

Executive

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday, 14 February 2024

Present: Councillor Rahman (Chair)

In accordance with Rule 2.1 of the Executive Procedure Rules, the Statutory Deputy Leader chaired the meeting in the absence of the Leader.

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

Also present as Members of the Standing Consultative Panel:

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

Apologies: Councillor Craig, Johnson and Leech

Exe/24/12 Minutes

Decision

The Executive approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting on 17 January 2024.

Exe/24/13 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 the Council had secured £51.6m via GMCA’s Brownfield Housing Fund to build thousands of new homes. The funding would support the development of 31 long-term underused sites over the next two years, helping to build 3,380 new homes, with 1,761 of them (52%) genuinely affordable. These new homes were contributing to the target set in the Council’s Housing Strategy to 2032 which aimed to deliver 36,000 new homes across the city with 10,000 of these affordable and 3,000 of these affordable homes in the city centre.

The Executive Member for Housing and Development reported that the final homes in a 69-home low carbon development for social rent in Silk Street, Newton Heath, had been completed. The long-term brownfield site overlooking the Rochdale Canal had been developed and brought back into use by the Council delivering 36 one-bedroom apartments, 12 two-bedroom apartments, 17 two-storey three-bedroom houses and four three-story, four-bedroom houses. The apartments had been built to HAPPI design principles that provided larger internal space as standard, which accommodated someone using a wheelchair, along with extra storage space. This meant they could also be adapted to meet the needs of the tenants.

The Executive Member for Housing and Development also reported that major investment in Ancoats Green was underway to create a much improved city centre park space as part of the culmination of Ancoats' regeneration. The scheme would include new walking and cycling routes to encourage active travel through the neighbourhood, significant new planting – including new wildflower and wetland areas – and new trees to add colour throughout the year. At least 30% of new services would be made from reclaimed materials, including granite paving slabs removed from Albert Square as part of its transformation under the Our Town Hall project. The transformed Ancoats Green would help underpin the development of 1,500 new homes in this part of Ancoats, supporting the creation of a low-traffic, pedestrian-friendly neighbourhood. Homes England had committed £28.1m to the overall project – along with the Mobility Hub – which, combined with the £4.7m allocated by Greater Manchester Combined Authority through the Brownfield Housing Fund, brought the total budget to £32.7m.

The Executive Member for Young People, Children and Families reported that preparations were taking place for Manchester's fourth Family Hub to open. Hubs were already open in Longsight, Cheetham and Wythenshawe with a fourth due to open in Gorton this spring. Family Hubs were Manchester's new community based 'one-stop shops' offering support and advice to families, children and young people through to early adulthood. Unlike Sure Start Centres which largely provided support aimed at younger children, the age range of those supported through the hubs was from pre-birth, through the infant and toddler stage all the way up to age 19 years, or up to 25 for young adults who had special needs. The Hubs were part of the broader five-year Making Manchester Fairer action plan, which aimed to address inequalities in the city that could start early on in life and even affect how long people lived for and their opportunities around work and housing.

The Executive Member for Health Manchester and Adult Social Care reported that Just Checking (an innovative piece of technology) had been piloted and evaluated for its contribution around supporting independence and more accurately, prescribing the right kinds of support for people. Over a period of 10 months, the impact of Just Checking had been evaluated for 112 people discharged from Hospital with Reablement support. Compared with a control cohort, the people who received Just Checking as part of their support plan ended the reablement service more independent with a larger reduction in support hours. Modelling of the potential impact of using Just Checking for the year had highlighted a potential financial impact of saving just over £1m. Based on this evaluation, the Reablement Service was exploring incorporating using Just Checking routinely as part of its pathway to better support Assessors and provide a more accurate depiction of how someone moves around their own home.

Decision

The Executive note the updates.

Exe/24/27 Sourcing Policy

The Executive considered a report of the Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer, which sought approval for a new Sourcing Policy for the Council, further to the Insourcing First Motion agreed by the Council in 2023.

The Executive Member for Finance and Resources advised that an early iteration of the policy was discussed at the March 2023 Resources and Governance Scrutiny meeting and changes had been made to the proposed policy based on recommendation, including explicit reference to consultation with Trade Unions.

Since then the approach had been tested for its practical application to different service areas including management of the Council's investment estate, security, housing repairs and maintenance, homecare and the Manchester Equipment and Adaptations Partnership.

The Policy would apply to all council contracts as appropriate to the size of the contract but with certain exceptions as set out in the policy - principally because of where there was likely to be only one feasible delivery model. Delivery Model Assessments would be completed in full for all Contracts that were classified "Gold" and therefore within the remit of the Major Contracts Review Board.

It was noted that as part of the policy, extension clauses in contracts should not be automatically activated and options for future delivery models must be considered in advance of decisions to extend.

The policy included key considerations aimed at ensuring good value for money, including Strategic Fit, People and Assets, Service Delivery and Quality, Transition and Mobilisation, Risk alongside an assessment of the costs of different delivery model options. The policy also required that analysis of the market conditions should be carried out to understand benchmark costs and likelihood of a reasonable response should tenders be invited

The proposed policy had been subject to discussions with Trade Unions at the Joint Advisory Committee and Corporate Core teams including HRODT, Legal and Finance had been involved in preparing Delivery Model Assessments to date and feedback had subsequently been taken on board.

Decision

The Executive agree to adopt the proposed Sourcing Policy.

Exe/24/28 Serious Violence Strategy

The Executive considered a report of the Strategic Director (Neighbourhoods), which sought approval of the Council's Serious Violence Strategy, which reflected the learning from the Joint Targeted Area Inspection and supported compliance with the Serious Violence Duty.

The delivery of the Serious Violence Strategy would be governed by the Serious Violence Board which reported to the Community Safety Partnership. This would include approving delivery plans, commissioning activity and analysis, monitoring activity and outcomes in line with the key priorities and principles of delivery. Progress would also be reported to the Manchester Safeguarding Partnership for assurance and support.

Decision

The Executive approve the Serious Violence Strategy for the city.

Exe/24/29 Anti-Social Behaviour Policy and Procedure

The Executive considered a report of the Strategic Director (Neighbourhoods), which sought approval of the Council's refreshed Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) policy and procedure, which had been developed following updates to legislation, developments in practice and a public consultation.

The previous ASB Policy and Procedure for the Council was approved 26 July 2017.

Since then, Northwards Housing had transferred back into the Council as Housing Operations and as a part of the transition arrangements the ASB policy and procedure was identified as an area for alignment with existing council services in the Anti-Social Behaviour Team. It was agreed that a joint consultation would take place to refresh the policies and combine to one Manchester City Council Policy and Procedure.

Decision

The Executive approve the Anti-Social Behaviour Policy and Procedure for the city.