

**Manchester City Council
Report for Information**

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

Subject: Delivering the Our Manchester Strategy

Report of: Executive Member for Schools, Culture and Leisure

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 Culture & Leisure.

Recommendations

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

Contact:

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1. 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 also 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 Executive Member for Culture and Leisure have sought to deliver these priorities over the past six months and is the first of twice yearly reports to this Committee, with reports being submitted to Scrutiny Committees at their May and November meetings from now on.

2. Executive Member for Culture & Leisure - Portfolio

As Executive Member for Culture & Leisure, my portfolio includes:

- Cultural Strategy
- Schools
- Events
- External Arts/Sports Bodies
- Galleries & Museums
- Indoor/Outdoor Leisure
- Libraries
- Markets and Hospitality & Traded Services
- Sport and Sport Development
- Youth Offer
- 14-19 Skills

The individual priorities for my portfolio are:

- Park Strategy and Libraries
- Inclusive and Affordable for all Manchester residents with increased access to Culture and Leisure.
- Youth Trust, Youth Strategy

3. Quality of Life (Libraries, Culture & Parks)

- MCC has invested £2.1m in libraries as part of the Library 2020 strategy. This has seen the roll out of technology to improve customer self service including new RFID (Radio Frequency Identification) terminals in all libraries, new "walk up and use" PCs in all libraries, self service printing and the introduction of wifi printing which will be rolled out to all libraries across the city.
- We have also introduced on-line customer payments to manage library accounts and have a new library catalogue which covers most of Greater Manchester giving residents access to 2.8 items for lending.
- Withington Library has been subject to a complete refurbishment and reopened in October 2018 with a very successful transformation and the introduction of Open PLUS library technology which enables registered library members to access the library out of hours.
- This technology will be rolled out to Wythenshawe Forum and New Moston libraries in 2019.
- Our co-located libraries and leisure centres - Arcadia and Moss Side/High Street Library now offer 90 hours per week over 7 days and we continue to look at opportunities to create greater access across the library estate which are the beating heart of their communities.
- Newton Heath Library has had an external makeover which has greatly improved the look of this popular library and greatly enhanced the neighbourhood.
- We have invested through funding from Arts Council England in establishing three libraries as creative spaces - North City, Longsight and Wythenshawe Forum and have recently been successful in new funding which will enable us to establish our libraries as cultural hubs working with other cultural organisations and institutions to ensure that our residents have wider access to the cultural activity.
- Through the Central Library Development Trust we continue to support the programme of events and activities at Central Library and have established the library as a key part of the cultural ecology of the city and the most visited cultural venue in Manchester. To coincide with the 5th anniversary of the rebirth of Central Library in 2019 we are planning to reconfigure the lower ground floor of City Library and promote reading for pleasure and we will continue to develop our major exhibitions programme which are attracting new audiences.
- In 2017/18 Manchester Libraries and Archives saw a 2% increase in volunteering across the city with 21,076 volunteer hours from 366 volunteers. A number of our volunteers have gained permanent employment within the service and with other organisations.
- We are seeing more people using our libraries and their services and continue to look at how we can widen access and participation of targeted groups and audiences in line with the priorities within the Manifesto.
- Cultural organisations engaged with 121 Manchester schools and delivered 872 engagement sessions with over 7,000 children.
- Activity took place in all 32 wards of the city increasing participation and widening access
- 4,410 volunteers were engaged, contributing over 200,000 volunteer hours

- Manchester was awarded UNESCO City of Literature status in October 2017, connecting us to 28 literature cities around the world.
- Rogue Artist Studios were supported to move to the Victorian School building in Openshaw, 85 artists have studio space there.
- Developing a citywide strategy for converting unused buildings for artist studios with some to include accommodation.
- Inaugural Manchester Culture Awards launched this year which celebrated but most importantly shone a spotlight on the depth and breadth of Culture, Arts and creativity in Manchester.
- Pay and display implemented at Heaton Park, performing well and actively contributing to closing the gap between income and expenditure.
- St Michael's Flags and Angel Meadow site has secured a one off payment of £150k capital contribution and an annual service charge on completion of the build of £75k per annum.
- New operator in place at Boggart Hole Clough cafe and tenders returned for Heaton and Wythenshawe Park.
- A new approach to the implementation of capital projects has resulted in 8 projects being delivered across the City through the new arrangement at a total value of £1.218m.
- Business case for the Parks Development Programme to secure feasibility funds that will see £20m invested in Parks.

4. Young People Matter

- Working with the regional schools commissioner we have set up a pilot stakeholder forum to support school improvement, starting in Wythenshawe.
- Young Manchester continuing to attract investment in to Manchester and developing innovative partnerships such as the JD Young talent search, Manchester Cultural Education Partnership.
- Young Manchester & Manchester City Council working on developing a single digital platform for all youth related activities, provision, support and engagement.
- Planning permission granted for 2nd Youth Zone, Chief Exec appointed and stakeholder forums established. Anticipated opening date January 2020.
- School Meals service redesigned to ensure higher standards, better nutrition.
- £50,000 distributed to Schools to support children which was very well received.
- New software provided to schools to enable easier access to free school meal entitlement information.
- Working with officers from Education, Neighbourhood, Children's services to develop a coherent youth offer. Strategy in progress.