

**Manchester City Council
Report for Information**

Report to: Executive – 13 December 2023

Subject: Our Manchester Progress Update

Report of: The Chief Executive

Summary

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

Recommendations

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

Wards Affected – All

Environmental Impact Assessment - the impact of the decisions proposed in this report on achieving the zero-carbon target for the city	
Equality, Diversity and Inclusion - the impact of the issues addressed in this report in meeting our Public Sector Equality Duty and broader equality commitments	

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

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

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

- Equal Opportunities Policy
- Risk Management
- Legal Considerations

Financial Consequences – Revenue

None

Financial Consequences – Capital

None

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Background documents (available for public inspection):

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

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

1.0 Introduction

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

2.0 Wythenshawe regeneration

- 2.1 Plans for the regeneration of Wythenshawe town centre have been bolstered with the confirmation of £20 million funding from the Government's Levelling Up Fund.
- 2.2 The money has been awarded by the Department of Levelling Up, Homes and (DLUHC) as part of the third round of national funding in recognition of the progress already made on proposals for Wythenshawe Civic, the high quality of the planned project and the fact it is ready to deliver.
- 2.3 The Council is currently going through a formal tender process to find a joint venture partner to drive the 'once-in-a-generation' programme of investment over the next 10 to 15 years.
- 2.4 The opportunity is to transform the 1970s shopping centre and surrounding areas through an aspirational project that will deliver a new public square, new shops, net zero carbon commercial, community and cultural space, and around 1,600 new homes built on Council-owned land. The housing will be a mix of tenures including affordable rent and shared ownership options.
- 2.5 Since acquiring the Civic shopping centre in 2022, the Council has undertaken a period of consultation with local people and businesses. The feedback collected from the local engagement exercise informed a new development masterplan that was agreed and adopted by the Council's executive in January this year.
- 2.6 A separate process is also ongoing to begin a feasibility study to develop the cultural hub with support from a specialist partner to ensure it delivers for the community.
- 2.7 The successful joint venture partner who will deliver the regeneration programme in full will be announced in late spring 2024.

Relates to Our Manchester Strategy themes:

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

3.0 Single Homelessness Accommodation Programme (SHAP)

- 3.1 The Council has secured more than £5 million new funding to provide extra supported housing to help people sleeping rough move off and stay off the streets.

- 3.2 The Council has succeeded in an application for £5.2 million of funding from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities' Single Homelessness Accommodation Programme (SHAP.)
- 3.3 Working in partnership with housing and support providers Humankind, Jigsaw and Great Places, the Council will oversee the creation of 42 units of supported housing across three scheme for single people with a history of rough sleeping and longer-term support needs.
- 3.4 People will stay in this accommodation and receive personalised support until they are ready to take the next step to independent living.
- 3.5 The funding covers both the cost of creating the accommodation, which must be completed by March 2025 latest, and revenue funding to help run it for its first three years.

Relates to Our Manchester Strategy themes:

- Progressive and Equitable City
- Thriving and Sustainable City

4.0 Joint Targeted Area Inspection

- 4.1 A Joint Targeted Area Inspection of multi-agency working to safeguard young people at risk of serious violence or criminal exploitation has praised their effectiveness.
- 4.2 The results of a Joint Targeted Area Inspection of Manchester – carried out jointly by inspectors from Ofsted, the Care Quality Commission (CQC), His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMIFRCS) and His Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation (HMIP) over five days in October – were published at the end of last month.
- 4.3 The headline findings of the detailed inspection note the strength of multi-agency arrangements between Manchester City Council, Greater Manchester Police, schools, health agencies and other partner organisations such as the Greater Manchester Violence Reduction Unit and the voluntary and community sector in preventing and tackling serious youth violence and criminal exploitation – including early intervention initiatives to identify those at risk and put measures in place to support them.
- 4.4 The oversight role of the city's Community Safety Partnership working collaboratively with Manchester Safeguarding Partnership to ensure the right focus on children affected by serious youth violence is also acknowledged.
- 4.5 Inspectors described the work of Manchester's Complex Safeguarding Hub as "strong and effective." The Hub is where police officers, social workers, health professional and other experts work alongside each other to identify those at risk of serious youth violence and/or criminal exploitation and put intervention

measures in place (often working with wider families as well as the individual young person) to prevent harm.

- 4.6 Giving their overall findings, Inspectors said: “Effective and mature partnership arrangements between agencies are supporting a co-ordinated and comprehensive multi-agency response to serious youth violence. A strong learning culture enables the partnership to identify where improvements are needed and work together to address these. There is a well-understood strategy in place and much purposeful activity which is reducing risks to children. There is an increasingly strong focus on prevention and early intervention to tackle serious youth violence in Manchester. There are a significant number of innovative interventions and projects which are making a positive difference for children.”
- 4.7 While recognising the strength of partnerships, the report also identified areas for improvement. These included enhanced multi-agency evaluation of projects to understand better how they work together as part of an overall system and more consistency in information recording and sharing between partners.
- 4.8 The format of Joint Targeted Area Inspection reports is such that no overall “grade” is given but rather an overall assessment including strengths and areas for improvement.

Relates to Our Manchester Strategy themes:

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

5.0 CDP climate action A-list

- 5.1 Manchester has retained its high placing on a global list recognising cities that are showing leadership on environmental action and transparency.
- 5.2 The list compiled by global not-for-profit environmental organisation CDP rated almost 1,000 cities around the world on the actions they are taking to combat climate change, while adapting to its unavoidable impacts.
- 5.3 For the second year in a row Manchester has received the top score – an A rating – which means it is rated as being one of the cities in the forefront of building momentum in taking climate mitigation and adaptation measures. Only just over one in 10 cities – 119 worldwide – made it to the A List, announced last month.
- 5.4 CDP say that A List cities demonstrate their climate leadership through concerted and effective action, just as national governments will be asked to do at COP28. They are taking four times as many mitigation and adaptation measures as non A List cities.
- 5.5 For more details visit <https://www.cdp.net/en/cities/cities-scores>

Relates to Our Manchester Strategy themes:

- Liveable and Zero Carbon City

6.0 English National Opera

- 6.1 English National Opera (ENO) has announced a new working partnership with Greater Manchester, which will culminate in the city becoming the new main base for the opera company by 2029.
- 6.2 The announcement follows an agreement reached with Arts Council England in July in which £24m was awarded to ENO to enable the organisation to develop an artistic programme in a new base outside London during the 2024-26 period. It will develop significant performance and learning activity in Greater Manchester, while still delivering an opera season every year in its London home, as it works towards establishing a new main base by 2029.
- 6.3 ENO cited Manchester's thriving cultural ecosystem as a key factor in its decision, as well as the chance to inspire and work with new audiences and communities and scope for exciting and ambitious new collaborations around new innovations in opera.
- 6.4 The ENO will not have its own venue but will perform at existing venues such as Aviva Studios, linking in with its Factory Academy training programme, and the Lowry Theatre in Salford.

Relates to Our Manchester Strategy themes:

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

7.0 Manchester Foyer

- 7.1 Manchester Foyer, a leading provider of housing and support services for young people in the city, has marked its 25th anniversary.
- 7.2 Since opening its doors in 1998, Manchester Foyer has provided a safe and supportive environment for more than 1,000 young people. Many of these young people come from challenging backgrounds and have experienced difficulties early in life, such as family breakdowns, abusive environments, mental health issues, or substance abuse. The Foyer is committed to providing these young people with the support they need to achieve their full potential and live independent, happy, and fulfilling lives.
- 7.3 Manchester Foyer provides 61 self-contained flats for people aged between 16 – 25 years old. In 2022, they were re-accredited by the Foyer Federation as Operationally Strong/Strategically Strong – the highest Grade the Foyer Federation award.

- 7.4 Manchester Foyer is run by Mosscafe St Vincent's Housing Group (MSV). Earlier this year, MSV also opened The Lodge – a disused student accommodation block in Hulme incorporating seven stylish shared living and kitchen spaces and 30 en-suite bedrooms. Demand for supported accommodation is steadily rising, and the project is part of the Children's Services Reform Partnership Programme, established by Manchester City Council to develop a range of provisions for the over 16s in partnership with ethical providers.
- 7.5 The scheme also aligns with the Greater Manchester Care Leavers Pledge, which has been signed by Local Authorities and Housing Providers across Greater Manchester (GMCA and GMHP).

Relates to Our Manchester Strategy themes:

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

8.0 Selective Licensing

- 8.1 Proposals are being brought forward for a raft of new Selective Licensing schemes to improve private rented sector housing standards in Manchester.
- 8.2 Nine new Selective Licensing areas across six wards – covering 1,872 private rented sector homes - have been proposed and are set to be subject to local consultation next year once Executive approval has been sought.
- 8.3 The fourth phase Selective Licensing could include a total of 1,872 PRS homes:
- Whiteway Street area in Harpurhey (129 PRS properties)
 - Leng Road / Melrose Street / Droylsden Road– Miles Platting & Newton Heath (269 PRS properties)
 - Scotland Street area – Miles Platting & Newton Heath (98 PRS properties)
 - Viscount Street area - Moss Side (116 PRS properties)
 - Heald Grove area – Moss Side (23 PRS properties)
 - Enver Road area – Crumpsall (151 PRS properties)
 - Heathcote Road / Sanby Road area – Longsight (192 PRS properties)
 - Northmoor Road area – Longsight (471 PRS properties)
 - Flats above shops and Esmond Road / Avondale Street area – Cheetham Hill (423 PRS properties)
- 8.4 These areas have been chosen following a 'hotspot' mapping exercise that looked at areas of the city where licensing could make a positive impact on those communities – and where they meet the criteria for a Selective Licensing scheme.

- 8.5 Selective Licensing allows Councils to require landlords of all private rented properties to obtain a licence in a particular area and is intended to address the impact of poor-quality homes and management standards.
- 8.6 Licensing can be introduced if an area is experiencing significant and persistent problems caused by antisocial behaviour, poor property conditions, high levels of migration, high levels of deprivation, high levels of crime, low housing demand – or is likely to become such an area.
- 8.5 There are currently eight live Selective Licensing schemes across the city – along with four previous schemes that were completed earlier this year or earlier. So far 3,240 properties across the city have been licensed under current and past schemes.
- 8.6 Evaluation data for schemes in Moss Side and Rusholme and Old Moat and Moston, which ended in January 2023 and April 2023 respectively, show the impact they have had.
- 8.7 Across these three licensing areas, 1,515 properties have been granted licenses following which 500 compliance inspections were carried out that ensured these homes were of a good standard and managed correctly.
- 8.8 And following changes to Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO) licensing in 2018 to include smaller properties, the selective schemes also led to an additional 142 properties being licensed under HMO legislation.
- 8.9 Following intensive compliance inspections, officers found that 10% of the properties visited were non-compliant (i.e. a serious hazard was found using the housing health and safety rating system (HHSRS)) and 65% were found to have lower category hazards.
- 8.10 In total, 54 serious hazards were found – including fire safety issues, excessive cold or fall risks associated with stairs or steps. 1,342 other hazards were identified – including damp and mould, fire safety, and electrical issues.
- 8.11 In these cases, appropriate timescales were agreed with the landlord to complete works or future action would be taken against them.
- 8.12 As a result, 93 housing related enforcement notices were issued by the Council against landlords, mandating improvements to be made at their properties. And 971 enforcement actions were served for environmental issues, such as litter, pest problems and other waste control incidents.
- 8.13 Legal action via Civil Penalty Notice (CPNs) were issued against 15 landlords for either failing to apply for a licence or for non-compliance with enforcement notices served under the Housing Act 2004.
- 8.14 A total of £71,799.00 was handed out through fines – and a further £14,532 was charged to landlords for officer time related to processing Housing Act Enforcement Notices.

Relates to Our Manchester Strategy themes:

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