

Summary

This briefing paper examines the COVID-19 - Forward Recovery Planning document (to be discussed at (Virtual) Executive on Wednesday 6th May, 2020. In the document the Council says its “ *forward planning work will focus on planning for the city’s recovery including its economy, residents and communities, as well as the impact on the Council including its services and finances. **This work will be undertaken in a way which fully involves all stakeholders in the city in order to develop the best possible forward plans***” (emphasis added) (p.1).¹

We are delighted at this commitment, and we have produced this briefing paper to be complementary to this effort. The briefing paper, produced over the weekend of 2-3rd May by members of various campaigning organisations, also includes a series of proposals about how the aspiration of full involvement of all stakeholders can be turned into concrete fact.

The present briefing paper makes a **number of recommendations**. The top five are:

1. Reinstate the full Planning and Highways Committee, immediately.
2. Commit to a broad range of consultation methods around both the June/July Budget refresh and the “Our Manchester” refresh
3. Commit to preserving all of the environmental gains in terms of air quality, safety, carbon reductions, rather than “some”
4. In light of the monumental changes ahead, the Local Plan should be started again from scratch, using ideas from the responses to the first consultation (Joint Response, 2020).
5. Prioritise economic developments that harness the staying power of the Foundational Economy together with the transformative potential of low to zero carbon investment.

The complete list of recommendations can be found at the end of this document.

Disclaimer

We are aware that the Council document to which we are responding has been created quickly, in conditions of extreme uncertainty. This briefing paper is intended as one way to encourage and support individual citizens and groups to play a full part in the crucial decisions about the response to COVID-19, since the decisions made in the coming weeks and months will shape the city’s prospects for decades ahead. The questions are by no means an exhaustive list.

¹ **Section 1.4** expands on this - “*This work will be undertaken in a way which fully involves all stakeholders in the city, including our residents, businesses and the voluntary and community and social enterprise sector (VSCE). Only by ensuring that all parts of the city are able to contribute to this work, and be fully involved in responding to the challenges that we are collectively facing will we be able to develop the best solutions for our city in as short a time as possible.*”