

**Councillors:** Akbar, Bridges, Hacking, Igbon, Midgley, Rahman, Rawlins, T Robinson, White

**Also present as Members of the Standing Consultative Panel:**

**Councillors:** Ahmed Ali, Chambers, Foley, Johnson, Leech and Moran

**Apologies:** Councillor Butt, Douglas and Lynch

**Exe/23/83 Minutes**

#### **Decision**

The Executive approved as a correct record the minutes of the meeting on 13 September 2023.

#### **Exe/23/84 Places for Everyone Plan: A Joint Development Plan Document for 9 Greater Manchester Local Authorities - Proposed Modifications Consultation**

The Executive considered a report of the Strategic Director (Growth and Development), which provided an update on the progress of Places for Everyone Plan (a Joint Development Plan Document for nine Greater Manchester Local Authorities (Places for Everyone Plan)) and also sought approval for proposed modifications to the plan.

The report provided contextual detail as to how the proposals had reached their current iteration

The Executive Member for Housing and Development advised that whilst there were a number of proposed modifications, they did not change the overall vision, objectives and spatial strategy of the Plan. Inspectors had considered that the proposed modification to the Plan period were necessary to make the plan sound to ensure that, in line with Government Policy, the PfE strategic policies looked ahead over a minimum 15 year period from adoption and thus provided a sufficient policy framework for the individual local plans which would follow on from the PfE's adoption.

The Plan continued to feature specific policies and an allocation that directly related to Manchester included:-

- Delivery of a minimum of around 60,000 new homes; and over 2 million square metres of office floorspace in Manchester by 2039;
- Policies to deliver growth and regeneration across the City
- Seeking to achieve a carbon neutral city no later than 2038;

- Inclusion of the requirement to deliver biodiversity net gain in line with national policy;
- Policies across a range of other themes including flood risk, water resources, air quality, economic and housing matters, heritage, culture, education and skills, health, and sport and recreation; and
- Specific allocation identified in the plan for Manchester for new jobs at Wythenshawe Hospital.

It was noted that once the Places for Everyone Plan was adopted it would form part of Manchester's development plan. As such Manchester's local Plan would need to be consistent with it and any neighbourhood plans would need to be in general conformity with the strategic policies.

Councillor Leech sought clarification in relation to the proposals for additional office floor space, Brownfield land preference within urban areas and the limited release of GreenBelt for both housing and employment.

## **Decisions**

The Executive:-

- (1) Note progress made in respect of the Places for Everyone Plan (PfE).
- (2) Agree that the PfE modifications (Main, Additional and those relating to the policies map), and associated supporting background documents be subject to a period of representations for a period of 8 weeks commencing no earlier than 9 October 2023.
- (3) Agree the next steps for the production of the PfE Plan (as detailed in section 12 of the report).

## **Executive**

### **Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday, 18 October 2023**

**Present:** Councillor Bev Craig (Chair)

**Councillors:** Akbar, Bridges, Igbon, Midgley, Rahman, T Robinson and White

**Also present as Members of the Standing Consultative Panel:**

**Councillors:** Ahmed Ali, Butt, Chambers, Douglas, Foley, Johnson, Lynch and Moran

**Apologies:** Councillor Hacking, Rawlins and Leech

**Also present:** Councillors Connolly (Moston Ward) and Appleby (Moston Ward)

#### **Exe/23/85 Minutes**

##### **Decision**

The Executive approved as a correct record the minutes of the meeting on 4 October 2023.

#### **Exe/23/86 Our Manchester Progress update**

The Executive considered a report of the Chief Executive which provided an update on key areas of progress against the Our Manchester Strategy – Forward to 2025 which reset Manchester’s priorities for the next five years to ensure the Council could still achieve the city’s ambition set out in the Our Manchester Strategy 2016 – 2025.

The Executive Member for Early Years, Children and Young People reported on the opening of the Crossacres Family Hub, which was the third such one-stop-shop for families to open in the city, following the opening over the summer of similar family hubs in Longsight and Cheetham. The hubs provided a range of advice, support and services, all targeted at parents, children, and young adults. The hubs had 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. The family hubs were one element of the broader five-year Making Manchester Fairer action plan which aimed to address inequalities in the city, recognising that these could start early on in life and affect everything from people’s work and housing prospects to their life expectancy. The plan also included work around tackling cost of living pressures and poverty, which are also integral to improving health and wellbeing.

He also reported on Youth and Play commissioning. Since the Covid-19 pandemic there had been a significant uplift in funding for youth and play provision and through a combination of Council and external contributions, investment, in these services

had grown by £4.6m from a base budget of £2.8m since 2020. 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, had been announced. An additional £500,000 had 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.

The Deputy Leader reported that comprehensive plans were being drawn up to provide assistance and emergency accommodation for people rough sleeping during periods of severe cold or other extreme weather this winter. The proposed model for 2023/24 would build on lessons learned during 2022/23 to deliver a comprehensive cold weather offer to people sleeping rough and be activated when temperatures were forecasted to drop below zero for one night or when the Met Office issue a red weather warning. Accommodation would predominantly be provided at Etrop Grange Hotel, which had been developed as an off-street offer for people sleeping rough. It had 74 bedspaces and could accommodate dogs, a key consideration for some people sleeping rough. Additional emergency overnight sit-up provision would also be made available.

The Deputy Executive Member for Housing and Development reported that the procurement process had begun for a joint venture partner to drive the transformative development plan for Wythenshawe town centre over the next 15 years. The appointed partner would take a leading role in the ongoing management of the existing shopping centre whilst also considering the wider Council-owned land for redevelopment.

Councillor Johnson welcomed the progress being made with Wythenshawe town centre and asked a question in relation to the availability of SEND support at the family Hubs to which the Executive Member for Early Years, Children and Young People responded.

## **Decision**

The Executive note the report.

## **Exe/23/87 High Speed Rail 2, Northern Powerhouse Rail and 'Network North' Update**

The Executive considered a report of the Strategic Director (Growth and Development), which informed Members about the recent announcement by the Prime Minister to cancel the new railway infrastructure proposed between Birmingham and Manchester, as included in the High Speed (Crewe – Manchester) Bill (known as 'HS2 Phase 2b'). The report also set out the key projects relevant to Greater Manchester and the city, described by the Prime Minister and included in the recently published Government paper, Network North and outlined the key implications which arose from the announcement of cancelling HS2 Phase 2b, and set out proposed next steps.

The Leader reported that neither the Council nor the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) were consulted on the cancellation of HS2 Phase 2a or Phase 2b or the alternative transport infrastructure investment proposals set out in the Network North paper prior to the Prime Ministers announcement at the Conservative Party Conference which was being held in Manchester.

The full HS2 and NPR schemes would have made essential contributions to the Government's agenda of 'Levelling Up' and the benefits of HS2 to Manchester and the City region had been consistently set out in the Department for Transport and HS2 Ltd's Strategic Case for HS2. In light of the proposed changes, there was now a considerable risk that in the intervening period, before the alternatives to HS2 were delivered, the economic gap would widen and therefore achieving levelling up would become more challenging, more remote and was likely to cost more to achieve.

In addition to economic and levelling up losses, there were also extensive wider impacts as a result of the Government's decision. These impacts included environmental and equality considerations as well as impacts to local regeneration strategies and plans.

It was also noted that the Government had heavily caveated that individual projects, referenced in its Network North paper, would be subject to the approval of businesses cases, and cash prices were based on indicative profiling. Additionally, the cash prices stated throughout the report varied from 2019 and 2023 prices and were subject to delivery timelines. Therefore, prices were likely to change, possibly significantly in some cases, and no evidence to support the robustness of the prices had been presented to date.

In terms of next steps, the Council would work with its key partners, such as GMCA and TfGM to seek further clarity from DfT on the proposals and urgent engagement on delivering the rail capacity and other transport improvements needed in Greater Manchester and the North of England. It would continue to scrutinise the Network North proposals as more detail became available and respond to any consultations put out by Government in relation to the investments set out in the Network North paper.

The Leader confirmed that the Council would maintain the position that the infrastructure needed for Northern Powerhouse Rail should be protected in the hybrid Bill and remain safeguarded. In addition, the Council would seek to produce a Strategic Plan on rail and other public transport infrastructure, working with relevant local partners and key stakeholders, to be brought back to the Executive for further consideration.

## **Decisions**

The Executive:-

- (1) Note the Government announcement to cancel the infrastructure proposed under the High Speed Rail (Crewe – Manchester) 'Phase 2b' hybrid Bill.

- (2) Note the Government announcement to invest 36 billion in road, rail and bus projects across the North, Midlands and South (including Scotland), called the “Network North” project.
- (3) Request Officers to produce a Strategic Plan on rail and other public transport infrastructure asks within the context of Network North for further consideration by the Executive.

### **Exe/23/88 ID Manchester SRF Update**

The Executive considered a report of the Strategic Director (Growth and Development), which sought approval of the draft Strategic Regeneration Framework (SRF) for ID Manchester (formerly the University of Manchester’s North Campus) following the outcome of a public consultation exercise with local residents, businesses and stakeholders.

The Executive Member for Housing and Development advised that as a world-class innovation district, acting as a cornerstone of the UK’s innovation strategy, ID Manchester could help to establish Greater Manchester and the UK as an innovation powerhouse on the world stage, catalysing enterprise across the city region.

The majority of the responses received in response to the consultation were generally supportive of regenerating the ID Manchester SRF area. The engagement undertaken captured a range of specific points which either provided support or highlighted a particular issue with the SRF. These areas were categorised into the following themes:-

- Heritage
- Development Uses, Architecture and Placemaking
- Inclusivity and Amenity
- Public Realm, Green Space and Biodiversity
- Sustainability
- Safety and
- Connectivity, Travel and Transport

A number of minor amendments to the SRF were proposed arising from the outcome of the consultation. The proposals in the updated ID Manchester SRF had the potential to create over 10,000 jobs; encourage new business growth and clustering, linked to the city’s research and development strengths and provide significant new homes, public space and facilities for local people. They would also provide new and improved routes and connections to Piccadilly, the rest of the Oxford Road Corridor, other parts of the city centre and adjacent communities.

All future detailed plans for each of the plots within the framework area would be considered and determined through a detailed and evidence-based design process which in turn would feed in to all planning and listed building consent applications.

Councillor Johnson welcomed the proposals suggested arising from the consultation around the use of green space.

## Decisions

The Executive:-

- (1) Note the outcome of the public consultation on the draft Strategic Regeneration Framework for ID Manchester.
- (2) Approve the Strategic Regeneration Framework for ID Manchester and request that Planning and Highways Committee take the Framework into account as a material consideration when considering planning applications for the site.

### **Exe/23/89 Building Stronger Communities Together Strategy 2023 - 2026**

The Executive considered a report of the Strategic Director (Neighbourhoods), which sought approval of the Building Stronger Communities Together Strategy 2023-26 and the key priorities of the strategy for the next three years.

The Deputy Leader advised that over the last three years, the Council had faced several challenges, both locally and nationally that had tested its understanding of and approach to building integrated and cohesive communities. At a time of economic crisis and global instability, there was a need more than ever to invest in strengthening our communities and social relationships particularly across difference.

The Building Stronger Communities Together strategy reflected the things that people had identified as being important to them and set out how the Council planned to strengthen and share the great things that come out of Manchester's shared identity – things that boosted communities, community relations and social relationships.

The findings from the consultation showed that people wanted to:-

- Get to know and help their neighbours more;
- Hold more inter-faith events, celebrating different cultures together;
- Understand where they can find out about volunteering opportunities;
- Get involved in community events and celebrations;
- Feel a sense of pride in their area and tackle littering and fly tipping; and
- Have safe neighbourhoods where people feel confident in letting their children out to play.

Based on the feedback from the consultation, the strategy set out 10 basic behaviours and principles to support the Council and its staff in how they can to play their part in the way that the Council thinks and behaves towards others, the way we live and how we view and interact with others, especially those we do not know or those who might be different from.

Alongside the strategy, a pilot action plan would be established to prioritise and test activities aimed at achieving the three priorities in the first year of the strategy. These activities would be developed and delivered in key neighbourhoods in north, central and south and will be focused on bridging and bonding. A number of workshops were planned over the next couple of weeks, led by the national Belong Network to

bring together key services and partners to help design and develop the pilot action plans and achieve the identified objectives.

It was also reported that the strategy and progress against the pilot action plans would form part of the Communities and Power workstream of Making Manchester Fairer, reporting into the quarterly Communities and Power Forum.

Councillor Johnson welcomed the proposals and ambition of the strategy. The report had been considered by the Communities and Equalities Scrutiny Committee who had endorsed the recommendation that Executive approve the strategy.

## **Decision**

The Executive agree the Building Stronger Communities Together Strategy 2023-26 and the key priorities of the strategy for the next three years.

### **Exe/23/90 Moston Lane Development Framework (Part A)**

The Executive considered a report of the Strategic Director (Growth and Development), which provided update to Members outlining the public consultation process that had guided the proposed Moston Lane Development Framework.

The Executive Member for Housing and Development advised that the Moston Lane Development Framework set out the vision for Moston Lane as a “vibrant centre where families, community and culture mix along rejuvenated streets and new community-focused spaces. Key interventions were identified within the Framework which sought to upgrade and improve the wider environment whilst creating new equitable public spaces. Through careful coordination and placemaking it was envisaged that these spaces were animated and supported by adjacent uses that matched the needs of local people, whether that be specific housing needs, space for local businesses to grow or health and education infrastructure.

An extensive process of consultation and engagement had been undertaken in order to produce the Moston Lane Development Framework. A detailed report on this consultation, setting out in detail who was consulted, how this was done, and the feedback from residents and businesses was provided at Appendix 2 of the report.

Through the public consultation process, opportunities had been identified to unlock investment that would deliver hundreds of mixed tenure new homes that matched local demand.

The report went on to outline the rationale and scope of a property acquisition strategy that was required to enable the significant economic growth and future resilience of the local centre. Approval was sought to implement these private acquisitions as part of the next phase of delivering the regeneration programme.

An update was also provided on the investment to spearhead physical and environmental interventions into Moston Lane using Shared Prosperity (SPF) monies, and the integration of this investment into the wider regeneration plans.



Councillors Appleby and Connolly (Moston Ward Councillors) attended and addressed the Executive. They welcome the proposals within the framework and both thanked the Executive Member and officers for listening to the comments made within the public consultation, which had helped shaped the Framework.

Councillor Johnson queried whether there would be any net gain of green spaces arising from the Plan

## **Decisions**

The Executive:-

- (1) Note the outcome of the public consultation on the Moston Lane Development Framework, as set out in the Consultation Report at Appendix 2 of the report.
- (2) Approve the Moston Lane Development Framework (set out at Appendix 1 of the report) and request that the Planning and Highways Committee take the Development Framework into account as a material consideration when considering planning applications in the Moston Lane area.
- (3) Note the progress on the Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF) projects.
- (4) Approve the acquisition strategy as outlined in Part B of this report and delegate authority to the Director of Development in consultation with the Executive Member for Housing and Development to conclude negotiations and acquire interests required to deliver the Moston Lane Development Framework.
- (5) Authorise the City Solicitor to do all things necessary or incidental to implement the above.

## **Exe/23/91 Manchester - Major Event Funding Model (Part A)**

The Executive considered a report of the Strategic Director (Neighbourhoods), which sought approval for the formation of an Event Commission, which was set out as part of the Manchester Events Strategy that was adopted in 2019.

The Leader reported that the Strategy set out a vision 'To be an Eventful City' with a focus on developing a diverse, balanced and benefits-driven events portfolio driven by partnerships. The Events Strategy identified how the Council would re-purpose its funding to support Events and Festivals, differentiating its investment between events that were aimed principally at supporting community cohesion and animating the city and events aimed at generating significant economic value and profile for the City.

To align Manchester with global best practice in city events planning and strategy, the Manchester Events Strategy identified how the city could establish a collaborative partnership mechanism around events (an Events Commission). This would provide a strengthened platform on which the Council could develop its long term strategic planning and leverage increased resources for events that would enable accelerated

investment to secure, acquire and develop signature sporting and cultural events of national and international significance.

The Council had been in discussions with Greater Manchester partners, the A-BID, CityCo and Marketing Manchester about the formation of an Events Commission for the City. The approach being developed would strengthen collaboration between the public and private sector partners in Manchester and provide a viable mechanism for acquiring, investing, developing and leveraging major events to Manchester from 2024 onward.

The Council currently invested £2.55m per annum from the core mainstream budget to support the baseline annual programme of events, in addition a significant number of other events had been funded on either a rolling basis, as one off opportunities or on a more ad hoc basis. In line with the Event Strategy, it was advised that the Council should differentiate the c.£1.4m budget for small scale, community and civic events and the festive programme. It was proposed that work was undertaken to seek to increase the gross budget from community events through realising new income opportunities from commercial event activities. Separately, it was proposed that existing Council investments which were currently made into Sports Events bidding, Conferencing and Festivals – along with an initial support staff resource - were deployed as part of the Event Commission (circa £1.15m pa). Additional annual funding of £2m deployed from the growth in business rates income was proposed as an increased contribution towards the Event Commission. This would be included as a commitment against the Capital Fund, and the necessary approvals for this budget increase would be sought as part of the overall 2024/25 Council budget approvals

The Event Commission would seek to grow the core funding for major events by between £4.35m - £4.85m pa to provide a 'core' seed funding pot of £5.5m - £6.0m per annum – with the capability to roll-forward underspends in any year to meet event opportunities in future years. Conversations had been held with other public funding bodies regarding them contributing to the Events Commission model for 2024 onward. These conversations had been positive, and officers would further these discussions once the Council had made a commitment to establish an Event Commission. It was anticipated that this would further increase the investment capability of the Events Commission by c.£1m-£2m per annum.

## **Decisions**

The Executive:-

- (1) Note and endorse the intent to form an Event Commission for the City in order to secure major events in Manchester and to bring in contributions from key partners.
- (2) Request that the Strategic Director of Neighbourhoods and the City Solicitor complete the Terms of Reference and governance arrangements for the proposed Event Commission in consultation with key funding partners.
- (3) Note the proposed budget requirement that will be considered as part of the overall 2024/25 budget options.

- (4) Delegate responsibility to the Chief Executive, the Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer and the City Solicitor in consultation with the Leader of the Council to agree and secure major events through the Event Commission model.
- (5) Endorse the establishment of a project team with the Strategic Director of Neighbourhoods as SRO to develop the next phase of the creation of the Event Commission with the key strategic partners and manage the process through the Event Commission for ongoing review and approval.

#### **Exe/23/92 Exclusion of the Public**

##### **Decision**

The Executive agrees to exclude the public during consideration of the following item which involved consideration of exempt information relating to the financial or business affairs of particular persons and public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

#### **Exe/23/93 Moston Lane Development Framework - Acquisitions (Part B)**

The Executive considered a report of the Strategic Director (Growth and Development), which outlined the rationale and scope of a property acquisition strategy that was required to enable the significant economic growth and future resilience of the local centre. Approval was sought to implement these private acquisitions as part of the next phase of the delivering the regeneration programme

##### **Decisions**

The Executive:-

- (1) Approve the acquisition strategy as outlined in this report and delegate authority to the Director of Development in consultation with the Executive Member for Housing and Development to conclude negotiations and acquire interests required to deliver the Moston Lane Development Framework.
- (2) Authorise the City Solicitor to do all things necessary or incidental to implement the above.

#### **Exe/23/94 Manchester - Major Event Funding Model (Part B)**

The Leader advised that there were no issues that needed to be raised under this item and consequently the Chief Executive, in consultation with the City Solicitor agreed that the item be withdrawn on the basis there were no issues to discuss and all decisions required in relation to this item had been made under the Part A report.



## **Executive**

### **Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday, 15 November 2023**

**Present:** Councillor Craig (Chair)

**Councillors:** Akbar, Bridges, Hacking, Midgley, Rahman, Rawlins, T Robinson and White

**Also present as Members of the Standing Consultative Panel:**

**Councillors:** Ahmed Ali, Butt, Chambers, Douglas, Foley, Johnson, Leech, Lynch and Moran

**Apologies:** Councillor Igbon

**Exe/23/95 Minutes**

#### **Decision**

The Executive approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting on 18 October 2023.

#### **Exe/23/96 Our Manchester Progress Update**

The Executive considered a report of the Chief Executive which provided an update on key areas of progress against the Our Manchester Strategy – Forward to 2025 which reset Manchester’s priorities for the next five years to ensure the Council could still achieve the city’s ambition set out in the Our Manchester Strategy 2016 – 2025.

The Executive Member for Housing and Development reported that Manchester had secured more than £3 million to support housing projects across the city which were bringing long-term brownfield land back into use. The funding, through Round 2 of the Government’s Brownfield Land Release Fund, would help build 210 homes in total, 119 of which would be affordable housing at sites across north and east Manchester, and one city centre site. 81 of the affordable homes being supported through the new brownfield funding were part of the Council’s Project 500 initiative which would be capped at the Manchester Living Rent.

The Deputy Leader (statutory) reported that the Council had begun a major conversation with Manchester people to inform the city’s 10 year cultural strategy. It was intended that the decade-long plan would build on the investments in culture which the city had made, building on the existing cultural vibrancy and extending its reach further.

The Deputy Leader reported that Warm Welcome spaces were again being provided for Manchester residents this autumn and winter as part of the Council’s cost-of-living support for residents. The City’s 22 libraries were again operating as warm welcome spaces, providing somewhere people could get out of the cold, especially if they were worried about heating costs and a range of other support was also available for people who needed it. In addition to the libraries, there were dozens of other

community and volunteer-led spaces are joining the offer of support this year. All these spaces were free to access and people could stay as long as they like during opening hours.

The Deputy Leader also reported that a year on from Manchester receiving initial Living Wage City accreditation, the number of employers paying the Real Living Wage has increased to 282, a rise of more than 50% which had exceeded the target set for both 2023 and 2024. Within newly accredited Real Wage employers, the number of jobs uplifted to a real wage had increased by more than 9,000 people – exceeding the 2023 target of 6,056 employees. Citywide, the number of people employed or contacted by Real Living Wage employers had 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%.

The Executive Member for Environment and Transport reported on the Council's emerging Tree and Woodland Action Plan. A council commissioned Growing Manchester's Trees study, had looked at how the city's treescape had evolved and how it could be improved and concluded that there was significant scope to increase the city's tree canopy cover from its current level of almost 19% of tree cover to almost 22%. The draft Tree and Woodland Action Plan envisaged the Council working with organisations and other stakeholders across the city towards that goal, which it was estimated would require 64,000 new trees, equivalent to 320 hectares of extra tree cover or an area the size of 600 football pitches.

The Executive Member for Environment and Transport also reported that the latest data showed that the Oxford Road cycle route was more popular than ever with the millionth journey of the year being recorded on 20 October 2023 – a month earlier than last year. The cycleway was 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 had improved the experience for pedestrians and created new public realm and green spaces.

Councillor Leech sought clarification as to whether the funding for bringing long-term brownfield land back into use was sufficient to address all brownfield sites and whether those that had been identified so far for remediation works were the most contaminated. He also sought clarification in respect of the Tree and Woodland Action Plan as to whether any consideration would be given to the retention of existing trees not subject to preservation orders as well as the planting of new trees

Councillor Johnson sought clarification as to the overall timescale for the Tree and Woodland Action Plan.

## **Decision**

The Executive note the report.

## **Exe/23/97 Revenue Budget Monitoring (P6)**

The Executive considered a report of the Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer, which outlined the projected revenue outturn position for 2023/24, based on expenditure and income activity as at the end of September 2023 and future projections.

The Executive Member for Finance and Resources advise that the current budget monitoring forecast was an overspend of £3.5m and there were considerable risks to the position relating to the impact of rising demand and increasing costs. The main pressures were being felt in the social care budgets reflecting the national pressures in the health and social care sector and trends being experienced across most social care providing local authorities.

The Children's Directorate was facing an overspend of £4.8m due to increased external residential costs, home to school transport demand, workforce and price pressures and overspends in Localities and Fostering workforce budgets. The biggest pressure related to external residential placements and increased complexity of need of the current cohort with placement costs having increased by 47% in the current financial year.

The Adults Services Directorate was forecasting an overspend of £1.6m, driven by long term care placements and cost pressures which are outpacing demand management interventions. Neighbourhoods Directorate was also forecasting an overspend of £1.6m in relation to shortfalls of income in markets and car parking as income levels had failed to recover since the pandemic and alternative locations for the Christmas markets had not replaced the losses incurred at Albert Square.

These pressures were partly offset by a forecast £2m utilities underspend due to the new contract for electricity, underspends of £1m in Public Health, arising from the confirmation of external funding, £1.2m income in Growth and Development due to increased rental income in the investment estate, revised recruitment assumptions and planning fee income and £0.4m in the Corporate Core, mainly due staffing underspends.

Of the £25.2m of savings agreed as part of the 2023/24 budget process, £15.1m (60%) were on track for delivery, £1.5m (6%) were risk rated medium, and £8.5m (34%) rated high risk in terms of the likelihood of delivery. Officers were working to identify alternative savings where original plans might not be achieved or delayed.

It was also reported that the 2023/24 pay award had been agreed and budget allocations would be reported in the next revenue monitoring update.

In addition, a small number of Additional Revenue Grants had been awarded since the 2023/24 budget was set and were now reflected in the revised budget position.

The Executive Member for Finance and Resources noted although significant progress had been made in bringing the position closer to balanced, continued vigilance was needed, given there were significant uncertainties and risks to the position as demand and inflationary pressures could increase. Any overspend this

year would be a direct call on the General Fund reserve which would need to be reimbursed in future years. In addition, any ongoing impact of the pressures faced this year would need to be addressed in the 2024/25 budget. It was therefore important mitigations continued to be identified to bring forecast spend back in line with the available budget.

Councillor Leech queried if there was any potential for economies of scale across Greater Manchester to address the budget pressures with Children's Services and whether any consideration had been made to looking to provide additional places at appropriate schools to alleviate the budget pressures on the home to school transport service.

In relation to car parking income, Councillor Leech sought clarification as to whether it was ever likely that this income would return to pre-covid levels or if not, whether it would more appropriate to re-adjust the budget income for this service rather than continue to use reserves to make up for the shortfall. He also sought clarification of how likely it was for those proposed savings rated as high risk to be achieved within the current financial year.

Councillor Johnson queried what levers the Council could utilise to help address the challenges that were being faced in recruiting to certain vacant posts across Directorates.

## **Decisions**

The Executive:-

- (1) Note the global forecast outturn position which is showing a £3.5m overspend.
- (2) Approve the use of revenue grant funding as detailed below and outlined in paragraph 2.9 of the report:-
  - Chief Executives – Electoral Integrity Programme - £25k
  - APDS Pilot: Off street car park and kerbside availability project - £200k
  - Purchase of Assheton archive collection - £102k
  - Early years supplementary grant - £1.886m

## **Exe/23/98 Capital Programme Monitoring (P6) and Update**

The Executive considered a report of the Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer, which provided an update on progress against the delivery of the 2023/24 capital programme to the end of September 2023, the latest forecast of capital expenditure and the major variances since the Capital Programme Outturn report submitted in September 2023 and the proposed financing of capital expenditure for 2023/24 and affordability of the Capital Programme.

The Executive Member for Finance and Resources advised that the latest forecast of expenditure for 2023/24 was £401.0m compared to the current approved budget of £496.3m. Spend as of 30 September 2023 was £141.7m. The main variances related to the Asset Management Programme, Back of Ancoats Mobility Hub and Public Realm, Our Town Hall Refurbishment, This City Housing Delivery Vehicle,



Public Sector Housing Programme, Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund and Varley Street SEND Secondary School. These variances mostly related to timing differences meaning reprofiling would be required.

A more focussed look at the top 10 projects was provided in Appendix A. These projects covered 47% of the total programme. The programme also contained some budgets yet to be allocated to specific projects but reserved for a particular purpose. These would be allocated once the specific schemes were progressed and approved, or in the case of inflation the business case showing the impact of inflationary pressures on a scheme completed. They would also then be subject to approval through the Council's capital approval process.

It had previously been reported that many projects in the capital programme had faced an extremely challenging two year period with intense pressures on cost due to extraordinary levels of inflation and unprecedented pressure on the supply chain (labour and materials availability). These pressures continued to be seen and remained a significant risk across the capital programme. Inflation in the UK in the 12 months to September 2023, as measured through CPI, was currently 6.7%, which was static from August 2023, but down from 6.8% in July and from a recent peak of 11.1% in October 2022. Whilst this showed a downward trend which was expected to continue, the figure remained relatively elevated.

The current forecasts showed that the financing costs remained affordable within the revenue budget available including reserves. The capital financing reserves would start to be drawn down to meet the costs associated with the borrowing by 2026/27, however, the model was based on a significant number of assumptions, including the timing of future borrowing and forecast future interest rates and the position was subject to change.

In addition, it was reported that there were schemes that had been developed or had received external funding that were now ready for inclusion in the Capital Programme. The proposals which required Council approval were those which were funded by the use of reserves above a cumulative total of £10 million, where the use of borrowing was required or a virement exceeded £1m. These included the following proposed changes:-

- Children's Services - Levenshulme High School for Girls – 2024 Expansion. A budget increase of £2.5m was requested, funded by borrowing, to deliver an additional 100 places of secondary education for Manchester residents at Levenshulme High School, increasing the total capacity of the school from 1,000 to 1,100 places
- Children's Services – Chorlton High School (CHS) South – 2024 Expansion. . A budget increase of £4.2m was requested, funded by borrowing, to deliver an additional 150 places of secondary education for Manchester residents at CHS South by creating additional classrooms within a new teaching block
- Growth and Development - Carbon Reduction Programme 2024-25. A budget increase of £0.5m was requested, funded by borrowing on a invest to save basis, to allow for further surveys to be commissioned across the Councils corporate estate to allow for the creation of a 15-year fully costed roadmap to zero carbon.

The proposals which only required Executive approval were those which were funded by the use of external resources, use of capital receipts, use of reserves below £10.0m, where the proposal could be funded from existing revenue budgets or where the use of borrowing on a spend to save basis is required. The following proposals required Executive approval for changes to the City Council's capital programme:-

- ICT – Next Generation End User Experience. A revenue budget increase of £0.068m was requested, funded from the Capital Fund reserve, to upgrade all end user devices to windows 11, which was required as windows 10 would be at end of life in 2025.
- Private Sector Housing – Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG). A capital budget increase of £3.166m was requested, funded by £0.740m Government Grant and £2.426m external contribution, to facilitate home adaptations for people with disabilities to enable them to live as independently and safely as possible in their homes.
- Growth and Development - New Smithfield Market. A Capital budget of £0.248m in was requested, funded by £0.124m RCCO from the New Smithfield Market reserve fund and £0.124m Capital Receipts, to contribute to the unidentified ground remediation costs which had been arisen during the demolition process by the incoming tenants.
- Highways Services - Patching Defect Repairs 2023-24 additional funding. A capital budget increase of £1.5m was requested, funded by external contribution, to continue with the delivery of the patching programme to fulfil the Council's legal obligation to maintain the carriageway and footway network by repairing actionable defects identified during safety inspections.

The report also provided an update on delivery of the Manchester Cycleway Construction (Fallowfield Loop and Yellow Brick Road) following a successful bid for £2.52m funding from Tranche 4 of the Department for Transport Active Travel Fund (ATF4).

Councillor Leech welcomed the additional funding for highways patch defect repairs and queried if this would be deliverable within the current financial year. He also sought clarification as to whether officers were confident that the Factory project would be delivered on budget without the need for any further budget increases.

### **Decisions:-**

The Executive:-

- (1) Note the Progress against the delivery of the 2023/24 capital programme to the end of September 2023
- (2) Recommends that the Council approve the following changes to the Council's capital programme:-
  - Children's Services - Levenshulme High School for Girls – 2024 Expansion. A budget increase of £2.5m funded by borrowing

- Children's Services – Chorlton High School (CHS) South – 2024 Expansion. . A budget increase of £4.2m funded by borrowing
- Growth and Development - Carbon Reduction Programme 2024-25. A budget increase of £0.5m funded by borrowing on a invest to save basis

(3) Approve the following changes to the Council's capital programme:-

- ICT – Next Generation End User Experience. A revenue budget increase of £0.068m funded from the Capital Fund reserve.
- Private Sector Housing – Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG). A capital budget increase of £3.166m funded by £0.740m Government Grant and £2.426m external contribution.
- Growth and Development - New Smithfield Market. A capital budget increase of £0.248m, funded by £0.124m RCCO from the New Smithfield Market reserve fund and £0.124m Capital Receipts.
- Highways Services - Patching Defect Repairs 2023-24 additional funding. A capital budget increase of £1.5m funded by external contribution.

### **Exe/23/99 Investing in Success: An Economic Strategy for Manchester**

The Executive considered a report of the Strategic Director (Growth and Development), which proposed a new Economic Strategy for Manchester, including a description of the economic context and the development process.

The Leader reported that Manchester had an ambition to grow in a fairer and more sustainable way whilst ensuring the city's economy remained competitive, diverse and dynamic. As such, a new Economic Strategy for Manchester had been developed that set out how Manchester would continue to achieve economic growth whilst ensuring that the benefits of growth were felt more evenly across the city.

The proposed strategy was built on a robust evidence base that took into account a range of information and perspectives. It showed that economic growth had been beneficial for Manchester, and that in many ways the city had economically outperformed its UK and international comparators. At the same time it recognised that growth also created new challenges for the city, but that only by becoming a wealthier and more prosperous place could the city resolve some of the most difficult challenges it faced.

The vision for the strategy was to see Manchester's economy function as a net-contributor to UK GDP and provide the best possible opportunities for our residents. In doing so, the strategy aimed to create an economy that:-

- Was thriving and performing as well as the best international comparators;
- Created great opportunities for people who live here;
- Attracted the best of global business and talent;
- Helped increase social mobility for our residents; and
- Was resilient to future shocks and a changing climate and capitalised on the opportunities created by the transition to net-zero

The full strategy and its objectives were detailed in appendix 1 to the report. The objectives were fundamentally structured under five themes:-

- I. Use investment and development to drive inclusive growth;
- II. Nurture thriving, productive and innovative sectors;
- III. Develop world class infrastructure, places and talent;
- IV. Transition to a zero carbon and resilient economy; and
- V. Include more people in economic opportunity

The strategy would ultimately be accountable to the Our Manchester Forum, the group which oversaw delivery of the Our Manchester Strategy, and which was made up of leaders from across the city. It would also report periodically to the Council's Economy and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee. To measure success and track progress, indicators that helped illustrate Manchester's economic performance against national trends had been identified, which would also help judge the extent to which Manchester residents were evenly benefitting from growth.

The full strategy would be designed and published by the end of November 2023 with a launch event taking place towards the end of the month.

Councillor Leech welcomed the strategy and the plans for additional 10,000 affordable homes referenced within it, but noted that this would not address the total number of affordable homes needed for Manchester residents. He also sought clarification as to whether the priorities within the strategy had an equal ranking in relation to their delivery.

Councillor Johnson sought clarification as to what steps could be taken to mitigate the carbon impact on the city's economic growth.

## **Decision**

The Executive agree to adopt the new Economic Strategy for Manchester.

## **Exe/23/100 ACES European Capital of Cycling**

The Executive considered a report of the Strategic Director (Neighbourhoods), which provided an overview of Manchester's bid to become ACES European Capital of Cycling for 2024.

The Executive Member for Skills, Culture and Leisure advised that ACES Europe had identified and invited Manchester to become a candidate for its inaugural European Capital of Cycling 2024 and expressed that Manchester would be a strong candidate. The accolade had not been awarded previously, therefore if Manchester were successful, the city would be the first European city to be awarded the title. The opportunity could also be used as a catalyst to transform and enhance the city's cycling offer, enabling Manchester to expand and grow its cycling provision.

The outcome of Manchester's submission would be announced at the ACES Europe Gala event in Brussels, which would take place in early December. If successful in securing the award, Manchester's Capital of Cycling year would commence in

January 2024 for 12 months and leave a long-lasting legacy for cycling in Manchester and a programme of events was being developed to drive community activation, identifying existing programmes to build on and new interventions which encouraged active travel and widen participation in cycling.

The Executive Member for Skills, Culture and Leisure advised that should the bid be successful, the Council would develop a year-long campaign with the objective of raising the profile of Manchester's world class cycling facilities, driving participation with community groups and facilities, as well as highlighting the investment and delivery of cycling infrastructure.

Councillor Leech sought clarification that if the bid was successful, this would result in potential more external funding becoming available for cycling within the city. He also sought an assurance that there would not be any additional revenue or capital costs to deliver Manchester's ambition to expand and grow its cycling provision.

### **Decision**

The Executive endorse Manchester's bids to become ACES European Capital of Cycling for 2024.

### **Exe/23/101 Manchester Local Care Organisation Commissioning Plan**

The Executive considered a report of the Executive Director ( Adult Social Services), which provided an update on the Manchester Local Care Organisation (MLCO) Commissioning Plan and how responsive commissioning had evolved over the past two years as part of Better Outcomes Better Lives Transformation Programme.

The Executive Member for Healthy Manchester and Adult Social Services advised that the Plan was the second iteration following the first publication in October 2021, as part of the Better Outcomes Better Lives transformation programme and the development of the 'Responsive Commissioning' Workstream.

To this effect, the Commissioning Plan was an engagement tool, particularly for the external care marketplace to share the vision, priorities and direction of travel within the commissioning landscape within the spirit of coproduction and working together with partners, stakeholders and providers to deliver high quality, safe and effective care for Manchester residents.

The MLCO Commissioning Board met monthly and ensured oversight of the delivery of the Plan. There were a high number of actions for delivery – 58 in total, and progress was measured on a quarterly basis via the Board.

### **Decision**

The Executive note the report.

## **Exe/23/102 Hackney Carriage Fare review - outcome of consultation on proposed fare increases**

The Executive considered a report of the Strategic Director (Growth and Development), which sought approval to agree increases to Hackney Carriage Fare Tariffs following the outcome of recent consultation on the proposals.

It was noted that seven written objections to the proposed fare changes had been received. The reasons given for not agreeing with the proposed increase were:-

- Private hire companies were cheaper and therefore the increase would mean more lost business;
- Customer feedback to drivers was that they were expensive anyway;
- Upfront flag was too high and could have an adverse effect; and
- The cost of other public transport was getting cheaper so it was believed this will kill the trade

Whilst being mindful of the ongoing cost of living for the public, the proposed fare changes were believed to represent a balance between a reasonable payment for a hackney carriage journey and income for the driver and proprietor. The proposed tariff was also comparable with other core cities.

The Licensing & Appeals Committee had endorsed the proposed increases at its meeting on 23 October 2023

### **Decisions**

The Executive:-

(1) Agree the following increases:-

- An increase in the unit cost per mile on all tariffs by 8%
- An increase in the waiting time fare by 23%
- An increase in the Day flag tariff to £3.40
- An increase in the Night flag tariff to £3.80

(2) Note that Officers will make arrangements with the meter companies to reconfigure Taximeters.

## **Exe/23/103 Manchester's new ageing strategy, Manchester: a city for life 2023-2028**

The Executive considered a report of the Director of Public Health, which sought approval of a details of a new age friendly strategy *Manchester: a city for life 2023-2028*, which was scheduled to be officially launched on 28 November 2023.

The Executive Member for Healthy Manchester and Adult Social Care advised that the new strategy had been produced following extensive engagement with the Age Friendly Manchester (AFM) Older People's Board (the Board), with people aged over 50 at the Age Friendly Assembly (the Assembly) and direct collaboration with key

strategic partners, services, and frontline workers. The strategy was fully aligned to the Making Manchester Fairer Action Plan and Anti-Poverty Strategy (2022-2027).

The new strategy built on previous progress and looked to a vision for Manchester over the next five years, while proposing a series of immediate and preventative responses to address the ongoing impact of the pandemic and the ensuing cost-of-living crisis on the over 50s. It outlined a series of priorities and commitments to drive better outcomes so that more people could age well in place with increased financial security.

Drawing on eight key features which went towards making an age friendly city as identified by the World Health Organization, Manchester had identified the following four key themes that the new strategy would look to address:

- Being Heard and Age Equality
- Age Friendly Neighbourhoods where we can all Age in Place
- Age Friendly Services that support us to Age Well
- Work and Money

The delivery plan to accompany the strategy was being finalised and would be presented to the Communities and Equalities Scrutiny Committee in draft form in December 2023, with the final version issued in January 2024. The delivery plan was essentially the mechanism through which the Making Manchester Fairer ambitions were realised for people aged over 50. The delivery plan would have a specific focus on issues such as social isolation, volunteering, digital inclusion, climate change and have a read across to other key developments such as the work of the Manchester Dementia Steering Group.

## **Decision**

The Executive approve and endorse the strategy.