

**Manchester City Council
Report for Information**

Report to: Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Committee – 10 June 2014
Economy Scrutiny Committee – 11 June 2014

Subject: Environmental Sustainability Subgroup; work programme for response to recommendations

Report of: Deputy Chief Executive (Growth and Neighbourhoods)

Summary

Following the final report of the Environmental Sustainability Sub-group in January 2014, this paper sets out the work programme for responding to the recommendations made at the March 2014 meetings of Neighbourhoods and Economy Scrutiny Committees.

Recommendations

Members are recommended to:

1. Note the proposed work programme set out in section 2 and invite a formal update in March 2015, by which time a number of the substantive actions are scheduled to have been completed.
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Wards Affected: All

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Background Documents (available for public inspection):

The following documents disclose important facts on which the report is based and have been relied upon in preparing the report. Copies of the background documents are available up to 4 years after the date of the meeting. If you would like a copy please contact one of the contact officers above.

- Reports to the Environmental Sustainability Sub-group August 2013 to January 2014, Manchester City Council
- Environmental Sustainability Sub-group final report to Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Committee March 2014
- Environmental Sustainability Sub-group final report to Economy Scrutiny Committee March 2014

1. Background

1.1 At their June 2012 and May 2013 meetings members of the Economy Scrutiny considered a range of reports relating to Manchester's low carbon economy. The committee agreed to establish a dedicated Environmental Sustainability sub-group to explore the issues raised in further detail, with a view to reporting back to Economy Scrutiny in due course.

1.2 It was agreed that, given the relevance to both the Economy and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Committees the sub-group's membership would be made up of members from both committees, and would report back to both committees in due course.

1.3 The Environmental Sustainability sub-group met from August 2013 to January 2014, and presented its final report to the Economy and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Committees in March 2014. It was agreed that a report would be considered looking at how each of the recommendations would be taken forward throughout 2014/15.

2. Proposed Response to Agreed Recommendations

No.	Recommendation	Action/Milestones
	Aligning Economic, Social and Environmental Strategy	
1.	When the Community Strategy is reviewed, more consideration is given of what makes for "good growth" for Manchester. To include the support and advice from local experts and interest groups such as the CLES (Centre for Local Economic Strategies), CRESC (Centre for Research on Socio-Cultural Change), the Tyndall Centre, Steady State Manchester and MERCi (Manchester Environmental Resource Centre initiative).	The Community Strategy will be reviewed and updated over the coming year in order to set out the strategy for the city for the next 10-15 years. There will be consultation and active engagement with a wide range of stakeholders. This will include consideration of the nature of Manchester's growth and how to further Manchester as a low carbon economy. This work links to work described under recommendations 3 and 15.
2.	To recommend that all Executive reports include consideration of the impact the decision has on the environment.	This recommendation will be presented to Executive Members for consideration in June 2014.
3.	To recommend that when Economy Scrutiny Committee considers how local people benefit from	A set of environment and climate change indicators has been developed by the City Council and the MACF Steering Group, as part of the MACF Annual Report 2014. The report

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	<p>economic success, environmental benefits are included.</p>	<p>and dashboard will be launched at the MACF Steering Group Annual General Meeting on 10th June 2014 and will be available from www.manchesterclimate.com from 11th June 2014.</p> <p>This is the first time a set of environment and climate change indicators has been published for the city. Building on this, work will be undertaken in 2014/15 to look at if and how MCC and MACF reporting system(s) can relate to each other, and how best the data can be used by the Economy Committee when it considers local people benefiting from economic success.</p> <p>This work links to work described under recommendation 15.</p>
4.	<p>To recommend that the Environmental Strategy team lead on influencing officers to consider environmental matters in all relevant decisions through ward coordination.</p>	<p>A guidance document on environment and climate change issues will be produced for Manchester ward coordinators and ward members, for discussion during 2014/15. This work will be undertaken ahead of the refresh of ward plans in March 2015 to provide the opportunity for environment and climate change issues to be included in the plans and the associated decision-making process.</p> <p>To date the Council's Environmental Strategy and Regeneration teams have worked to ensure that environmental issues are embedded in SRF and local plans wherever possible and appropriate, including in the recent refreshes of the North and Central Manchester Strategic Regeneration Frameworks and Delivery Plans.</p> <p>This work links to work described under recommendations 11, 13 and 14.</p>
5.	<p>To recommend that, once Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Committee had looked at the sustainable food growth report, Economy Scrutiny Committee considers looking at the poverty and economic aspects of sustainable food growing.</p>	<p>A Motion on food was agreed by full Council in January 2014, including formalising the establishment of the Manchester Food Board. 'Food Poverty' and 'The Economic Aspects of Food Growing' are among the Board's five priorities.</p> <p>It is proposed that a report on the work of the Food Board will be presented to Economy Scrutiny in early-2015.</p>

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6.	To recommend that environmental policies are strengthened through the Council's planning process.	<p>The Manchester Core Strategy 2012-27 contains a number of existing planning policies designed to contribute towards the Council's environment and climate change policies.</p> <p>Subject to Executive approval it is proposed that the Core Strategy will be refreshed through a formal statutory process that will begin in 2014/15. This process will include an assessment of where planning policies can be strengthened to deliver additional environmental outcomes.</p>
	Procurement	
7.	To recommend that the Council continues to include environmental considerations when selecting a supplier, through the implementation of its Sustainable Procurement Policy. And that the impact of the policy is reviewed and that it is updated as required.	<p>The Council has an existing Sustainable Procurement Policy, which includes provision for a 10% weighting for sustainability criteria in all tenders. In addition, a Greater Manchester 'Low Carbon Evaluation Framework' is being developed to improve the environmental performance of Association of Greater Manchester Authorities (AGMA)/Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) procurement.</p> <p>AGMA/GMCA is expected to consider a proposal to approve the Framework during 2014/15, with a view to then applying it to a number of pilot tenders. If approved, MCC will then work with the AGMA/GMCA to understand how best to apply the Framework, including updating the Council's Sustainable Procurement Policy in 2015. This update will include how to measure the environmental impact of procurement.</p> <p>A report on MCC sustainable procurement will be brought to Economy Scrutiny in early-2015 setting out the decision of AGMA/GMCA and MCC next steps.</p>
8.	To recommend that the Association of Greater Manchester Authorities (AGMA) and the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) work with CLES to determine what proportion of their procurement budget stays	In 2012/13 83% of the Council's spend with its top 300 suppliers was retained in Greater Manchester and 65% within Manchester boundaries. Work is needed to calculate these figures for AGMA/GMCA, and will be undertaken as part of implementing the 'Low Carbon Evaluation Framework', described in recommendation 7.

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	within Greater Manchester, and considers revising their procurement policies to maximise this.	A report on MCC sustainable procurement will be brought to Economy Scrutiny in early-2015 , as per recommendation 7.
9.	To recommend that the Economic Development Unit, Corporate Procurement, Environmental Strategy and other relevant departments continue to implement the Council's Sustainable Procurement Policy, using procurement as a tool to support sustainable economic development, including the achievement of environmental outcomes.	This recommendation will be addressed through the action set out in relation to recommendations 7 and 8.
	Communication and awareness of the environment and climate change	
10.	To recommend that Corporate Communications and awareness raising on environmental matters should be improved.	<p>Corporate Communications and Environmental Strategy will work together in 2014/15 through the Council's Carbon Literacy training to identify how awareness raising on environmental matters can be improved.</p> <p>The outcomes of this work will be included in the Council's <i>Climate Change Action Plan 2015/18</i>, which is scheduled to be presented to Neighbourhoods Scrutiny and the Executive Committee in February 2015.</p>
11.	To recommend that officers investigate carrying out a campaign to raise awareness of how people can make changes to reduce their impact on the environment. This campaign should link to	<p>An application for an 'Eco Neighbourhoods' programme is currently being developed to the Council's Clean City fund¹. If successful the programme will provide awareness raising and support to communities to enable them to reduce their impact on the environment.</p> <p>Lessons learned and best practice from the</p>

¹ The Clean City initiative has been established to improve the quality of the environment across the city through clear and creative proposals designed to bring about sustainable improvements and behaviour change within communities. The latest information for Clean City is currently available from www.manchester.gov.uk/cleancity.

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	wider cultural and behaviour change activity by the Council and other key partners such as universities and schools.	<p>programme will be collated throughout the delivery of the programme and further work undertaken to look at how this can be linked to wider cultural and behavioural change activity.</p> <p>This work links to work described under recommendations 4, 13 and 14.</p>
12.	To circulate the CLASP (Climate Change Local Area Support Programme) Member Briefing Pack to all councillors.	Complete.
13.	To recommend that the Environmental Strategy team facilitate workshops for councillors to help them understand how they can make a difference and equip them with the skills and knowledge to work with groups and individuals effectively. For the workshops to include how councillors can use their links to social housing providers and other key partners and practical examples of changes that can be made.	<p>Bespoke workshop sessions are currently being developed for delivery to councillors in 2014/15, in direct response to this recommendation. The workshops will include information and guidance on how best to work with local organisations to enable wider action on environment and climate change issues.</p> <p>This work links to work described under recommendations 4, 11 and 14.</p>
14.	To recommend that councillors carry out an audit of all the work, projects and schemes in their wards on environmental and climate change action. To work with key local organisations such as social housing providers to do this. To recommend that the workshops for members should be used to support members in this.	<p>The bespoke workshop sessions described in recommendation 13 will include specific guidance and information for councillors on how to deliver audits covering environment and climate change action in their wards.</p> <p>This work links to work described under recommendations 4, 11 and 13.</p>
	Measuring and monitoring	

No.	Recommendation	Action/Milestones
15.	To recommend work is undertaken to measure Manchester's "good growth", linked to the work to be undertaken under recommendation 7. To include support, advice and input from local experts and interest groups such as CLES (Centre for Local Economic Strategies), CRESC (Centre for Research on Socio-Cultural Change), the Tyndall Centre, Steady State Manchester and MERCi (Manchester Environmental Resource Centre initiative).	To be addressed as part of the response to recommendation 3, including the development of a dashboard of environmental sustainability indicators.
16.	To recommend that the Economy Scrutiny Committee monitor the implementation of these recommendations.	A monitoring report is proposed to be presented to Neighbourhoods and Economy Scrutiny in March 2015, by which time a number of the substantive actions are scheduled to have been completed.
	Additional Recommendations Agreed at March 2014 Economy Scrutiny	
17.	That the Council develops an energy policy which reflects the priorities identified in the investigation.	Officers will review the existing policy framework to determine whether it is fit for purpose and whether further work is necessary.
18.	That follow up work includes consideration of the economic impact of the green industry, including sustainable energy and the jobs market.	To be addressed as part of the response to recommendation 1.

3. Summary

The above work programme proposes actions in relation to each of the 18 recommendations agreed by the Economy and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Committees at their March 2014 meetings. In summary, the following substantive items are proposed:

- **Manchester Community Strategy, Good Growth and Low Carbon Economy**
The Community Strategy for the next 10-15 year period will be developed over the coming year, including consideration of the nature of the city's growth, how to further develop Manchester as a low carbon economy, and consultation and engagement with a wide range of stakeholders. Relevant recommendations: 1, 3, 15, 18
- **Environmental Sustainability Indicators Dashboard**
Building on the indicators developed for the MACF Annual Report 2014, to develop an MCC Environmental Sustainability Indicators Dashboard in 2014/15.
Relevant recommendations: 1, 3, 15, 18
- **Executive**
In June 2014 Executive Members will consider the recommendation that all Executive reports include consideration of the impact the decision has on the environment.
Relevant recommendation: 2
- **Ward Coordination, Councillor Training and Eco Neighbourhoods,**
Bespoke guidance will be produced for ward coordinators and ward councillors on how to embed environment and climate change issues in ward level plans and decision-making. To include the development of bespoke councillor workshops to support this work. The Eco Neighbourhoods programme will be designed to deliver targeted awareness raising and support to a small number of selected communities, and to identify how best to disseminate the lessons learned and encourage take-up in other communities.
Relevant recommendations: 4, 11, 13, 14
- **Food**
An update on the work of the Food Board will be presented to Economy Scrutiny in early-2015.
Relevant recommendation: 5
- **Manchester Core Strategy and Planning Policies**
Subject to Executive approval it is proposed that the Core Strategy will be refreshed through a formal statutory process that will begin in 2014/15. This process will include an assessment of where planning policies can be strengthened to deliver additional environmental outcomes.
Relevant recommendation: 6

- **Procurement**

During 2014/15 AGMA/GMCA will consider the adoption of a 'low carbon evaluation framework' designed to help improve the environmental performance of its procurement activities. A report setting out how the Council's Sustainable Procurement Policy will be updated in response, including how to measure the environmental impact of procurement, will be produced for early-2015.

Relevant recommendation: 7, 8, 9

- **Corporate Communications**

Corporate Communications and Environmental Strategy will work together in 2014/15 through the Council's Carbon Literacy training to identify how awareness raising on environmental matters can be improved.

Relevant recommendation: 10

- **Energy Policy**

Officers will review the existing policy framework to determine whether it is fit for purpose and whether further work is necessary.

Relevant recommendation: 17

4. Next Steps

Each recommendation will be addressed according to the actions and timescales set out above. Where reports are scheduled to be presented to Scrutiny Committees and/or the Executive, they will be available from www.manchester.gov.uk. Where reports are not scheduled to be publicly available requests for copies can be submitted to scrutiny@manchester.gov.uk.

A monitoring report setting out progress against the above work programme is proposed to be presented to Neighbourhoods and Economy Scrutiny in March 2015.