

**Manchester City Council
Report for Information**

Report to: Economy Scrutiny Committee – 9 January 2019

Subject: Delivering the Our Manchester Strategy

Report of: Deputy Leader of the Council

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 of the Council, Councillor Nigel Murphy

Recommendations

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

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1.0 Introduction

1.1 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

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

1.3 This report sets out how I as the Deputy Leader of the Council seek to deliver these priorities.

2. Deputy Leader of the Council - Portfolio

2.1 As Deputy Leader of the Council my portfolio includes:-

- Crime & Community Safety
- Employer Engagement
- Corporate Property
- Communications
- Manchester Industrial Strategy
- Skills & Employment
- Worklessness
- Our Town Hall refurbishment project

3. Work areas for the year

The 2018 Manchester Labour Manifesto “Building Together” clearly set out Manchester Labour’s priorities for our City, this set out 44 specific pledges to be delivered in whole or part during the 2018/19 municipal year. In this report you will find details of the pledges that fall within my portfolio and an update on the progress made to date.

3.1 Ensure that our historic buildings are a part of the city's future as demonstrated by the refurbishment of our grade 1 listed Town Hall.

Work has started on the Town Hall refurbishment and the Management Contractor is due to start early next year. A working group has been established to look at a ward level heritage audit where buildings, structures or locations that are not listed or otherwise officially protected, but are important to the history of their community, are brought to the council's attention.

3.2 Aim to increase the number of real living wage employers in the city & Campaign against exploitive zero-hour contracts

I have had meetings with the Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce who support our ambition, they are working with their members to both pay a real living wage and not use exploitive zero-hour contracts. They are also asking members to look at their supply chains to ensure the same conditions are in place.

3.3 Give special attention to the 50 – 64 year age group that now contain the most economically excluded parts of our communities

Work is taking place with employers to offer opportunities for the 50+ both by providing work placements, full time employment and training options for their own staff to ensure they have the right skills for the changing workplace. Another focus is to work with residents who have been out of employment for a period of time to give them the skills and the confidence to return to work.

3.4 Demand that we get more police officers, protect neighbourhood policing and have a 999 and 101 service that works in return for the increase in the Council Tax funding to the GM Mayor.

50 additional neighbourhood police officers started with Greater Manchester in October 2018 and plans are in place to recruit a further 50 in 2019/20 these posts have been funded by the increase in precept.

GMP have introduced a number of additional services to make it easier for the public to contact the police, these include Livechat - an online reporting mechanism, a call back service at peak demand times where GMP will call back within an hour to stop people having to wait in a queue. An additional investment of £1m has allowed the recruitment of 40 additional call takers which has seen a gradual improvement in the time taken to answer 999 and 101 calls.

3.5 Prioritise Proper Apprenticeships

We have ensured that projects like the Town Hall refurbishment, Manchester Airport Terminal 2 transformation and The Factory provide new apprenticeship opportunities for Manchester residents, these include higher and degree level apprenticeships with good long-term career pathways. We monitoring quantity and quality of apprenticeship opportunities through local labour agreements and social value processes. Central to this is the Work & Skills Team employer

engagement function - developing relationships with employers to guide apprenticeship recruitment and retention.

We are also using the City Councils Apprenticeship Levy to open to all Manchester residents and particularly the city's priority groups like Our Children leaving care, NEET young people, and older adults positions within the council. We actively work with employers on the recruitment of apprentices in growth and key sectors including creative and digital, construction, financial and professional services and health and social care. The digital and construction sectors currently have acute skill shortages and many opportunities, with many companies actively looking to diversify their workforces.

3.6 Make sure our Young People have the skills and knowledge to thrive in our growing economy

We have Enterprise Advisors from Industry working with all of our high schools and colleges to assess where each school is up to with the Gatsby benchmarks for career guidance and develop a business engagement strategy;

We are working with the Manchester College to ensure that Manchester residents can fully benefit from the introduction of Technical Levels (T-Levels) which will focus on our growth employment opportunities including Business and Administrative; Catering and Hospitality; Childcare and Education; Construction; Creative and Design; Digital; Engineering and Manufacturing; Hair and Beauty; Health and Science; Legal, Finance and Accounting; Protective Services; Sales, Marketing and Procurement; Social Care; Transport and Logistics.

There have been a number of "Have a go" events across the City which give young people the chance to explore and have a go at a wide range of activities that relate to career opportunities within the construction sector.