

**Manchester City Council  
Report for Information**

**Report to:** Communities and Equalities Scrutiny Committee – 10 January 2019

**Subject:** Delivering the Our Manchester Strategy:

**Report of:** Deputy Leader

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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 Deputy Leader, Councillor Sue Murphy.

**Recommendations**

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
- Equalities

## **Progress and outcomes for May – December 2018**

### **3. Our Manchester**

Listening in Action events for staff are continuing and I have attended several along with other Executive Members. The format is being reviewed for the next set of sessions, but it's clear that staff value the chance to ask the Chief Executive and the Leader or Executive members' questions. The Our Manchester experience is still continuing, and we're looking at another version that will take place in communities. That's being trialled at the moment, and councillors in the wards where that's happening have been invited to drop in and speak to the participants.

We're also trying Listening Events for residents, and have done three so far – in Longsight, Moston and Chorlton Park. Each one has been different, but all well

attended by residents, and with the chance for ward members to be involved. These are being evaluated, and we'll put a programme in place for more across the city.

The Our Manchester Investment Board is well attended by partners, and there's clearly a willingness to be involved. We're looking at an outcomes framework so we can measure the difference that's being made, particularly of reduction in demand where we can help residents be more independent of services. Bringing Services Together has also been discussed – we need all partners to be involved if we want genuine place-based working. There is also a group of Executive Members looking at this.

There will also be an evaluation coming to the board of some of the projects funded by the Our Manchester Investment Fund. The work on Adverse Childhood experiences and developing an approach where all front line staff work in a way that takes account of people's experience of trauma has been one of the bigger pieces of work and has been piloted in Harpurhey. Almost 600 staff from all agencies have done the training (so have I) and where this has been rolled out is starting to have real impact. One of the schools that has adopted this approach after doing the training has seen exclusions drop by more than half. This is exactly what the fund is designed for – the ability to test new approaches and ways of working to evaluate their impact.

#### **4. Social Inclusion**

The Family Poverty work is continuing. We held a very well attended meeting of Anchor Institutions – including businesses, housing providers and cultural organisations among others – to talk about how they can contribute to the strategy. There was a real willingness to be involved and some good ideas about how they can help – with local employment, staff volunteering mentioned among other ideas. We're meeting again in January to come up with some commitments they can sign up to.

The Poverty Truth Commission is underway and recruitment of commissioners is taking place. We're approaching some of the organisations who attended the Anchor Institutions event, as well as looking for people with lived experience. I'm the sponsor for the Commission, but we want the Commissioners to be independent from the council so their recommendations will be more robust.

However recent reports such as the ones from The United Nations special rapporteur, the Joseph Rowntree Foundation and IPPR show the scale of poverty and how fast it is rising in this country. We need the government to stop ignoring this issue and take urgent action.

We've become a supporting partner of Greater Manchester Poverty Action – the first local authority to do this – so we can contribute to the important work and research they do about poverty in our city.

## **5. Voluntary and Community Sector**

The co-design process for the voluntary sector infrastructure contract is underway. Some members responded to the questionnaire that asked for views, and there will be a further opportunity to comment. We're working jointly with Manchester Health and Care Commissioning who also fund some infrastructure to combine the two contracts into one.

Groups that have received transition funding from the Our Manchester Voluntary Sector Fund are being reviewed. Most are engaging well and have made real progress. We're looking at how to support those groups that have made progress and the people who use their services as part of the Investment Fund work. There is likely to be a further round of grants available with a health focus later in the year.

## **6. Homelessness and Rough Sleeping**

There is a considerable amount of work in this area. There is an update going to Neighbourhoods Scrutiny in February with more detail but progress includes 103 extra beds available for Bed Every Night, with more available by the end of December – potentially another 30. These are available for people who sleep rough not just for one night but for longer stays while we work with them to help them move on into accommodation. We will also have emergency beds available for overnight during cold weather.

We have reached agreement with a group of housing providers and have started to purchase houses for larger families in temporary accommodation. 10 are under consideration, with up to 60 being the final aim. This scheme will form the basis of a plan to buy more houses, subject to funding. All of these will be available at social rent.

We're reviewing the inspection of houses used for temporary accommodation, with the support of Northwards and have had offers from other housing providers and from the fire service to help. We've started a programme of re-inspection.

A priority is reducing the use of bed and breakfast by looking at earlier intervention when people are threatened with eviction. We are recruiting 3 extra staff to work with private sector landlords to do this. We are also recruiting housing solutions workers to work with people being discharged from hospital who have no accommodation – they will be based in hospitals.

I'm been attending the Homelessness partnership and have been meeting with the leads of all the sub-groups, including the health and homelessness group and the unsupported temporary accommodation group. I've also attended the first meeting of the new women and homelessness group, and been out on the early morning rounds of the outreach workers from Riverside, I'll be spending time with our outreach team and with the staff based in the town hall customer service centre in January.

## **7. Equalities**

We already have retained our Excellent rating under the Equalities Framework for Local Government and the action plan has been looked at by scrutiny. There has also been a piece of work carried out about how our staff feel we are performing on equality issues and I'm working jointly with Councillor Ollerhead on how we implement some of the recommendations.

## **8. International**

We are still receiving large numbers of requests for visits, and are accommodating those where there is a basis for mutual work and benefit.

Our relationship with Wuhan has received an award as a model of good practice. We have hosted a visit from Montreal with the help of the Department of International Trade and some funding from them, and are looking at signing a memorandum of understanding.

There is an increasing interest in appointing consuls, both full time and honorary. Three new Consulates General are opening – Hungary, Romania and the Czech Republic. These are to support their citizens resident in Manchester and the North West, but also to encourage trade links post-Brexit.

## **9. LGA**

I have joined the Resources Board of the LGA. The main area of work is around how Local Government should be funded in the future. Welfare reform also comes under this board. I'm still the Labour representative on the Brexit Task Group. We meet as a group and also with ministers to raise the impact of Brexit on Local Government and to lobby for powers back from Brussels to be devolved outside Whitehall. We're concentrating on maintaining a voice for local government in influencing legislation that passes back to the UK from the EU, shaping the promised successor programme to EU structural funds, and the role of port authorities and the implications of any customs agreement.