

**Manchester City Council
Report for Information**

Report to: Economy Scrutiny Committee - 18 July 2019

Subject: Delivering the Our Manchester Strategy

Report of: 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 Leader of the Council.

Recommendations

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

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1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Our Manchester Strategy was formally adopted by the Council in January 2016 and sets out a ten year ambition for the city 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 better outcomes for Manchester residents. The work of the Executive will be guided by the Our Manchester Strategy, the Greater Manchester Strategy and Manchester Labour's 2019 election manifesto.
- 1.3 This report sets out how I as the Leader of the Council have sought to deliver these priorities over the past six months and my priorities for the next twelve months and is the third of twice yearly reports to this Committee. A complete list of all my activities on behalf of the Council can be found in my public service contract report.

2. Leader of the Council - Portfolio

- 2.1 As Leader of the Council, my portfolio consists of overall policy co-ordination, external relationships, major economic development including City Centre regeneration, legal services, the digital economy (business development) and devolution.

3. Report back and priorities for the year

- 3.1 The Council is now in the final year of its three year budget covering 2017/20. Although the three year budget has allowed the Council a period of relative stability, it remains under severe pressure with the demands on Adult Care, Children Services and Homelessness continuing to grow. These pressures are compounded by ongoing unfair and unjustifiable government cuts and the impact of nine years of 'austerity' have become increasingly visible, not just in Manchester but across urban Britain which has taken the brunt of the cuts.
- 3.2 We are now in a period of political uncertainty fuelled by Brexit and with no indication as to whether or not a government spending review will take place and what the implications are for public sector spending from April, 2020 on. Similarly, as we come to the end of the European structural fund round, government has still not published its proposal for the Shared Prosperity Fund which is due to replace EU funding.

- 3.3 Budget planning has started on the basis of best guess estimates with a projected £70 m pa more to be cut from the Council's budget by 2024/5. Part of this preparation will need to be flexible enough to deal with unpredictable and late notification of the financial settlement for 2020/1 and the possibility that this may be a one-year settlement limiting our ability to do effective long-term planning.
- 3.4 Ongoing austerity increases the imperative to continue to grow our economy and create jobs. The past twelve months have been phenomenally successful in this respect with continued job growth in Tech, creative employment, health innovation, business and financial services, construction and hospitality.
- 3.5 Last month the Combined Authority (CA) and Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) published jointly with government the Greater Manchester Local Industrial Strategy. This will play a central role in job creation over the next few years supported by the Our Manchester Local Industrial Strategy which is under development. The GMLIS identifies particular issues of low productivity, low pay and insecure employment in the foundational economy and identifies the Good Employment Charter which will be launched on July 22nd as a key tool in tackling this.
- 3.6 Most of the recent job growth has been in the City Centre including the Oxford Road Corridor, but this is complemented by the success of Airport City. Passenger numbers at the airport continue to grow with new routes being added each year. The Manchester Airport transformation programme (ManTP) has moved on significantly with the first new pier now operational but there is still a long way to go before completion.
- 3.7 The Health and Care Transformation Accountability Board has moved from monthly to six weekly meetings still focussing on the development of the Local Care Organisation and the Single Hospital Service but now, with new structures largely in place, taking a more strategic view of service transformation. We are still hoping to complete the transfer of North Manchester General Hospital to Manchester University Hospital Foundation Trust by April next year.
- 3.8 Over the past few months we have come together with other Northern and Midland local authorities to revive the campaign for HS2 and for Northern Powerhouse Rail, both essential connections to the national rail infrastructure for the future. We are also campaigning for the completion of the Northern Hub, still necessary to solve congestion problems in the rail network around central Manchester.
- 3.9 Issues on NPR, HS2 and Metrolink at Piccadilly Station remain unresolved. Intensive work is going on looking at the surrounding road network, parking, the station footprint, surface -v- underground platform options, ingress and egress, platform capacity.
- 3.10 The CA has now considered the recommendations of TfGM's assessment of bus reform options and on that basis is moving forward to the next stage of

considering a franchising model. The CA's response to the Williams review of rail is also asking for the devolution of local rail services with the objectives of having a full integrated local public transport system bringing together bus, tram and train.

- 3.11 This is the first year of a devolved Adult Skills budget and much of the funding has been allocated on an 'as is' basis. However, the CA has begun the process of using the funding to support skills development in growth sectors in the local economy e.g. digital skills and TV and film production. The GMLIS includes an agreement to joint work with the Department of Education looking at how we can develop a more coherent education and skills offer.
- 3.12 I continue to Chair the LGA's City Regions Board. Over the past six months I have co-chaired a Skills Task Force which has reinvigorated the case for work local, the plan for locally integrated skills and employment services, and has brought over 20 other organisations to support the approach. The City Regions Board main focus continues to be devolution including seeking to ensure that in a post-Brexit world as much as possible is devolved to a local level. The Fair Funding Review and Business Rates Task and Finish Group is depressingly no nearer finishing.
- 3.13 There are a number of other areas of activity which are worth noting – the Factory Strategic Board, the Factory itself now very much coming out of the ground; ManLife where the final phase of current programme is on site with previous phases having transformed Ancoats; the City Centre Accountability Board concentrating on rubbish and anti-social behaviour; the City Centre Infrastructure Group which has now taken on the car parking review and the condition of city centre pavements and public realm alongside major projects; East Manchester where an updated SRF is due to come to the next Executive; City Co where along with other members we are seeking to sharpen its focus on its core purposes and its area of operation; master-planning of the former Central Retail Park is now underway; Manchester Creative and Digital Assets is doing well with Space Studios full but after ten years there is a need for some refurbishment at the Sharp Project.
- 3.14 Finally, the steering group for the Manchester Arena attack memorial has now agreed a site between Cheethams School, the Cathedral and the Irwell and is in the process of a competitive tendering process to appoint a design team.