

**Manchester City Council  
Report for Information**

**Report to:** Neighbourhoods and Environment Scrutiny Committee – 17 July 2019

**Subject:** Delivering the Our Manchester Strategy

**Report of:** Executive Member for Neighbourhoods

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**Summary**

This report provides an overview of work undertaken and progress towards the delivery of the Council's priorities as set out in the Our Manchester Strategy for those areas within the portfolio of the Executive Member for Neighbourhoods.

**Recommendations**

The Committee is asked to note and comment on the report.

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**Wards Affected:** All

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## **1.0 Introduction**

- 1.1 The Our Manchester Strategy, formally adopted by the Council in January 2016, is a vision which plans to get us where we need to be in 2025. Manchester is growing, going global and connecting communities to chances for a good life but we have also got some of the lowest wages, the nation's unhealthiest people, more rough sleepers, and too many litter grot spots. We have still got lots to do.

On the way to 2025, we have set some shorter-term goals for 2020:

- Fewer kids in care
- Fix roads, bus and cycle lanes
- Join up Health & Social care
- Better school results
- Cleaner Green places
- Better and affordable homes
- More recycling and less waste
- Work and skills for better pay

- 1.2 Executive Members are collectively and individually responsible for supporting the delivery of the Our Manchester Strategy and for providing political oversight and direction to officers achieve better outcomes for Manchester residents. The Executive adopted the commitments made in the Manchester Labour 2019 manifesto as priorities for the Executive. The individual priorities specific for my portfolio are:

- We will work to improve communal facilities in densely populated terraced areas to make it easier for residents to recycle
- We have invested an extra £0.5m per year in to the budget to address the ongoing issue of fly-tipping and ensure that the increase in commercial fly-tipping is tackled
- We will continue working with 'Keep Britain Tidy' to achieve 'Tidy City' status by the end of 2020
- We will continue action against premises that are not complying with the Health Act 2006, planning legislation or any other legislation

I also intend to focus on:

- Managing the Biffa waste contract
- Continuing to engage with the Private Hire (PH) and the Taxi trade to work towards a GM Minimum Standards for the trade and also facilitate a move towards a fleet of PH vehicles and taxis which are going to be compliant with the Clean-Air Zone (CAZ) proposals.
- Engaging with all the Lead Members from the different equality strands

## **2.0 Executive Member for Neighbourhoods – Portfolio**

- 2.1 As Executive Member for Neighbourhoods, my portfolio includes:

- Neighbourhood management and the Our Manchester Approach including waste strategy and collection,
- Management of physical environment and Environmental Services
- Licensing Policy
- Equalities and Community Cohesion

### **3.0 Progress and Outcomes**

- 3.1 Over the last year, we delivered on the primary manifesto pledge of increasing recycling rates in the apartment sector across the city. Recycling in apartments was an average of 10% in 2017. The outcome of our work has seen a decrease in the weight of rubbish collected from these buildings and an increase in the weight of recycling collected. We estimate that the recycling is now up to an average of 20% across this sector. The project has been recognised nationally and the Waste, Recycling & Street Cleansing team recently won an award at the Material Recycling World (MRW) National Recycling Awards 2019 beating off stiff competition from Hackney, Islington, Lewisham, Surrey, Brent, Cheshire West and Chester Councils to bring home the award. The project also resulted in making a saving of £500,000.
- 3.2 The introduction of the Health Act 2006 made it illegal for an individual to smoke tobacco of any sort in a place that is more than 50 percent enclosed and to which the public has access. This legislation has had a major impact on the levels of smoking nationally although smoking rates in Manchester are still the highest in Greater Manchester, much higher than national averages and have declined more slowly than in other areas of the country. Manchester has the highest premature mortality rates in the country for the three major smoking related conditions: lung cancer, heart disease and stroke (Manchester Tobacco Plan 2018). The need to reduce the smoking of tobacco is highlighted in the new NHS Ten Year Plan, the national Tobacco Control Plan for England and the Manchester Population Health Plan. Operations around Shisha cafes are therefore crucially important in terms of helping Manchester to meet its targets around reduced smoking of tobacco and tobacco related disease. The shisha operations are an important part of the city's efforts to control and regulate the use of tobacco, thereby reducing smoking rates and the associated mortality and morbidity.
- 3.3 A strong partnership approach has been developed to address this challenge. The group comprises council departments including Licensing and Out of Hours, Development Compliance (Planning), Trading Standards and Neighbourhood Compliance and partner agencies including Greater Manchester Police (GMP), the Complex Safeguarding Hub, Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC), Home Office Immigration Enforcement (HOIE), Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service (GMFRS) and the Manchester Population Health and Wellbeing Team. The partners meet regularly which provides a platform to share intelligence about shisha premises and plan multi-agency operations.
- 3.4 Over the last couple of years, 10 shisha cafes have closed down due to a combination of enforcement action. The more recent action has included

seizing shisha pipes and this is expected to increase in number. Prosecution proceedings have also commenced against a number of owners and occupiers, the threat to the owners of the buildings and not just the occupiers has proven to be a highly effective deterrent.

- 3.5 The Great British Spring Clean (GBSC) is Keep Britain Tidy's (KBT) National Campaign designed to involve as many people as possible in community clean ups. This year, the GBSC was held over a month from the 22 March to 23 April and was promoted as a key opportunity for schools to get involved with Keep Manchester Tidy and be part of our journey towards becoming the UK's first Tidy City.
- 3.6 During the month we had over 200 events across the city involving more than 7000 volunteers, a record number. All primary schools were provided with a banner to promote their support for Keep Manchester Tidy and these were displayed at the start of the GB Spring Clean. The show of force from Manchester schools during the GB Spring Clean has been phenomenal. At the beginning of May, Keep Manchester Tidy hosted a High Street Week as an extension to the GBSC which enabled efforts to be focused on shopping districts.
- 3.7 During the last year we have had campaigns about 'careful littering', 'Bin the Butt', 'Don't Be A Tosser' and around 'Dog Fouling'. We have attempted to develop a better understanding of fly tipping by undertaking work to assess people's perceptions and understanding of fly-tipping. This work will include engaging with resident focus groups and any insights gained will inform interventions. The national KBT network conference was hosted by Manchester and we had several award nominations.
- 3.8 In 2016, we created a new Environmental Crimes Team, specifically to work on enforcement against criminal behaviours such as fly-tipping. These dedicated officers are constantly at work detecting and investigating these incidents. They are supported by staff from our waste contractors, Biffa, who carry out searches for evidence at the sites of fly-tipping incidents before clearing them away. As well as manual searches, we also have a number of mobile CCTV cameras, which can be installed at known hotspots to allow us to catch the culprits.
- 3.9 In 2018/19 alone, we were successful in bringing more than 200 prosecutions for fly-tipping and associated crimes, including the dumping of commercial waste. As well as taking offenders to court, we have the power to issue Fixed Penalty Notices, with more than 800 handed out in 2018/19.
- 3.10 The most recently published statistics show that in 2017/18, Manchester was responsible for more than 10% of prosecutions for fly-tipping in the whole of England. Our teams achieved around 50% of prosecutions brought in the North West region and nearly 75% of prosecutions brought in Greater Manchester during the 17/18 financial year.

- 3.11 The cost of clearing away illegally dumped waste is undoubtedly a needless drain on council resources and this is particularly challenging in a time of austerity, against a backdrop of cuts to funding from central government. Nevertheless, fighting against fly-tipping is a top priority in Manchester and this year, we have dedicated an extra £500,000 to tackling the issue and prosecuting those responsible.
- 3.12 Around 32 million trips are made in taxis and private hire vehicles in Greater Manchester (GM) each year. It is an important way for many people to travel around the city region. There are around 2000 taxis (black cabs or hackney carriages) (1090 in Manchester) and over 14000 private hire vehicles (where you need to pre-book the journey in advance) (around 3500 Manchester licensed vehicles) licensed by the 10 Greater Manchester authorities.
- 3.13 We want to make sure that anyone licensed by the 10 GM authorities who drives or operates a taxi or private hire vehicle in GM meets the same minimum standards.
- 3.14 Currently, older licensed vehicles are damaging our environment and action is needed to address this important issue.
- 3.15 The proposed minimum standards have been developed by the 10 GM authorities to achieve a single vision for licensed vehicles in the future, which also support the GM Clean Air Plan proposals to tackle air pollution across GM. These proposals will allow any person using a vehicle licensed in GM to be assured that the driver can be trusted, the vehicle is safe, and is not contributing to poor air quality. They will also be assured as far as possible, that any operator licensed in GM who they book a journey with will hold their information safely and that it will not be misused. This supports the key licensing principles of public protection.
- 3.16 We have had initial engagement with the taxi trade about the proposals before a formal consultation, which will take place later in 2019.
- 3.17 Dirty air from road transport can seriously damage our health and plays a part in thousands of deaths every year. Along with other major cities across the country, GM needs to reduce air pollution to legal levels as quickly as possible.
- 3.18 The 10 local councils in GM, in conjunction with Transport for GM, are developing a Clean Air Plan to tackle this major risk to our health.
- 3.19 The current proposals aim to introduce a GM Clean Air Zone in which the most polluting buses, coaches, HGV's, vans, taxis and private hire vehicles would pay a daily penalty to drive in. This is alongside government funding to clean up the region's most polluting vehicles.
- 3.20 It is estimated that around 69% of taxis and 36% of private hire vehicles would not be compliant by April 2021 and would be subject to a daily penalty if a Clean Air Zone was introduced in 2021.

- 3.21 We aim to meaningfully engage with the trade during the formal consultation period to support the trade to become fit for purpose for the 21st century and contribute to the vision for an integrated transport system.
- 3.22 I continue to hold regular meetings with the Waste and Recycling Team and attend meetings of the Waste, Recycling and Street Cleaning Strategic Board.
- 3.23 To improve the scrutiny process, we have arranged regular meetings between Biffa management and members based on the 4 neighbourhood areas of North, Central, South and City Centre.
- 3.24 I have been attending the GMCA Waste & Recycling Committee. The procurement process for the waste disposal management arrangement resulted in Suez as the preferred contractor and the new contract commenced on 1 June. There are no changes planned to resident's household waste and recycling collection services, however, residents will see some changes to the household waste recycling centres and will be able to recycle a wider range of items.