

**Manchester City Council  
Report for Information**

**Report to:** Communities and Equalities Scrutiny Committee – 18 July 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

## **Progress and outcomes for January to July 2019**

### **3. Our Manchester**

The Our Manchester Experience has been revamped. There's a greater emphasis on place than previously, with the new experience being in a neighbourhood type setting. All members have been invited to book a place on this.

The Listening in Action events for staff are continuing, and the format is being changed to be more participative, with practical examples of how the Our Manchester Approach and behaviours can work, as well as questions to the Leader and Chief Executive. Again, if any member wants to attend an event it's possible to book a place. It's a good insight into how staff feel about working for the council and things that concern them.

Listening Events for residents are being developed building on the ones already done in Longsight, Moston and Chorlton Park. The most recent one was held in Sharston. The intention is to hold these across the city over a period of time. Members will be involved in planning these events.

The Our Manchester Investment Board has been refreshed – it's now chaired by Joanne Roney, Chief Executive. There's active involvement from a whole range of partners including health and the voluntary sector. As well as looking at the outcomes framework so we can see what impact Our Manchester is having, we have a place on the agenda for people to bring forward their own plans and ideas for discussion. We also look at projects that have been funded by the Our Manchester Fund. The fund is in its final year and there is an ongoing piece of work to look at how we mainstream what we have learned, and how we can continue to fund some of it.

One of the most recent projects funded through this is 'Hour Manchester'. This is a programme to extend our already established Time Banks to a wider area. Time Banks have been the subject of a previous report to Communities Scrutiny, and one of the recommendations was that we support extending the scheme. We have joined a national network to learn from the experience of other places and have appointed a programme manager. A board has been established which includes volunteers from the existing timebanks. The launch was oversubscribed and created a huge amount of interest from people who want to be involved.

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

The core group supporting the Family Poverty Strategy continues to meet and we have reviewed the membership. We have added two new members to the board from the VCS Sector to strengthen BAME representation.

Following on from the Anchor Institution meetings, there's an ongoing piece of work looking at how our staff as well as those from other organisations can access affordable credit.

The Poverty Truth Commission has been launched, and the experts by experience commissioners have met several times. The first full meeting of the commission is later this month

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

The tender for the provision of infrastructure for the VCS in Manchester is currently underway. This is a joint process with Health Partners so our contracts are aligned.

There is also a paper going to the Our Manchester VCS board with a proposal for funding from health partners for VCS groups. This will be aligned to the Our Healthy Manchester Strategy. I can give a verbal update at the meeting.

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

There is an extensive report going to Neighbourhoods Scrutiny this week. I won't reproduce the whole of the report here but will highlight some of the progress.

The next phase of A Bed Every Night has been launched. Funding has been confirmed for the next 12 months. As well as funding some extra places in existing provision, there will be 70 bed spaces. Some of those will be for people with high support needs so we can target those people on the streets with the greatest level of need, many of whom did not access ABEN provision. We have also started planning for extra winter provision. The Housing First pilot for Greater Manchester has started. At the moment there is a cap on the number of referrals we can make which is being reviewed.

The Duty to Prevent Homelessness has come into effect for all public bodies. This has resulted in an increase in the number of referrals we are getting from other organisations.

The number of people in dispersed temporary accommodation has continued to rise, many because of no fault evictions. The new Section 21 team has had a number of successes in challenging eviction notices and enabling families to stay in their current accommodation for longer. The inspection of dispersed accommodation has been reviewed and improved. The purchase of properties for larger families in temporary accommodation has begun and the pace is increasing. We still need to challenge government to review and increase Local Housing Allowance, and we have submitted evidence to the LGA on the impact in Manchester. This has been used in their meetings with ministers. Changes to LHA would help reduce the number of families who become homeless.

Other developments include a Hospital Discharge Team to work across the hospitals in Manchester to help people who are homeless find accommodation before they are discharged. We have recruited four people and are waiting for DBS clearance.

We continue to be actively involved in the Homelessness Partnership.

## **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 and have recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding with cities in Denmark about collaboration particularly around culture. We are likely to sign a formal agreement with Montreal. Our visit to Wuhan as part of the anniversary of our sister city link has resulted in more collaboration, particularly amongst Universities. MMU in particular have developed a close link with Wuhan.

It's important that whatever the outcome of Brexit we continue to make 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 direct link is very helpful and gives the opportunity to speak directly to Ministers about the potential impact on Local Government. I have led on pushing for the Shared Prosperity Fund (the promised replacement for EU funding) to be in place quickly, and for local authorities to be in control of setting priorities for their own areas and distributing funds. I have also given evidence to the Brexit Select Committee where we successfully pushed the case for further devolution which resulted in positive recommendations on this in their report.