

**Manchester City Council
Report for Information**

Report to: Executive – 5 June 2024
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
N/A

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion - the impact of the issues addressed in this report in meeting our Public Sector Equality Duty and broader equality commitments
N/A

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

Contact Officers:

Name: Joanne Roney OBE, Chief Executive
 Position: Chief Executive
 Telephone: 0161 2343006
 E-mail: Joanne.Roney@manchester.gov.uk

Name: Alun Ireland
 Position: Head of Strategic Communications
 Telephone: 0161 2343006
 E-mail: Alun.Ireland@manchester.gov.uk

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 Cost-of-living help: Household Support Fund

2.1 A £6.4m package of additional support for city residents during the ongoing cost-of-living crisis has been announced.

2.2 The Council is using £6.453m awarded through the latest round of the Government-funded Household Support Fund (HSF) to provide a range of extra help.

2.3 This includes:

- £3m for the continuation of free school meals for families over school holidays, covering an estimated 44,000 children via a £15 weekly payment during the summer half term and a £55 payment during the summer holiday.
- Nearly £100,000 for the Holiday Activity Fund which provides free activities and days out for children during the summer half term.
- Direct financial support for at-risk groups including households in receipt of Council Tax Support and care leavers.
- Additional funding will also be directed to third party agencies which offer support and advice on a range of issues, as well as the Council's Food Response delivered in partnership with over 40 food organisations.

2.4 On top of this support the Council has continued to operate its Cost-of-Living advice line, a dedicated phone and online service for people who are struggling with a range of issues – from paying energy bills, to debt, to food poverty. In addition to the HSF funding, the Council itself directly invests an additional £3.5m to cover the services offered via the advice line.

2.5 Our Cost-of-Living advice line is free and available to Manchester residents Mon-Fri 9.00-16.30 by calling 0800 023 2692 or texting 07860 022876. The website can be found by visiting manchester.gov.uk/coladvice

Relates to Our Manchester Strategy themes:

- Progressive and Equitable City
- Thriving and Sustainable City

3.0 Step Up For Zero Carbon campaign

- 3.1 A citywide campaign highlighting positive action being taken in Manchester to combat climate change and how residents and businesses can get involved was launched last month.
- 3.2 Manchester has a target of becoming zero carbon by 2038 at the latest, playing its full part in the international effort required to cut carbon emissions, as well as working to reduce and adapt to the impacts of climate change.
- 3.3 The Step Up For Zero Carbon campaign showcases some of the inspiring projects already being undertaken in the city by members of Manchester's Climate Change Partnership and helping people learn how they can take their own steps to support the city's collective mission.
- 3.4 The campaign focuses on seven key themes, kicking off with the benefits of repairing and reusing items – highlighting the work of the In Our Nature initiative with community groups on everything from IT repair cafes to sewing workshops and clothes swaps – and the work the Council is doing to green the city through tree planting.
- 3.5 The other themes are single use plastic reduction; buildings (low and zero carbon new build and retrofitting existing properties); renewable energy, active travel and zero carbon investment.
- 3.6 Making full use of free advertising space available to Manchester City Council through its out of home advertising partnerships with Ocean and JC Decaux, the campaign will feature on 115 digital screens in prominent locations in the city centre and along major road routes across the city. Posters are also being shared with venues such as community centres and libraries and toolkits are being shared with schools spread the message.
- 3.7 Further phases of the Manchester Climate Change Partnership campaign will take place this summer and autumn.
- 3.8 Manchester Climate Change Partnership brings together organisations from across the city's public, private, community, faith, health, culture and academic sectors which share the common goal of combatting climate change.
- 3.9 Anyone interested can visit www.manchesterclimate.com/zerocarbon for more information and tips.

Relates to Our Manchester Strategy themes:

- Liveable and Zero Carbon City
- Thriving and Sustainable City

4.0 Child Sexual Exploitation: Learning from Best Practice

- 4.1 Manchester played host on 13 May 2024 to a national best practice event to share lessons from Operation Green Jacket which was launched in 2019 in response to historical offending against children in the early 2000s, and the city's collective approach tackling child sexual exploitation and reaffirm the commitment to continued improvement.
- 4.2 The event, hosted jointly by the Council and Greater Manchester Police (GMP), brought together agencies and subject matter experts to share valuable learning, insights and approaches into how CSE is being tackled.
- 4.3 Since the establishment of Project Phoenix in 2012, the Council and GMP have increased the focus on developing and strengthening an effective partnership. This was taken to the next level by the creation in 2018 of Manchester's Complex Safeguarding Hub, bringing together social services, the voluntary sector, Police and health services in one place. Together, they work ensure children and young people at risk of being exploited are identified and action is taken to prevent and protect children from being exploited, whilst seeking to disrupt and prosecute those who seek to exploit the city's children and young people.
- 4.4 Council speakers at the event included the Strategic Director, Children and Education Services; the Assistant Director, Early Intervention and Prevention and the Strategic Lead for Complex Safeguarding. Other speakers included Gabrielle Shaw, the chief executive of NAPAC (the National Association for People Abused in Childhood) and Kate Friedmann, Greater Manchester Resilience Hub's Clinical Lead for Trusted Relationships and a range of speakers from GMP.

Relates to Our Manchester Strategy themes:

- Progressive and Equitable City

5.0 Grey Mare Lane Estate regeneration

- 5.1 Consultation is underway on a new masterplan for Grey Mare Lane estate to continue the regeneration of East Manchester.
- 5.2 The estate was built by the Council more than 50 years ago and its potential is recognised in proposals which would look to deliver at least 1,000 new homes – including a significant number of new affordable homes and new green spaces.
- 5.3 The aim is to develop a future-proofed, highly sustainable neighbourhood for existing and new residents, with community as a key focus of the plan.
- 5.4 The masterplan presents a high-level overview of the regeneration opportunities within the estate and outlines potential approaches to its delivery.

5.5 Potential projects include:

- Opportunities to develop up to 1,000 new homes including significant new affordable housing
- Upgrades to existing streets and introduction of new cycle lanes, pedestrian walking routes, sustainable drainage systems, and street greening.
- Improved green space with provision of play equipment for children of all ages
- Creating a true heart and focal point in the estate with improved retail, community and health offer
- Introduction of a school street or play street between the East Manchester Academy and St Brigid's School to promote safe streets for children
- Reducing the number of lanes at the junction between Bell Crescent and Alan Turing Way
- Creation of new access routes onto Grey Mare Lane from Newcombe Close and Raglan Close

5.6 Housing association Great Places will also begin targeted engagement around their development at the site on the corner of Grey Mare Lane and Ashton New Road from 5 June. The proposed scheme will deliver a block of 66 apartments for social rent providing a landmark gateway development into the masterplan area.

5.7 A planning application will be submitted alongside the masterplan for the estate and Great Places have been working closely with the Council and the masterplan architect to ensure the proposals are aligned.

5.8 Architect BDP have delivered the masterplan on behalf of the Grey Mare Lane partnership.

5.9 The consultation will remain at www.manchester.gov.uk/consultations until 30 June.

Relates to Our Manchester Strategy themes:

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

6.0 This City: Number One Ancoats Green

6.1 The Council's housing company This City has celebrated a major milestone in the construction of one of its schemes.

6.2 A topping out ceremony was held earlier this month marking the highest point of the build for Number One Ancoats Green being reached. The development will

deliver 129 new homes – 119 apartments and 10 town houses - on a former brownfield city centre fringe site.

- 6.3 Some 30% of these new homes will be affordable, capped at the Manchester Living Rent which is a level which can be covered by housing benefit payments – making the homes accessible to as many Manchester people as possible. A range of one bed to four bed homes are being built to meet a wide range of needs, including families who want to live close to the city centre.
- 6.4 The development is also being built to high sustainability standards, with exemplar insulation to limit heat loss, keep homes warm in the colder months and reduce residents' bills.
- 6.5 Six further Manchester sites are currently being considered for development by This City and the ambition is to scale up building to 500 homes a year. Number One Ancoats Green is expected to be completed in 2025.
- 6.6 The development will overlook and be complemented by a transformed Ancoats Green. Investment in this improved city centre park will include new walking and cycling routes through the neighbourhood, along with significant new planting – wildflower and wetland areas plus a range of new trees, alongside new accessible play equipment and open grassed areas.
- 6.7 The Ancoats Green redevelopment is part of a co-ordinated range of public realm investments in Ancoats which look to create a green heart for the neighbourhood and improve access to quality park spaces.

Relates to Our Manchester Strategy themes:

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

7.0 Building Stronger Communities Together

- 7.1 A new strategy has been officially launched to help strengthen community cohesion across Manchester.
- 7.2 The Building Stronger Communities Together 2023-26 strategy recognises the challenges created by upheavals ranging from the Covid-19 pandemic to the cost of-living crisis and takes a neighbourhood-focused approach to encouraging people to come together, strike up conversations, build meaningful relationships and feel a part of Manchester whatever their individual identities.
- 7.3 Three priorities were identified following a consultation during the summer of 2022:

- **Relationships...** Bonding between ‘people like us’ and who typically have strong close relationships and bridging and creating new relationships beyond our own current social circles and building connections that link people across
- **Participation...** Helping all communities to feel empowered to act to improve their neighbourhood and address shared challenges together building on the strengths and advantages of Manchester’s rich diversity, cultures and histories
- **Belonging...** To make ourselves and the people around us a part of our local neighbourhood and the city; valuing diversity and difference, celebrating what we have in common. Being proud of the places we live. Knowing that all together we belong to Manchester.

7.4 A delivery programme is being developed alongside this strategy to determine how the Council can best build on the three outlined priorities over the next 12 months. Activities will be built on structures and opportunities which are already in place in our communities and will work to identify what works best in each location.

7.5 The Council recognises that different parts of Manchester have their own distinct characteristics and wants to take into account the unique and special character of each of the city’s wards rather than imposing a ‘one size fits all’ approach.

7.6 The strategy, approved last year, was officially launched last month.

Relates to Our Manchester Strategy themes:

- Progressive and Equitable City
- Thriving and Sustainable City

8.0 Contributing to a Zero-Carbon City

8.1 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.

9.0 Contributing to the Our Manchester Strategy

9.1 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.

10.0 Key Policies and Considerations

10.1 There are no particular equal opportunities issues, risk management issues, or legal issues that arise from the recommendations in this report.

11.0 Recommendations

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