

**Manchester City Council
Report for Information**

Report to: The Executive - 3 June 2020

Subject: COVID-19 - Update

Report of: The Chief Executive

Summary

In light of the current national and international public health emergency situation, Manchester and Greater Manchester (GM) declared a major Incident on Friday 20 March 2020. This activated the multi-agency response arrangements in line with the GM generic response plan and the pandemic flu plan. The Prime Minister's unprecedented announcement at 8.30 pm on Monday 23rd March set out the seriousness of the situation and the expectations of all residents, businesses and public services. Over the last days and weeks, the lockdown guidance has eased and a number of further specific guidance notes have been received which are informing our actions and response.

This note is intended to provide the Executive with a brief summary of the work on COVID-19 in Manchester, following the previous update received on 6 May. Further detail on specific issues will be available as required.

Recommendations

The Executive is asked to note the issues outlined in this note.

Wards Affected: All

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| Environmental Impact Assessment - the impact of the issues addressed in this report on achieving the zero-carbon target for the city |
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| Manchester Strategy outcomes | Summary of how this report aligns to the OMS |
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| A thriving and sustainable city: supporting a diverse and distinctive economy that creates jobs and opportunities | This unprecedented national and international crisis impacts on all areas of our city. The 'Our Manchester' approach has underpinned the planning and delivery of our response, working in partnership and identifying innovative ways to continue to deliver services and to establish new services as quickly as possible to support the most vulnerable in our city. |
| A highly skilled city: world class and home grown talent sustaining the city's economic success | |

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| 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 | |

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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.

None

1. Purpose

- 1.1 In light of the current national and international public health emergency situation, Manchester and Greater Manchester (GM) declared a major Incident on Friday 20 March 2020. This activated the multi-agency response arrangements in line with the GM generic response plan and the pandemic flu plan. The Prime Minister's unprecedented announcement at 8.30 pm on Monday 23rd March set out the seriousness of the situation and the expectations of all residents, businesses and public services. Over the last days and weeks, the lockdown guidance has eased and a number of further specific guidance notes have been received which are informing our actions and response.
- 1.2 Further to the report of the 6 May 2020 this note is intended to provide the Executive with a brief summary of the work on COVID-19 in Manchester. Further detail on specific issues will be available as required.
- 1.3 The Executive is requested to note the issues outlined in this report.

2. Public Health

- 2.1 As of Thursday 28th May 2020, there were 1,558 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Manchester, a rate of 284.5 per 100,000 population. There were 325 registered deaths involving COVID-19 up to 15th May amongst Manchester residents and of these 70, or 21.1%, had occurred in care homes. The infection rate and the number of deaths involving COVID-19 in Manchester is continuing to fall. This is evidenced by the fact that there is now 48.1% capacity in Manchester hospital mortuaries and the planned additional mortuary capacity has been stood down.
- 2.2 The Government announced on Friday 22nd May that the National Test and Trace Service will be launched in June and that £300 million ring fenced funding will be made available to Local Authorities (LAs). This will support the development of local outbreak control plans. The detail of the individual allocations to LAs is yet to be confirmed.
- 2.3 Greater Manchester (GM) has been selected as one of 11 national Beacons (pilots) for Test and Trace and Tameside will be the host authority. This is in recognition of the work that has been undertaken to develop a GM model that is aligned to the national service.
- 2.4 The Director of Public Health (DPH) at the City Council will lead the development of the Manchester plan with local partners. The plan will cover the management of outbreaks in all settings including care homes, schools and the workplace. In Manchester there will also be a focus on groups that may be at particular risk, such as the homeless population.
- 2.5 The national service will undertake contact tracing by phone and work closely with local teams in Manchester and Greater Manchester (Public Health England) to respond to outbreaks in various settings and deal with more

complex cases. In time the national and local service will be augmented by the App currently being piloted on the Isle of White.

- 2.6 The success of the service will be dependent on an effective testing strategy and Manchester has made excellent progress on this to date. Manchester, along with Trafford implemented a local policy to test all hospital patients prior to discharge to care homes, well in advance of the national directive.
- 2.7 Manchester key workers also have very good access to the regional testing centres at the Etihad and Airport and the Army Mobile Testing Units (MTUs) . However, it will be important for data from these centres and MTUs to be made available to the GM and Manchester teams. This is so appropriate trace and isolate actions can be taken and outbreak plans implemented.
- 2.8 Similarly the new national model for Care Home testing needs to give more control to LAs through the DPH and Director of Adult Social Services. This will ensure that as laboratory capacity becomes available, repeat “whole home testing” for care homes can be delivered effectively
- 2.9 The governance of the Manchester Plan will be through the Health and Wellbeing Board, chaired by the Leader of the Council and will be part of the portfolio of the Executive Member for Adult Health and Wellbeing

3. The Manchester and Trafford PPE Mutual Aid Hub

- 3.1 COVID-19 has caused a huge surge in demand for Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). The supply of PPE across Greater Manchester is improving and as of 02 June 2020 all out of hospital and primary care settings have at least a 4 day supply.
- 3.2 In Manchester, the PPE hub is still delivering to every service who contacts the Hub. This has been achieved through local procurement efforts rather than the national supply chain.
- 3.3 The current challenge facing the Hub relates to forecasting the demand for PPE as lockdown is lifted. There is also no certainty on the national supply chain and therefore the hub will continue for the foreseeable future.

4. Support to Vulnerable People Hub

- 4.1 The number of calls into the hub continues to decrease however demand for food is still the reason for the highest proportion of calls. Work is underway to look at the future ongoing model for the hub including reviewing if people have the means to pay, determining whether their needs can be met in a more sustainable way, such as a volunteer shopper or an online shopping slot. Manchester are part of a pilot trialling access to supermarket slots for shielded residents.

- 4.2 The list of residents in the shielded group who central government has not managed to contact has been received and we are working through the list to identify those that require a call or visit.
- 4.3 Housing Providers are continuing to support the food offer and are engaged at neighbourhood level.

5. Homelessness

- 5.1 As of 01 June, 273 rough sleepers have been housed in temporary accommodation. The provision of self-contained accommodation has been very successful with only 7 people accommodated in hotels across Greater Manchester so far displaying COVID-19 symptoms and no positive tests returned. There have been similarly low levels displayed for those accommodated in Local Authority provision, with a small number of successfully isolated cases of infection.
- 5.2 Additional support for substance misuse, mental health and physical health needs have been made available through service collaboration and amending prescribing practises to ensure that movement of people does not disconnect them from treatment or support. Significant progress has been made in accessibility to enhanced health services developed as a result of COVID-19. Although this has not worked for everyone and there are still people rough sleeping, many positive outcomes have been achieved with improvements in personal hygiene, re-connection with friends and family and access to health support and treatment.
- 5.3 Work on the plan for exiting lockdown and moving people out of hotels is progressing. Everyone will have a move on plan looking at support and depending on whether they have high, medium or low needs.
- 5.4 We are awaiting confirmation and working with Greater Manchester on any further funding to support the step down arrangements

6. Adult Social Care

- 6.1 ASC continues to manage its response through the ASC COVID response plan which feeds into MCC response co-ordination as well as into MLCO command. The plan is predicated on delivering three key objectives: (1) Continuity of care for vulnerable people assessed under the Care Act (2) Minimising risk of harm/fatality (3) Protecting credibility of health and social care and partners

Support to Care Homes

- 6.2 There are currently 1,944 residents in care homes across the city. As of 28 May, 77 (3.99%) care home residents have tested positive for COVID-19 and 65 (3.4%) have COVID-19 symptoms. The vast majority of care homes are still self-reporting “green” delivery status. None are reporting red and only 3 amber, which is the same as the previous week.

- 6.3 The main issues being reported from care homes continue to relate to the availability of PPE but are being resolved via escalation. The other main challenge reported is staff shortages but at the moment care homes are still able to manage.
- 6.3a MCC continues to provide support to care homes via daily contact and access to dedicated email addresses for guidance and support.
- 6.3b Work is underway to ensure the Manchester COVID-19 Test and Trace outbreak control plan, responds effectively to outbreaks in care homes and all social care settings. The plan will be strengthened by the announcement relating to the Adults Social Care Infection Control Fund. This is a national fund of £600m that will be made available to local authorities to support efforts to stop transmission within and between care homes. Manchester will be required to set out how it will utilise its grant allocation by 26 June 2020.

Support to citizens in the community

- 6.4 Adult service areas are conducting safe and well checks with the cohort of vulnerable adults on the government shielded list. The majority of individuals have now been contacted, with the same approach to safe and well checks being taken for other individuals in receipt of packages of care and known to social work. The checks ensure referrals into the Manchester Community Response Hub and other support options as well as assessment or re-assessment where required.
- 6.5 A streamlined strengths based assessment form has been introduced to expedite the assessment process. This will continue to be under review over the coming weeks and is Care Act compliant. This work has formed part of the overall ASC response to the Care Act Easements, noting that there has not yet been any need to enact the Easements at stage 3 or 4.

Support to teams

- 6.6 In support of this, and to ensure that a thorough understanding of the status of front line teams is in place, all teams are providing a RAG status three times a week reflecting their ability to continue to deliver statutory services. The majority of teams are continuing to report as 'green' with any reporting 'amber' supported by co-working with other teams, and ensuring that agency social work staff and other redeployed staff (welfare officers) are deployed into those priority areas.

7. Children and Education Services

- 7.1 Children and Education Services continue to adopt a principle of *business as usual but doing it differently*; which has been attributed to attendance levels and morale across the Directorate continues to be high, with staff actively and positively engaged in service delivery. This was best exemplified in a pre-planned staff engagement session that took place on 29th April 2020 and saw

100+ members of the Directorate participate in a 'redefining the future' session. The overwhelming feedback has been positive and will be used to inform 'living with COVID19' planning.

Children's Services

- 7.2 Children Services have fully embraced the concept of '*business as usual but doing it differently*' which has seen an overall improvement in performance as summarised below;
- Vast majority of staff have demonstrated their adeptness in utilising technology.
 - When compared to pre-lockdown data, whilst patterns of requests for advice and referrals to Children Social Care are broadly similar (ie Schools, Police and Health being the greatest source in that order) the volumes are significantly reduced; noticeably there has been an increase in referrals from anonymous/public sources.
 - Risk management activities; child protection conferences, learning circles, DACCs (Domestic Abuse Screening, visits to children subject to child protection plans/looked after, court hearings(with some difficulties) CinN panels, supervisions legal gateway and all other business meetings now adapted to COVID and embedded in daily practice.
 - Regular contact between staff and managers through daily check-in meetings
- 7.3 The three early help hubs continue to work closely with Children's Social Care at the front door which has led to the development of a 'parenting support line' during the week ending 14th May 2020. There are 581 families who are currently receiving a targeted early help intervention, which equates to 947 children. Of which 278 children are supported jointly with social work teams and 193 are open to the Early Help Parenting Team. In addition there are 118 families (244 children) who are being supported at a lower level of need by the Early Help Assessment Teams. Early Help Practitioners also continue to deliver crisis support to families via a rota system in operation across all three hubs, which mainly consists of delivering food parcels and activity packs to our children.
- 7.4 There has been regular supplies of PPE, which is positive as increasing numbers of families are requesting staff wear face masks during visits. It has been negotiated for an initial supply to be made available for schools opening on 1st June 2020. Whilst accepting the national guidance for the use of PPE, this is expected to reassure schools and Trade Union colleagues along with the production of guidance for testing, trace and tracking COVID19 in school and Early Year Settings.
- 7.5 The service has continued to recruit and on 14th May 2020 implemented a 'soft' launch recruitment campaign; the aim being to secure a stable, confident and talented workforce and remove the reliance on agency staff; there are plans to interview c18 prospective social workers.

Education Services and Schools

- 7.6 There continues to be a high number of schools open across the city with 164 schools are open and only 20 schools are closed. However, it should be noted that 15 of these schools are part of federations or Multi Academy Trusts and have provision available in one of their partner schools.
- 7.7 The overall attendance of 'vulnerable' and those children of key workers since 20/4/20 has continued to increase from 1453 to 1954. This represents an increase from 472 to 747 for 'vulnerable children' and from 994 to 1201 for key worker children as at 20/5/20; with the majority being in a primary school setting. In addition schools continue to maintain contact with 'vulnerable' children and undertake risk assessments in respect of them and those children with EHCP (Education and Health Care Plan); encouraging attendance at school where possible. Albeit progress is slow, increasing the attendance of 'vulnerable' children continues to be an ongoing challenge and one that is regularly reviewed via performance and school reporting.
- 7.8 A similar picture albeit at a much slower rate is emerging in early years settings with 28 of 105 settings providing 403 places for vulnerable and those children of key workers. This is an increase of 2 settings and 120 children over a period of 5 days; the vast majority of which are children of key workers. In addition there are currently 82 Childminders providing 205 places. This is an increase of 14 childminders and 76 children over the same period.
- 7.9 In respect of Manchester's Colleges the Principals for Loreto and The Manchester College are reporting 75% and 85% of learners are regularly engaged with learning and are being proactive with students where there is no engagement.
- 7.10 There continues to be a creative approach to engaging children in learning which has included 200 books being distributed through our Young Carers Champions, securing £3K funding through the We Love Manchester fund for digital inclusion for Young Carers and providing laptops/digital devices for Looked After Children via the Virtual School. This is in addition to the c2700 secured through the DfE.
- 7.11 The Early Years Service has developed a home learning pack for 2 year olds that will be implemented by Surestart Children's Centres and include working with settings, schools and the QA Team to identify children and ensure a coordinated approach.
- 7.12 To support schools with KS2 to KS3 transition through COVID-19, Year 6 pupils in Manchester primaries will be provided with the same reading book and enrichment activities to complete around the themes and topics of the book. Education Services have worked with Read Manchester to secure over 7000 copies of 'The Kid Who Came From Space' by Ross Welford. These will be delivered directly to primary schools in mid-June. Enrichment activities can be used in schools or can be completed at home. Many of the activities lend

themselves to competitions which can be used by secondary schools to support transition.

- 7.13 All Colleges and providers are making contact with year 11 students who have been offered places for September 2020.

Increasing school attendance

- 7.14 The vast majority of Manchester's schools have been open since 'lockdown' was announced on 27 March 2020 for key groups of children as well as providing home learning for all students and welfare checks for those designated 'vulnerable'. This has included throughout school holidays and in many cases bank holidays. Whilst we want to see more children educated in their school it is important this is achieved in a safe, planned and managed way. Consequently, following the government's announcement on 10th May 2020 to 'reopen' primary schools for reception, year 1, 6 on 1st June 2020 there has been a great deal of activity as both education services and schools endeavour to understand/interpret the DFE guidance, this has included:
- Regular meetings with the Regional Schools Commissioner, school leaders and Trade Union colleagues; advice provided to school governors.
 - Ongoing advice/support provided; weekly bulletins
 - Manchester Health and Safety Risk Assessment guidance/tools and shared with schools on 15/5/20; arrangements in place for Manchester City Council to collate and Health and Safety Team to sample
 - All schools and settings in the City received their allocation of PPE for occasional and emergency use; distributed via the 'business hub'.
 - Development of public health guidance for testing, tracking and tracing
 - Ongoing advice and support for schools and settings. This includes planning that best suits their respective context and wellbeing of their pupils and staff at the centre of their decision making; with access to a Quality Assurance Professional visit to assist in planning.
 - Emotional Resilience plan and package of support being developed and co-produced with Health and Educational Psychologist colleagues; including an Anxiety pathway. Resources for use in the short-term, as schools welcome more children, include a Transition leaflet for parents which has been sent to schools for distribution and a resource for school leaders and staff to support conversations.
- 7.15 The emerging picture is that the majority of schools: 66% of a sample of 40 schools will increase their offer from 1/6/20; with 98% of those sampled confident this can be safely achieved by 15/6/20. The majority of Manchester primary schools have indicated their plan is to bring Yr 6 in first.
- 7.16 The early indications are take up will be variable across with higher rates some wards in the south of the city and very limited take up in around Longsight and Levenshulme.
- 7.17 Finally there are many specific considerations unique to individual schools, settings and colleges which they are best placed to understand and plan for.

This is why the council's education services will continue to support our settings, schools and colleges to plan a response to the announcement and begin to gradually increase the numbers of children and young people attending in a way that is safe for everyone.

8. The Council's Workforce

8.1 Following government advice on easing lockdown restrictions the majority of people who are working from home will remain working from home and work is underway to ensure that the very small numbers of essential workers who need to move back into an on site workplace can do so safely. As at 20 May, the workforce headlines were:

- Low overall levels of staff off sick (3.3% non COVID related) and maintained levels of staff absent with COVID 19 symptoms (1.1%)
- 46.5% of workforce working from home
- 36.3% of workforce on site BAU
- 3% redeployed 216 staff

9. Business Relief and Grants

9.1 There are two reliefs that provide a 100% relief from this year's business rates charges; these are extended retail relief and nursery relief. The Council has awarded the relief to all eligible businesses. For extended retail relief this is 3,918 businesses, amounting to £145.5m in business rates charges and for nursery relief this has been paid to 77 businesses, amounting to £855,000 in business rates charges.

9.2 There are also two grants administered by the Council and funded by the government subject to eligibility criteria. The Council has identified potentially eligible businesses using business rates and valuation office criteria. As at 28 May, 7,921 grants have been paid worth £90.385 million (an estimated 81.1% of those potentially eligible for grants). We have now sent two letters, emails and texts to all those businesses that were expected to claim the Small Business Rate Grant and the Retail, Hospitality and leisure Grant, reminding them of their possible entitlement and urging them to make a request for a grant. These efforts continue to generate a significant response. Colleagues in Work and Skills have also tried to make phone contact to all those who haven't applied for a grant and the records show could be eligible/SBR grant.

9.3 Last week, the government formally announced an additional fund aimed at small businesses with ongoing, fixed property-related costs. This is a discretionary scheme provided by the Council, using government guidance and criteria within a defined amount of funding determined by the government (£5.4m). Provision of grants within this fund will be considered after entitlement to other support, including the Small Business Rates Grant (SBR) Relief and the Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Grant (RHLG) have been considered. Grants under the discretionary scheme would not normally be paid in addition to the above grants. The scheme launched week beginning 26 May. The funding will not be sufficient to meet all of the demand for the

scheme and only a fraction of those eligible under government guidance. Support will be prioritised to:

- Independent businesses that can demonstrate their cash flow is severely impacted;
- Start-up and micro businesses where other grant support or loans may not be available or appropriate;
- Businesses that support Manchester's vibrant economy and provide jobs in the city;
- Manchester based charities;
- Nurseries with a rateable value over £15,000 who can demonstrate a significant loss of income and have not received any funding to date;
- Businesses in the digital sector and in the enterprise zones;
- Businesses that have permanent, fixed property costs rather than an arrangement or contract for an hourly or daily rate etc.

10. Financial Support to residents administered by the Council

- 10.1 8,793 claims, from new claimants, have been received for Housing Benefit or Council Tax support via Universal Credit since lock down.
- 10.2 6,801 applications have been received for help with food costs whilst schools are closed, of these 6,803 have been processed and 4,330 approved to the value of £233.910. This equates to £10 per week for each child or young person in the household to contribute towards lunchtime meal costs. Although the responsibility for school meals for families entitled to free school meals reverted back to schools after the Easter holiday as they could access the government voucher scheme; the Council retains a provision for families who may be waiting for a benefit claim to be paid or who may not be entitled to benefits but facing a significant issue that requires some temporary support.
- 10.3 As part of its response to COVID-19, the government announced in the Budget on 11 March 2020 that it would provide local authorities in England with £500 million of new grant funding to support economically vulnerable people and households in their local area. Manchester's award is £7,458,231. This is based on a snapshot of the CTS caseload.
- 10.4 The money awarded is expected to provide £150 towards the Council Tax of each recipient of Council Tax Support and additional support for other urgent support to residents. There is no cost to the Council in granting these awards as long as costs remain within the amount of money allocated by the government.
- 10.5 Based on a recent snapshot of the current Council Tax Support, the approach suggested which is to award each CTS claimant a credit to their Council Tax account of £150, would cost £5.12 million. However, there is an expectation that due to the economic position and the large number of pending UC claims that this could result in a significant number of additional CTS claims. It is therefore prudent to assume a further 20%, £1.024m top of the £5.12m to deliver the scheme. This takes the costs to £6.144M, leaving £1.314M to support other welfare priorities.

- 10.6 As part of this funding the Council has launched a temporary fund to support unpaid carers and £200,000 has been set aside. Revised eligibility agreed and the Welfare Provision Scheme Policy has been updated and agreed. It is open for carers to ensure the ongoing health and wellbeing of both the carer and the person who needs care. This includes those households where a child or young person is the carer. It can be used for a range of purposes including transport costs (including taxis) or fuel, furniture, emergency delivery of food and one-off practical costs to help with the caring role at this time. Carers can receive advice about accessing this financial support from Manchester Carers Centre or their Young Carers Coordinator. Advice is also available on the Council's website under benefits and support. The emergency fund for carers is administered through the Council's Welfare Provision Scheme.
- 10.7 £200,000 has been set aside to support food poverty in the city. To date £100,000 has been used by the hub for food provision in the city.
- 10.8 £200,000 has been set aside to increase the funding available in the Council's Welfare Provision. The scheme has been extended to include those residents who may not be in receipt of the means tested benefits that would normally apply and now includes a wider cohort of residents that might be facing a crisis or emergency due to the pandemic or a change in financial circumstances.
- 10.9 The remainder of the funding will be managed to support residents facing financial challenges including paying Council Tax.

11. MCC Financial Impacts

- 11.1 To date £33.756m of emergency grant funding has been received from the Government for Council related costs and income losses arising from COVID-19.
- 11.2 From April 2020, every Local Authority has been required to submit monthly returns to MHCLG setting out the forecast financial implications of COVID-19. The second return for the Council was submitted on 15 May, and for 2020/21 includes an estimated £40.7m of additional costs of which £7.8m is expected to be funded by the CCG or GMCA and £2m relates to the HRA, leaving £30.5m against the Council's mainstream budget.
- 11.3 Alongside this there is a forecast loss of income totalling £139.6m of which £3.5m will fall to other preceptors in relation to the loss of Business Rates and Council Tax, with the remaining £136.1m relating to the Council. The overall net impact on the Council is £166.5m in 2020/21. The impact on the budget will fall in both 2020/21 and 2021/22 due to the way the Collection Fund operates for Business Rates and Council Tax whereby in year losses (or surpluses) are not applied until the following year, and because the Airport dividend is applied a year in arrears.
- 11.4 The costs for 2019/20 are £0.4m.

12. Community Impacts

- 12.1 Victim-based crime continues to remain well below pre-lockdown levels, with offences in the week commencing 4th May at 50% of the weekly average for January to mid-March 2020. Within this week there were some small increases in stalking and harassment offences and further small increases for bike theft, which is mainly around hospital sites. Work is being done with hospitals to try to reduce this.
- 12.2 Domestic abuse reports continue to maintain a relatively level trend, in contrast to other victim-based crime.
- 12.3 During the 10-week period prior to the restrictions (6th January to 15th March 2020) an average of 30 incidents per week were recorded with one or more of the hate qualifier codes. The number of hate related incidents reported across the City of Manchester decreased consistently during the first three weeks of the lockdown restrictions but started to increase again from week 4. A total of 21 hate related incidents were recorded during the eighth week of Lockdown. Most (85% or 22) were motivated by race with one incident having more than one hate motivation recorded. Only one of the hate related incidents was coded as COVID-19 related
- 12.4 Fly Tipping incidents are continuing to increase with 10963 incidents recorded compared to 10422 in the same period last year. Housing Waste Recycling Centres continue to operate with no major issues although are starting to see some fly tipping in the vicinity of sites. Cameras will be placed in the worst hot spots.
- 12.5 Domestic noise complaints remain significantly higher than the same period last year although we are not receiving a high level of repeat calls.
- 12.6 New users registered to use libraries' digital services has increased by 124%. There has been an increase of 52% in active users of library services, 45% loans of online e-books, audiobooks, eMagazines and eNewspapers, and 1,651 new users registered between 16th March and 17th May 2020.

13. Planning Ahead

- 13.1 The report to the Executive on the 6 May 2020 set out our approach to managing the recovery phase. This included 3 workstreams focussed on Economy, Residents and Communities and the Future Council. The Governance arrangements are now established and work is progressing in each area taking account of the latest government guidance. Officers and Executive Members are working closely with key partners in the city, with our own business base, with Greater Manchester partners, networks such as Core Cities, and with the national Government to leverage wider support for this work.
- 13.2 It was agreed that reviewing the city's overarching long term strategy and narrative via a reset of Our Manchester Strategy will be a crucial part of the

forward planning and work continues to map out a process, timeline and engagement strategy for the reset which fully involves all stakeholders in the city, including our residents, businesses and the voluntary and community and social enterprise sector.

- 13.3 Projects which are essential to the future growth of the City are continuing including Airport, Factory, Housing, Highways and HS2.
- 13.4 In the more immediate term plans are developing with businesses and partners in the city to respond to the next phase of government easements. These include preparations for more non-essential retail outlets, and outdoor markets, to begin to open where they can do so safely and in line with guidance.
- 13.5 Within the City Council estate work is progressing to implement the government guidance on safe office working arrangements which includes additional signage to support social distancing measures and higher levels of cleansing. Following these changes some services will look to increase the numbers of people working on site where it is not possible for work to be undertaken at home. Risk assessments are in place for all services and these will be updated as guidance changes.
- 13.6 Across the city centre and district centres work is progressing to create additional footway space for pedestrians to support social distancing.

14. Conclusions

- 14.1 The Executive will be kept up to date with developments as this situation is expected to continue changing rapidly.