

**Manchester City Council
Report for Information**

Report to: Communities and Equalities Scrutiny Committee – 9 January 2020

Subject: Delivering the Our Manchester Strategy

Report of: Deputy Leader

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 Deputy Leader, Councillor Sue Murphy.

Recommendation

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

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1. Introduction

The Our Manchester Strategy was formally adopted by the Council in January 2016 and sets the ambitions for the city for the next ten years, to 2025, for Manchester to be:

Thriving – creating great jobs and healthy businesses

- Filled with talent – both home-grown talent and attracting the best in the world
- Fair – with equal chances for all to unlock their potential
- A great place to live – with lots of things to do
- Buzzing with connections – including world-class transport and broadband

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 for the better outcomes for Manchester residents. In October, the Executive also published its collective political priorities and those of individual Executive Members, all of which are aligned to the Our Manchester Strategy.

This report sets out how I as Deputy Leader have sought to deliver these priorities over the past six months.

2. Deputy Leader - Portfolio

As Deputy Leader, my portfolio includes:

- Our Manchester
- Homelessness and Rough Sleepers
- Public Sector Reform
- Inclusion – including Family Poverty
- Voluntary Sector
- International and Civic

Progress and outcomes for January to July 2019

3. Our Manchester

A new sub-group of Executive Members has been established to monitor progress and look at how the Our Manchester Approach is working. We are also looking at how Bringing Services Together is progressing. The group is co-chaired by myself and Cllr Nigel Murphy.

The Our Manchester Investment Board has continued to meet, bringing together a whole range of partners. The last meeting focussed on how health partners are using the Our Manchester approach, particularly in neighbourhoods. We are also looking at how other areas are implanting place based working - there are interesting examples from across Greater

Manchester, and Oldham presented their ways of working at the last meeting. We are also developing a new monitoring and evaluation framework. We have met with the Institute for Government who are looking at our evaluation methods as a potential subject for part of their research.

I have been looking at how case conferences in all their forms work and how we can better use the Bringing Services Together work to get better outcomes for residents.

A new resident's engagement plan is being worked on building on the trial events we held in some wards last year. These will be planned with the involvement of members in the wards where the next ones will take place. This is an important piece of work.

We are looking at the next phase of the Our Manchester Investment Fund and how we can develop this to tackle some of the challenges we face in Manchester. Some of the projects previously funded are starting to be embedded across Manchester. A good example of this is the expansion of the Adverse Childhood Experiences work that was presented at council. These type of projects provide valuable evidence of how new approaches can make a real difference for residents.

4. Social Inclusion

The Family Poverty Strategy continues to meet. We have hosted a very successful event for Anchor Institutions and businesses about how they can help tackle poverty through social value. There's a huge amount of willingness from people to be involved and we are producing an action plan to build on this. This group will also be key in the work to have Manchester become a Real Living Wage City.

The Poverty Truth Commission has continued to meet. It's a very intense and sometimes quite challenging process. We are working with the Lived Experience Commissioners to gain an in-depth understanding of their experiences and working together to create a map of how poverty develops. We have had a huge amount of support from the Public Life commissioners – all senior people from a wide variety of organisations within Manchester. They have all given a large amount of time and energy to help with the Commission.

5. Voluntary and Community Sector

The tender for the provision of infrastructure for the VCS in Manchester has been awarded.

The targeted funding from MHCC for VCS groups has been awarded. There were two rounds – one for the first 1000 days and one for older people. The majority of the funding has been awarded and we are in the process of letting groups know.

Building on the work done by scrutiny, the work to look at the capacity of the voluntary sector in North Manchester is well advanced, Local members have been a key part of the process. The next piece of work – to look at BAME organisations – is underway.

6. Homelessness and Rough Sleeping

We have agreed 4 key aims for the service plan:

- Reduce rough sleeping
- Reduce the use of temporary accommodation
- Reduce the cost of temporary accommodation
- Increase prevention

The rough sleeper count for November showed a fall in numbers from the same month last year – down to 91 from 123, a drop of more than 25%. There is still a lot of work to do but this is some progress. The people who are sleeping rough have extremely complex needs and this is very challenging. It requires closer work with and support from our partners- particularly to support mental health needs and drug and alcohol dependency.

The second phase of A Bed Every Night is underway with 137 places. This is funded mainly by the Combined authority and we are working closely with them.

ABEN uplift has worked well – these are extra places we have available for cold weather when we know that people sleeping rough who won't normally accept help are likely to accept shelter. We have developed a new referral process to get people in quickly. Our VCS partners have worked very closely with us on this and have provided fantastic support to some of our most vulnerable people. Our aim is not to provide a place for the nights when the temperature is below zero but for at least one or two subsequent nights to enable us to work with people to help them.

The number of families and people presenting at the town hall as homeless or at risk of homelessness is increasing and it is difficult to meet demand. The number of presentations for July to September was 2525 – the highest recorded in any quarter and up 27% on the same quarter last year.

To deal with some of these challenges we are developing a service transformation plan which will be at the core of tackling and reducing homelessness over the next three years. It will mean a reorganisation of the service and its activities and will focus on five key areas – the vision, redesigning the journey through the system, prevention, accommodation and communication.

One of the first projects will be two area based prevention pilots in Moss Side and Clayton and Openshaw. Prevention must be a key part of our plan. Another key project will be the procurement of the management of dispersed accommodation.

We continue to be an active member of the Homelessness Partnership.

I have spent two days at an LGA event on Homelessness. It was very useful to share experiences with other councils. All types of councils – London boroughs, unitaries, county and districts – were there and are all experiencing similar problems, this shows that homelessness is a national issue.

This is still an extremely challenging area of work. The impact of austerity – particularly welfare reform and universal credit combined with cuts to services – is still stark. Our staff and our partners – particularly the voluntary sector – work very hard under difficult circumstances and I am extremely grateful for that.

7. International

We are continuing to receive large numbers of requests to consider partnerships and to host visits. We prioritise those of most benefit to the city. We have had a large number of visits, particularly from China. There is a great deal of interest in the history of Manchester, particularly as the birthplace of the industrial revolution. We have recently signed Memoranda of Understanding with Haidian, a district of Beijing with a particularly large digital and technology sector, and with Gumi in South Korea. We are still working closely with Montreal. I have visited our sister city Wuhan as part of a delegation with MMU who have opened an office there and have recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding with cities in Denmark about collaboration particularly around culture

It's important that whatever the outcome of Brexit we continue to have positive relationships with other cities.

8. LGA

Through the LGA I am a member of the Brexit Delivery Board which meets regularly with Ministers about Brexit preparation and planning. The meetings are expected to resume soon.

I am also a member of the Resources Board and have been asked to work on lobbying for changes to Local Housing Allowance – a big issue for Manchester.