



Environment, Climate Change and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Committee

Date: Thursday, 20 July 2023

Time: 2.00 pm

Venue: Council Antechamber, Level 2, Town Hall Extension

Everyone is welcome to attend this committee meeting.

There will be a private meeting for committee members only from 1:30pm on Thursday, 20 July 2023 in Room 2006, Level 2, Town Hall Extension

Access to the Council Antechamber

Public access to the Council Antechamber is on Level 2 of the Town Hall Extension, using the lift or stairs in the lobby of the Mount Street entrance to the Extension. That lobby can also be reached from the St. Peter's Square entrance and from Library Walk. **There is no public access from the Lloyd Street entrances of the Extension.**

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Membership of the Environment, Climate Change and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Committee

Councillors - Shilton Godwin (Chair), Chohan, Collins, Holt, Ilyas, McCaul, Razaq, Wiest and Wright

Agenda

1. Urgent Business

To consider any items which the Chair has agreed to have submitted as urgent.

2. Appeals

To consider any appeals from the public against refusal to allow inspection of background documents and/or the inclusion of items in the confidential part of the agenda.

3. Interests

To allow Members an opportunity to declare any personal, prejudicial or disclosable pecuniary interest they might have in any items which appear on this agenda; and [b] record any items from which they are precluded from voting as a result of Council Tax/Council rent arrears. Members with a personal interest should declare that interest at the start of the item under consideration. If members also have a prejudicial or disclosable pecuniary interest they must withdraw from the meeting during the consideration of the item.

4. Minutes

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 22 June 2023.

5 – 10

5. [2.05 - 2.25] MCC Climate Change Action Plan - Quarterly Progress Report: Q1 April - June 2023

Report of the Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer

11 – 38

This report provides an update and overview of progress made in delivering the Council's refreshed CCAP during Quarter 1 2023-24 (April – June 2023)

6. [2.25-2.55] Local Area Energy Plan - Progress Update

Report of the Strategic Director (Development)

39 - 68

GMCA is the first city region in the country to compile and complete Local Area Energy Plans (LAEP) from street to network level. LAEPs have been produced at both the regional level and also for each of the 10 districts. The GM and Manchester LAEP were adopted in September 2022. This report provides Members with an overview of the Manchester LAEP and how this will be used to meet our target to be a zero carbon city by 2038.

7. [2.55-3.25] Integrated Water Management

Report of the Director of Planning, Licensing and Building Control

69 - 80

This report provides a summary of the Council's approach to slowing water flow and water capture, with a particular focus on

nature-based solutions and consideration of Biodiversity Net Gain.

8. [3.25-3.50] Update on the Manchester Biodiversity Strategy and the Open Space Study 81 - 90

Report of the Director of Planning, Licensing and Building Control

This report provides an update on delivery of the Biodiversity Strategy that was endorsed by Executive in October 2022. The report also includes information on the findings of the open space audit that will inform the development of the emerging Local Plan.

9. [3.50-4.00] Overview Report 91 - 118

Report of the Governance and Scrutiny Support Unit

This is a monthly report, which includes the recommendations monitor, relevant key decisions, the Committee's work programme and any items for information.

Information about the Committee

Scrutiny Committees represent the interests of local people about important issues that affect them. They look at how the decisions, policies and services of the Council and other key public agencies impact on the city and its residents. Scrutiny Committees do not take decisions but can make recommendations to decision makers about how they are delivering the Manchester Strategy, an agreed vision for a better Manchester that is shared by public agencies across the city.

The Environment, Climate Change and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Committee areas of interest include The Climate Change Strategy, Waste, Carbon Emissions, Neighbourhood Working, Flood Management, Planning policy and related enforcement, Compliance and Parks and Green Spaces.

The Council wants to consult people as fully as possible before making decisions that affect them. Members of the public do not have a right to speak at meetings but may do so if invited by the Chair. To help facilitate this, the Council encourages anyone who wishes to speak at the meeting to contact the Committee Officer in advance of the meeting by telephone or email, who will then pass on your request to the Chair for consideration. Groups of people will usually be asked to nominate a spokesperson. The Council wants its meetings to be as open as possible but occasionally there will be some confidential business. Brief reasons for confidentiality will be shown on the agenda sheet.

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Smoking is not allowed in Council buildings.

Joanne Roney OBE
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Further Information

For help, advice and information about this meeting please contact the Committee Officer:

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This agenda was issued on **Wednesday 12 July 2023** by the Governance and Scrutiny Support Unit, Manchester City Council, Level 2, Town Hall Extension (Library Walk Elevation), Manchester M60 2LA

Environment, Climate Change and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on 22 June 2023

Present:

Councillor Shilton Godwin – in the Chair
Councillors Chohan, Collins, Doswell, Holt, Ilyas, Razaq, Wiest and Wright

Apologies: Councillor McCaul

Also present:

Councillor Rawlins, Executive Member for Environment and Transport
Councillor Foley, Deputy Executive Member for Environment and Transport

ECCNSC/23/34 Minutes

Decision

To approve the minutes of the Environment and Climate Change Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 25 May 2023 as a correct record.

ECCNSC/23/35 Climate Change Action Plan Work Programme 2023-24

The Committee considered the report of the Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer that provided Members with an update on the work programme for the third year of the Action Plan (CCAP Work Programme 2023-24).

Key points and themes in the report included:

- Describing the actions to be progressed in Year 4 of the Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP) 2020-25;
- The achievements and highlights of Year 3 would be detailed in the Annual Report 2022-23 which would be presented to the Committee and the Executive in September 2023 and would then be made available on the Council's website;
- Noting that the actions described were structured across the following five workstreams:
 1. Buildings and Energy.
 2. Transport and Travel.
 3. Reducing Consumption Based Emissions and Influencing Suppliers.
 4. Climate Adaptation, Carbon Storage and Carbon Sequestration.
 5. Influencing Behaviour and Being a Catalyst for Change; and
- Distinguishing between those actions that were Council Actions and those that were City Actions.

Some of the key points that arose from the Committee's discussions were:

- What were the identified challenges on delivery of the actions in year 4;

- How was the breadth of good work and progress made communicated to residents of the city, adding that this was important to influence wider behaviour change in relation to climate action;
- Were there enough recycling facilities across the Council buildings estate sufficient to enable all staff to recycle appropriately;
- More information was requested in relation to green skills and housing, with particular reference to Registered Housing Providers across the city;
- Did we use all available levers to influence partners and other sectors across the city to take immediate action to address climate change;
- Noting the reference to the Manchester Food Board and commenting that methane associated with food waste was a significant contributor to climate change;
- Further information was requested in relation to the sustainable materials list that identified carbon and whole life costs for Highways that had been identified as an action in workstream 2; and
- Consideration needed to be given to advertising that was displayed across the city so as not to promote high carbon emission activities or products.

In response to the Members' comments and questions the Zero Carbon Manager described that the key areas and challenges related to buildings and transport. She stated that significant progress had been achieved and reported to the Committee in regard to reducing emissions across the Council owned estate; however, domestic retrofit, across all sectors was a challenge. She described that they worked closely with the Climate Change Partnership and used the experience and outcomes achieved across the Council estate to provide examples of good practice to influence the commercial sector. She described that they were also working with Registered Housing Providers as part of the wider approach to housing retrofit and the Committee noted that they would receive a substantive report on this work at their September meeting, adding that this would also include consideration of skills. She further added that information and updates in relations to transport would be included in the Quarter 1 Update Report that was scheduled for the next meeting.

The Zero Carbon Manager described the approach to promoting the good work to influence behaviour change. She said that they had a dedicated communications strategy that utilised social media. She further made reference to the important work delivered by the Neighbourhood Teams who were supported by dedicated Climate Change Officers. She made reference to the number of green related community events and activities delivered and the work undertaken with schools.

The Zero Carbon Manager commented that all available levers and opportunities, at a local, regional, national and international level, were used to support, promote and influence on the issue of climate change.

The Strategic Lead, Resources & Programmes informed the Committee that the Executive would be considering a report titled 'Large Scale Renewable Energy Generation – Power Purchase Agreement' at their meeting of 28 June. He commented that this was an important development for the Council to further contribute to the reduction in the Council's own direct emissions and increase the provision of additional green energy to the Council. He stated that a report on this area of work would be considered by this Committee at the November meeting.

The Principal Resources and Programmes Officer, Zero Carbon Team added that progress against some aspects of work had slipped for good reason as it was important that local ambitions aligned to wider plans and strategies that were being developed at a Greater Manchester level, making reference to the GM Clean Air Plan and Places for Everyone. She further informed the Members that work was ongoing with the Facilities Management Team to improve staff recycling facilities across the estate, commenting that this could be a challenge in smaller locations where staff were located.

The Executive Member for Environment and Transport stated that the Council continued to lobby Government for additional support to enable the Council to drive forward and deliver at pace this important area of work. In regard to the comments regarding methane and food waste she stated that she would pick this up with the Food Board. In regard to the question asked in relation to Highways, she advised that a briefing note on this would be provided for Members. In response to the comments made regarding advertising across the city she said that she would discuss this with the Communications Team.

The Deputy Executive Member for Environment and Transport commented that the work the Council had undertaken in relation to its approach to procurement and climate change was particularly important. She further paid tribute to the Green Summit that had been delivered with schools, adding that this was an example that clearly demonstrated civic leadership.

Decision

To note the report.

ECCNSC/23/36 Staff Business Travel and Active Travel Policy

The Committee considered the report of the Director of Human Resources, Organisational Development and Transformation that provided information on the progress being made towards embedding a culture of sustainable staff travel within the council, as part of the Staff Travel policy.

Key points and themes in the report included:

- Providing an introduction and background;
- Noting that the Staff Travel Policy was presented to the Personnel Committee in December 2021 with a subsequent launch of the policy in 2022;
- The relationship to the Our Manchester Strategy;
- Providing a progress update across a range of key initiatives; and
- Case studies.

Some of the key points that arose from the Committee's discussions were:

- Welcoming the inclusion of case studies, commenting that these needed to be communicated widely with staff to promote behaviour change;

- Noting that staff working from home had reduced the number of commutes undertaken by staff;
- Welcoming the significant reduction in air miles reported;
- Was there enough appropriate bike storage space available to support staff travelling by bike across all sites;
- Noting that there was currently no reporting system in place that captured staff that walked during business hours as the data was expenses led, but welcomed that consideration to alternative methods of capturing this mode of active travel were under consideration;
- Welcoming that Beryl Bike hire was included in the expenses claim scheme; and
- Could the Cycle to Work Scheme allowance be used to purchase wet weather clothing.

The Director of HROD & Transformation acknowledged the comment regarding the impact staff working from home had on the number of commutes undertaken. He commented that this arrangement was specific to service need, however the use of technology, such as the use of Teams to conduct meetings had contributed to reducing the number of business journeys undertaken.

The Zero Carbon: Workforce Development Manager informed the Committee that an audit of bike storage facilities would be undertaken across the estate to ensure capacity was there to support staff travelling by bike. She acknowledged the comments regarding the need to capture staff walking data and stated that they were working with the Performance, Research and Intelligence Team to progress this. She added that data in relation to tram and bus travel would be included in any future update report to the Committee.

The Zero Carbon: Workforce Development Manager welcomed the positive feedback from the Members in relation to the case studies provided, adding that it was the intention to produce these in a video format that could be cascaded to staff through targeted communications, in addition to the written format. The Executive Member for Environment and Transport welcomed this approach and stated that this could be used to articulate good practice with partners across the city and support the stated ambitions described in 'Workstream 5 - Catalysing Change and Behaviour Change' that was considered under the previous agenda item.

The Zero Carbon: Workforce Development Manager responded to specific questions by advising that services and managers would be supported to set out how they would embed Zero Carbon into service delivery as part of their Service Plans and this included consideration of staff travel. She commented that these plans would be reviewed. The Director of HROD & Transformation stated that sustainable Staff Business Travel that was considered as part of Service Plans would need to then inform future work planning and workloads, acknowledging the comment from a Member regarding expectations placed upon staff if they were travelling to different locations for business but not using a car. It was further confirmed that the car leasing scheme for Ultra Low Emission Vehicles was available to all staff.

The Project Officer (Sustainable Business Travel) informed the Committee that the Cycle to Work Scheme was flexible and could be used to purchase wet weather

clothing and other cycling related products such as locks, parts for repairs etc. He further confirmed that this scheme could also be used to purchase electric bikes.

The Chair when welcoming the reduction in reported business travel commented that it was important to also understand this in the context of reduced staffing levels across the Council that was a result of budget reductions experienced over the years.

Decision

To note the report.

ECCNSC/23/37 Overview Report

The report of the Governance and Scrutiny Support Unit which contained key decisions within the Committee's remit and responses to previous recommendations was submitted for comment. Members were also invited to agree the Committee's future work programme.

Decision

The Committee notes the report and agrees the work programme.

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**Manchester City Council
Report for Information**

Report to: Environment, Climate Change & Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Committee – 20 July 2023

Subject: CCAP Quarterly Progress Report: Q1 April – June 2023

Report of: Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer

Summary

The Council declared a Climate Emergency in July 2019 and developed a Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP) 2020-25, which was approved by the Council's Executive in March 2020.

To remain up to date, the Manchester City Council (MCC) Climate Change Action Plan was refreshed in 2022, endorsed by the Environment and Climate Change Scrutiny Committee and approved by the MCC's Executive Committee in September 2022.

Quarterly updates and Annual Reports covering the first two years (2020/21 and 2021/22) of the CCAP are available online at www.manchester.gov.uk/zerocarbon.

This report provides an update and overview of progress made in delivering the Council's refreshed CCAP during Quarter 1 2023-24 (April – June 2023) (Appendix 1 – CCAP Q1 Quarterly Progress Report, April – June 2023).

Recommendations

The Committee is recommended to note and comment on the contents of the Quarterly Report for April – June 2023.

Wards Affected: All

<p>Environmental Impact Assessment - the impact of the issues addressed in this report on achieving the zero-carbon target for the city</p>
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<p>The Council's Climate Change Action Plan 2020-25 sets out the actions that will be delivered to ensure that the Council plays its full part in delivering the city's Climate Change Framework 2020-25</p>
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<p>Equality, Diversity and Inclusion - the impact of the issues addressed in this report in meeting our Public Sector Equality Duty and broader equality commitments</p>

<p>Actions set out in the Climate Change Action Plan 2020-25 recognise the need for just and equal delivery of climate action across the city, focusing on the areas such as community engagement, accessible transport, access to green spaces and tackling fuel poverty.</p>
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Manchester Strategy outcomes	Summary of how this report aligns to the OMS/Contribution to the Strategy
A thriving and sustainable city: supporting a diverse and distinctive economy that creates jobs and opportunities	Manchester's reputation as a leader in delivering on climate change will help to attract investment and businesses to the city. This will contribute towards helping the transition to a zero carbon city, which in turn will help the city's economy become more sustainable and will generate jobs within the low carbon energy and goods sector.
A highly skilled city: world class and home grown talent sustaining the city's economic success	Work underway in the Council supporting schools and the wider education sector will help develop a future well equipped workforce, whilst work underway within the Green Skills Action Plan is helping support employers to be prepared for the demand that is being created within the zero carbon sector.
A progressive and equitable city: making a positive contribution by unlocking the potential of our communities	There is a targeted focus on retrofitting homes across the city to help tackle fuel poverty and the cost-of-living crisis by reducing energy bills and this is a key part of the transition to a zero-carbon city. Health outcomes will also be improved through healthier homes as well as other areas, such as the promotion of more sustainable and active modes of transport, improved air quality and easy access to green spaces.
A liveable and low carbon city: a destination of choice to live, visit, work	Work underway on Neighbourhood Ward Plans and Green and Blue Infrastructure, Open Spaces and Parks (helping to adapt and increase resilience) are key areas of Manchester becoming a zero carbon city and will help the city to be a more attractive place for people to live, work, visit and study.
A connected city: world class infrastructure and connectivity to drive growth	Our investment in active and sustainable travel is helping Manchester to have a fully zero carbon transport system, which will create a world class business environment to drive sustainable economic growth.

Full details are in the body of the report, along with any implications for:

- Equal Opportunities Policy
- Risk Management
- Legal Considerations

Financial Consequences – Revenue

As part of the 2022/23 budget, £0.8m additional revenue investment was approved to support additional staffing to support delivery of the Council's Climate Change Action Plan. This funding is ongoing and has now been included as part of each service areas mainstream budgets. It is not expected that there will be any further revenue budget consequences arising from the content of this report.

<https://democracy.manchester.gov.uk/documents/s38151/Zero Carbon Budget Report.pdf>

As part of the 2024/25 budget planning, work is ongoing to ensure all revenue consequences arising from the work undertaken as part of the action plan are captured and included as part of the budget process.

Financial Consequences – Capital

This report looks back over the previous three months. During this period, we were successful in securing £11.15m from the Government's Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund to help deliver a two-year housing retrofit programme. The Council will be contributing significant match funding towards this programme, which will support the Council's longer-term housing retrofit aims. The contract details are still being worked through.

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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.

- Manchester City Council Climate Change Action Plan 2020-25 Updated 2022
- Manchester City Council Climate Emergency Declaration July 2019
- Manchester Climate Change Framework 2020-25 Updated 2022
- Neighbourhoods Directorate 2023/24 Budget – Environment and Climate Change Scrutiny Committee

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to provide a progress update on Manchester City Council's delivery of its Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP) 2020-2025 for Quarter 1 2023-24 (April – June 2023).
- 1.2 The refreshed CCAP was endorsed by the Environment and Climate Change Scrutiny Committee and approved by the Council's Executive Committee in September 2022.
- 1.3 The report provides updates on the Council's actions to achieve its zero carbon ambitions by 2038 at the latest, and tracks progress of the Council's actions at a citywide level to lead by example, influence and enable other stakeholders to act.
- 1.4 All activity described in this report relates to the period in which the report is issued, in this instance April to June 2023. Emissions data relates to the previous quarter due to billing and data monitoring being quarterly in arrears i.e. January to March 2023.
- 1.5 This report highlights the positive action the Council is taking to embed zero carbon into Council operations, highlighting progress made on carbon literacy training as well as changes made to policies, internal communications, and decision-making processes. It also highlights the Council's city-wide leadership role through delivering sustainable events across the city and the positive changes being made at recent events.
- 1.6 The Quarter 1 progress report has been shared with the City Council's Zero Carbon Coordination Group and Strategic Management Team to ensure its accuracy and transparency and will be published in an accessible format on the Council's website.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 A five-year Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP) covering 2020-25 went live following approval at Executive in March 2020.
- 2.2 The Council's CCAP has a science-based target calculated by the Tyndall Centre for Climate Research to reduce the Council's direct emissions and remain within the carbon budget of 126,336 tonnes of CO₂ (tCO₂) over the five-year period of 2020-25. In addition, the Council has committed to be zero carbon by 2038 at the latest, also based on the science-based targets developed by the Tyndall Centre.
- 2.3 The CCAP also recognises the Council's unique leadership role in supporting and influencing the city to reduce its emissions and in ensuring that the city's residents are protected from the impacts of climate change.
- 2.4 Regular updates on delivery of the CCAP will continue to be provided to this Scrutiny Committee via the Quarterly Reports and an Annual Report. The next

Annual Report 2022-23 will be published in September 2023. Previous progress reports dating back to April 2020 are available on the Council's website and can be found [here](#).

- 2.5 A refreshed Manchester City Council CCAP 2020-25 was reviewed by the Environment & Climate Change Scrutiny Committee and approved by the Council's Executive Committee in September 2022. The refreshed CCAP sets out the City Council's commitment to continue working to reduce MCC's own direct CO₂ emissions alongside a strong focus on our city-wide leadership role and work across Greater Manchester in support of wider climate change objectives.
- 2.6 The refreshed MCC Climate Change Action Plan sets out new actions, building on existing ambitions, for example, looking at ways to accelerate reaching zero carbon sooner than 2038, identifying opportunities to be bolder and avoiding any risk of complacency.
- 2.7 The actions within the refreshed CCAP were adopted across all workstreams from Quarter 3 2022-23 (October – December 2022) and progress continues to be reflected in the Quarterly Reports going forwards.
- 2.8 For 2023-24, our carbon budget is 21,562 tCO₂ - this carbon budget is what we measure our direct emissions against – which are made up of:
 1. MCC buildings
 2. Streetlights
 3. Refuse collection vehicles
 4. MCC Operational fleet
 5. Business travel by MCC staff
- 2.9 Our emissions reporting also includes direct (Scope 1 & 2) emissions from our Housing Operation's housing stock (formerly Northwards), which includes emissions from offices and fleet plus some energy use in communal housing areas – they do not include the domestic emissions of tenants.

3.0 Key Messages from Quarter 1 Progress Report

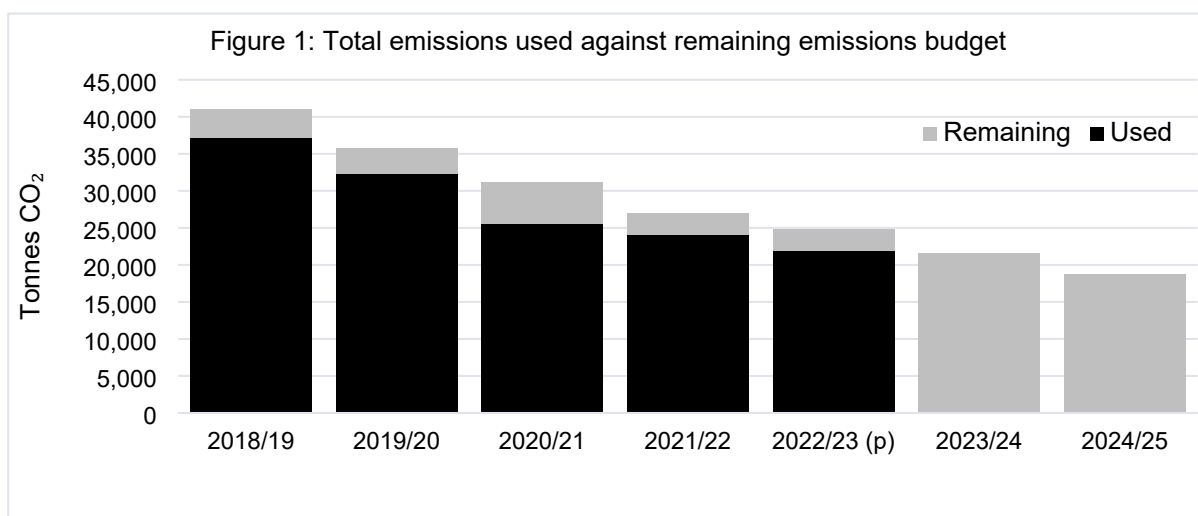
- 3.1 Manchester City Council's maximum permitted CO₂ emissions for 2022-23 was 24,784 tonnes (tCO₂) – this is referred to as our Carbon Budget. Provisional data shows that the Council used 88.5% of the 2022-23 budget. This means the Council emitted 21,931 tCO₂ between April 2022 and March 2023, which is 11.5% under budget.
- 3.2 Since 2020, the Council has remained within its carbon budget each year and the Quarter 1 report (Appendix 1) shows continued progress is being made with the Council on track to meet its 2025 target.
- 3.3 Key achievements in this quarter include MCC successfully entering into contract to build a £27m Mobility Hub in Ancoats, which includes innovative design features such as green walls and solar PV panels; the installation of

solar car ports at the National Cycling Centre and £2.4m secured for two active travel projects.

4.0 CO₂ Emissions

- 4.1 Emissions reported as part of the Quarter 1 report cover the previous quarter, in this case January to March 2023 due to energy billing being quarterly in arrears.
- 4.2 The report shows the Council used 88.5% of its 2022-23 carbon budget during the year (April 2022 – March 2023) and is therefore **on track to remain within its carbon budget for this year**. Emissions relate to Council buildings, streetlights, waste collection, operational fleet, and staff business travel.
- 4.3 Provisional data for this quarter shows that total carbon emissions in Q4 2022-23 have increased by 6.3% compared to Q4 the previous year. Reasons for this are:
- Emissions from Council Buildings now include the Civic Quarter Heat Network (CQHN) and Housing Operations (formerly Northwards Housing) in reporting (since Q1 2022-23).
 - For the purposes of a direct comparison from Q4 2021-22 and Q4 2022-23, emissions from buildings excluding CQHN and Housing Operations, reduced by 1.5% in Q4 2022-23.
 - As such, although the overall emissions are showing an increase, this is due to accounting for more buildings than the previous year.
 - Despite the additional buildings being included, we remain under our CO₂ science-based budget for the year.
 - Staff business travel increased by 13%, compared to Q4 2021-22. However, when comparing staff business travel to the previous quarter (which is more meaningful), there was a 3% increase compared to Q3 2022-23.
 - The Council's Sustainable Travel Officer is working across various services with the aim of reducing business travel or where feasible moving to sustainable modes of transport, and this will continue to be monitored and reported.
- 4.4 The Council has been making good progress in meeting its science-based targets to reduce its direct CO₂ emissions. However, we are starting to see lower CO₂ reduction rates, which could be due to factors, such as weather conditions, returning to 'normal' business following the pandemic and having delivered some 'quick win' CCAP actions in the earlier years meaning achieving future CO₂ reduction levels will, in some cases, become technically and financially more challenging. We will continue to monitor progress and trends closely to identify and undertake timely actions in future.
- 4.5 Figure 1 (below) shows the CO₂ emissions from the baseline year, 2018-19, and highlights the year-on-year reductions in CO₂ emissions. The graph shows that since 2018-19, the Council has remained within its budget of

permitted carbon emissions each year, and therefore remains within its science-based Carbon Budget set by the Tyndall Centre.¹



5.0 Key Achievements

- 5.1 The Council has successfully entered into contract to build a £27m Mobility hub in Ancoats, which includes innovative design features such as green walls and solar PV panels. This was jointly funded by MCC and Homes England.
- 5.2 The Council has successfully progressed with the National Cycling Centre solar car port installation to the south car park. Expected emissions savings from this installation is up to 36 tCO₂ per annum. (See [Q4 report 'Under the Spotlight'](#) section for more detail).
- 5.3 £2.4m has been secured from [Greater Manchester's Active Travel Fund](#), awarded by Active Travel England. The funding will support a CYCLOPS junction at Wilmslow Road / Ladybarn Lane and upgrade work to the Stockport Branch Canal pathway.
- 5.4 Manchester City Council has signed up to the Refill Scheme, which aims to reduce the use of single use plastics, drive positive behaviour change and increase reuse across the food and drink sector in the city.
- 5.5 Organisers of the 2023 Great Manchester Run implemented changes to reduce single use plastic during this year's event by reducing the number of water stations, providing smaller water bottles, improving, and increasing recycling facilities and improving communications with runners prior to the race.

¹Invoicing of electricity and gas data can be changed by the supplier within reason up to 6 years after original billing, and this taking place weeks or even months after the original bill is not unusual in the industry. During 2021-22, there were delays in invoicing and this was only resolved in December 2022. As such, the emissions recorded in our [CCAP 2021-22 Annual Report](#) for that year have been revised (from 22,807 tCO₂ to 24,102 tCO₂) following a recent review of our energy data. However, we still remain within the allocated annual carbon budget of 27,056 tCO₂ for 2021-22.

- 5.6 Broadhurst Clough in the north of the city is Manchester's tenth site to be designated a local nature reserve. This status will help to protect natural habitats and wildlife in this area.
- 5.7 Manchester City Council partnered with Wenta – a not-for-profit social enterprise who are offering free advice to support small businesses on how to reduce their carbon footprint and run a more sustainable business.

6.0 Recommendations

- 6.1 The Environment, Climate Change and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Committee is recommended to note and comment on the contents of the report and the progress that has been made in delivering the CCAP 2020-25 during the last three months (April – June 2023).
- 6.2 The quarterly progress reports are published in an accessible format on the Council's website.

7.0 Appendices

- 7.1 Appendix 1 - CCAP Q1 Quarterly Progress Report April – June 2023

Z E R O C A R B O N

MANCHESTER

Manchester City Council

Progress Update Q1 April - June 2023



Introduction

This report provides an overview of the progress made in delivering against the refreshed Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP) 2020-25 between April – June 2023 (Q1 2023-24) and highlights some of the work delivered during this period to reduce the Council's direct carbon (CO₂) emissions, as well as examples of influencing wider change and action across the city.

This report focuses on the Council's overall activity to reduce its direct carbon emissions, highlights key achievements and challenges faced during the reporting period and showcases Council specific actions. The spotlight section is on how the Council is embedding Zero Carbon within its own business and our city-wide leadership action focuses on sustainable events and how we are influencing event organisers. An overall progress update and RAG rating of CCAP actions is included as Appendix 1.

Key Messages

- Our 2020-25 CCAP has a carbon budget of **126,336 tonnes of CO₂ (tCO₂)**. We have used 56.6% of our budget so far, which means the Council has made good progress to date and is on track to remain within the carbon budget.
- The Council has used 88.5% of its 2022-23 carbon budget during the year (April 2022 – March 2023) and is therefore on track to remain within its budget for this year.
- During Q4 (January – March 2022), MCC emitted 6,731 tonnes of CO₂, which is 6.3% higher than the same period last year.
- Key achievements include the installation of solar car ports at the National Cycling Centre; £2.4m secured for two active travel projects and Broadhurst Clough becoming Manchester's tenth local nature reserve site.

CO₂ Emissions

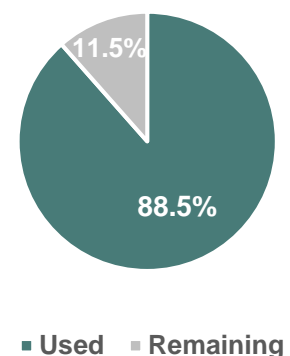
To achieve zero carbon by 2038, the Council has a target to reduce its direct carbon emissions by 13% each year. This ambition is underpinned by a carbon budget¹ of 126,336 tCO₂ for 2020-25, which the Council aims to remain within.

The annual carbon budget for the current year (2022-23) is **24,784 tCO₂**. In this year, (April 2022 - March 2023), the Council has remained within budget, emitting **21,931 tCO₂** – therefore using 88.5% of the annual allocated carbon budget. As shown in Figure 1.

The emissions data relates to the previous quarter, January 2023 – March 2023 and includes some estimates for the period due to billing being in arrears. The annual report, which the Council will publish in September 2023, aims to include billing data for the whole year.

**24,784 tonnes CO₂ –
Emissions Budget 2022-23**
**21,931 tonnes CO₂ –
Emissions produced 2022-23***

Figure 1: Carbon Budget 2022/23 - Used Budget v Remaining Budget



¹A Carbon Budget is the cumulative amount of carbon (CO₂) emissions permitted within a specified timeframe

Figure 2 shows the level of CO₂ emissions produced each year of the CCAP 2020-25, against the annual carbon budget. The graph begins with the baseline year 2018-19 to highlight the year-on-year reduction target and shows that since 2018-19, the Council has remained within its allocated carbon budget.²

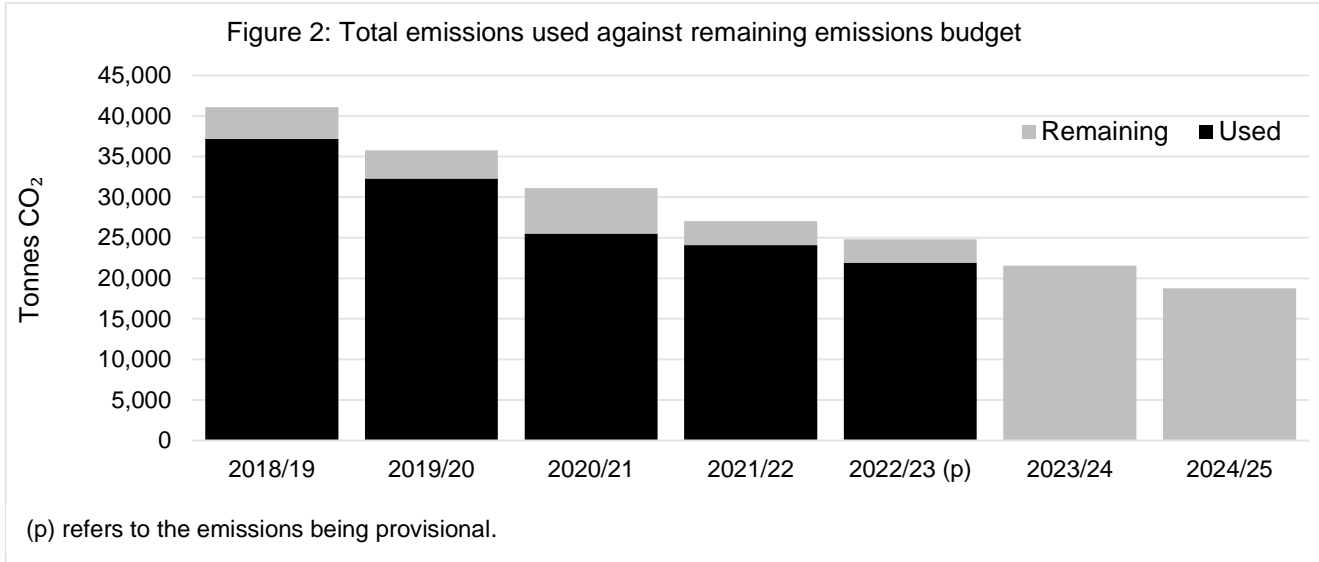
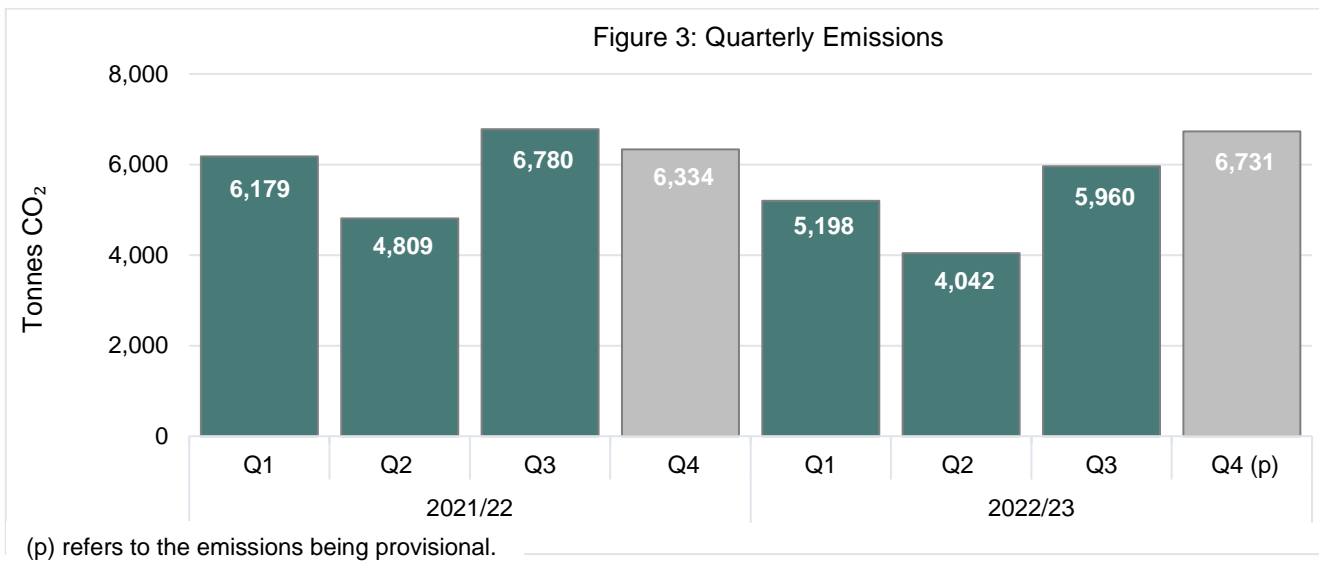


Figure 3 shows a quarter-by-quarter view of the Council’s total emissions from April 2021, enabling comparisons from one quarter to the same quarter in the previous year.



Emissions vary from quarter to quarter reflecting seasonal differences, for example higher energy consumption in the winter months due to heating buildings, and higher operational fleet emissions in the summer months due to increased maintenance of green spaces. Equally, there are over 300 buildings of varying sizes, conditions, and functions within the Council’s operational estate, so many variables exist around temperature and use of those buildings, which means that emissions can change from year to year.

²Invoicing of electricity and gas data can be changed by the supplier within reason up to 6 years after original billing, and this taking place weeks or even months after the original bill is not unusual in the industry. During 2021-22, there were delays in invoicing and this was only resolved in December 2022. As such, the emissions recorded in our [CCAP 2021-22 Annual Report](#) for that year have been revised (from 22,807 tCO₂ to 24,102 tCO₂) following a recent review of our energy data. However, we still remain within the allocated annual carbon budget of 27,056 tCO₂ for 2021-22.

In general, we are starting to see lower rates of CO₂ reduction in individual quarters in comparison to 2020-21 and 2021-22, which could be due to several factors such as weather conditions, returning to 'normal' business following the pandemic and having delivered significant CO₂ emission reduction actions in the earlier years of this 2020-25 CCAP period.

Provisional data for this quarter shows that the Council's total emissions in Quarter 4 (Q4) 2022-23 is 6,731 tCO₂, which is 6.3% higher than Q4 the previous year.

The information below shows the changes in emissions for each Council area for Q4 2022-23 compared to Q4 2021-22, highlighting where the Council's direct emissions have increased and decreased:

Increases

- Council Buildings 10% increase*
- Staff business travel 13% increase
(3% increase compared to Q3 2022-23)**



Decreases

- Streetlights down 9%
- Waste Collection Fleet down 9%
- Council Operational Fleet down 2%



*The 10% increase for Council Buildings is due to the inclusion of additional buildings coming online, such as Housing Operations (formerly Northwards Housing) into the reporting since Q1 2022-23.

For the purposes of a direct comparison from Q4 2021-22 and Q4 2022-23, emissions from buildings excluding these additional buildings reduced by 1.5% (from 4,851 tCO₂ down to 4,776 tCO₂ in Q4 2022-23).

As such, although the overall emissions are showing an increase, this is due to accounting for more buildings than the previous year and despite this increase, we have remained under budget for the year³.

**Emissions from staff business travel has increased by 13%, when compared to Q4 2021-22 but this is as expected as we moved out of the pandemic recovery period. However, when comparing staff business travel, it is more meaningful to compare to the previous quarter, in this instance, there has been a 3% increase compared to Q3 2022-23. The Council's Sustainable Travel Officer is working across various services with the aim of reducing business travel or moving to sustainable modes of transport, where feasible and this will continue to be monitored and reported.

Key Achievements

MCC has successfully entered into contract to build a £27m Mobility hub in Ancoats, which includes innovative design features such as green walls and solar PV panels. Jointly funded by MCC and Homes England.



³The previous quarterly report (Q4) features MCC buildings as an 'Under the Spotlight' item, providing more detailed analysis of the emissions produced across MCC's operational buildings



MCC has successfully progressed with the National Cycling Centre installation of **solar car ports** to the south car park. Expected emissions savings from this installation is up to **36 tCO₂ per annum**. (See [Q4 report 'Under the Spotlight'](#) section for more detail)

£2.4m has been secured from [Greater Manchester's Active Travel Fund](#), awarded by Active Travel England. The funding will support a CYCLOPS junction at Wilmslow Road / Ladybarn Lane and upgrade work to the Stockport Branch Canal pathway.



Manchester City Council has signed up to the Refill Scheme, which aims to reduce the use of single use plastics, drive positive behaviour change and increase reuse across the food and drink sector in the city.

Organisers of the 2023 Great Manchester Run implemented changes to reduce single use plastic during this year's event by reducing the number of water stations, providing smaller water bottles, improving and increasing recycling facilities and improving communications with runners prior to the race.



Broadhurst Clough in the north of the city is Manchester's tenth site to be designated a local nature reserve. This status will help to protect natural habitats and wildlife in this area.

Manchester City Council partnered with Wenta – a not-for-profit social enterprise who are offering free advice to support small businesses on how to reduce their carbon footprint and run a more sustainable business.



Key Challenges

This section highlights strategic challenges associated with delivery of the overall CCAP and where possible, identifies mitigating measures.

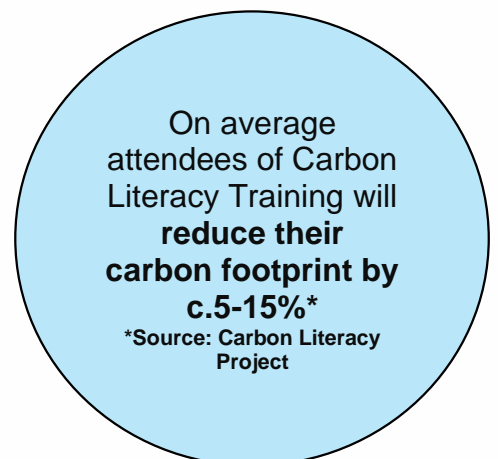
- Whilst we are within the CCAP 2020-25 Carbon budget, making significant future carbon savings across the Council will become increasingly challenging. Upcoming decarbonisation projects across MCC's Estate (Action 1.1) for example, are predicted to be on a smaller scale in varying conditions, which will result in smaller carbon savings, often at higher costs per tCO₂ reduction achieved.
- Competing national demands on housing funds, such as complying with the Decent Homes Standard, fire safety regulations and damp prevention, are affecting delivery of housing retrofit across the Council's housing stock. Additional resource has been added to the Housing and Residential Growth team to focus on the development of a Housing Retrofit Plan and to identify funding opportunities to support delivery (Action 1.6).
- Delays to the Greater Manchester Clean Air Plan are hindering the development of the new Manchester Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP). Government's Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA) has agreed the development of a new AQAP, and any remodelling of the Greater Manchester Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) should be in line with the Greater Manchester Clean Air Plan (Action 2.11).
- The financial landscape for the coming years looks challenging, which could mean UK Government investment in climate change may be impacted. The Zero Carbon Finance and Investment Sub Group continues to explore opportunities for investment into climate action (Action 5.2).
- The decarbonisation of the national electricity system by 2035 has been factored into Manchester's science-based target to become zero carbon by 2038. However, if the national electricity system does not decarbonise at the expected rate, this will impact on meeting national carbon reduction targets. We will continue to monitor this and the impact this has on the Council's carbon reduction targets, along with taking mitigating actions, such as continuing to decarbonise our estate.

Under the Spotlight – Embedding Zero Carbon within the Council

This section provides an overview of how Manchester City Council is embedding its zero carbon ambition within the Council, as outline in actions 5.1 and 5.2 under the Workstream 5: Catalysing Change and Behaviour Change

In 2020, there was a resetting of the [Our Manchester Strategy – Forward to 2025](#), which included Manchester as 'A liveable and Zero-carbon City' as one of the Council's priorities. As a result, the Council's internal Corporate Plan also now reflects this priority, mirroring the Our Manchester Strategy and so do the individual internal Council Service Plans, which outline how each service aims to deliver against the Our Manchester Strategy priorities. This approach links the Our Manchester Strategy priorities with each member of staff, like a golden thread and enables them to contribute to the delivery of the Council's target to become zero carbon by 2038.

To support this approach, the Council committed to delivering Carbon Literacy training to 50% of its staff by 2025 and deliver bespoke training to support Council Services (CCAP Action 5.1), as outlined in the refreshed CCAP 2020-25.



The commitment to educate and equip Council staff with the skills and knowledge needed to deliver the Council's zero carbon priority goes further than this- the Council also appointed a permanent Zero Carbon Workforce Development Manager and a Carbon Literacy Lead to embed positive climate change behaviour across the workforce and oversee delivery of the Carbon Literacy Training programme.

In 2022, Manchester was the first local authority to achieve Silver Accreditation from the Carbon Literacy Project in recognition of 15% of the workforce being Carbon Literate. The Council is now working towards Gold Accreditation by 2025, which requires 50% of the workforce to be Carbon Literate.

Key Performance Indicators:

- Average **150** officers attending training sessions every month
- **1928** officers certified Carbon Literate, including
 - **93** elected members (pre-election)
 - **136** Senior Leadership Group officers
- **26%** of the workforce is Carbon Literate

Members of staff who received Carbon Literacy accreditation more than 2 years ago can also access a Climate Change Top Up Training which enables them to keep knowledge on this subject up to date and relevant to Manchester. The online course can also be shared with a wider audience, such as with schools, as a more accessible format.

In line with requirements for the Gold Accreditation, the Council also supported other organisations, including Salford, Wigan and Liverpool Councils and NHS Trust, with delivery of the Carbon Literacy Training.

Embedding Zero Carbon within the Council and influencing the city

Other ways of embedding zero carbon into the Council are:

- Bespoke sector specific training to compliment the Carbon Literacy Training:
 - [Julie's Bicycle](#) (a not-for-profit organisation mobilising the culture sector to take action on the climate crisis) delivered training to MCC's Culture and Events teams, to provide officers with the knowledge needed to support and influence the culture and events sectors to consider their own operations and take action to combat climate change.
 - Action Sustainability UK delivered Zero Carbon Commissioning training to Commissioning Managers across the Council, to empower commissioners to request sustainable activity from suppliers as part of their tender process. This training was so successful that it has been delivered to a second tranche of Commissioning Managers.
- A Zero Carbon Workforce Network has been established for officers currently dedicated to delivering the Council zero carbon ambition. The network provides officers with opportunities to discuss current zero carbon work priorities, to share learnings, offer peer to peer support and share useful information.



What's next

There is still more work to do until zero carbon is fully embedded within the Council. Some of the activities being consider are:

- The Council's Awards for Excellence, which recognises staff and teams who go above and beyond in their roles, will include a zero-carbon category this year, where staff can show how they have embedded zero carbon within their roles.
- Further bespoke training will be considered as this is requested by individual service areas.
- Continue to collaborate and support other organisations in delivery of the Carbon Literacy Training in line with Manchester's value of 'owning it and working together'. This will also help the Council meet the requirements of Carbon Literacy Project Gold accreditation.
- Ensuring MCC's zero carbon ambition is considered as part of the Council's decision-making processes and is reflected within new or refreshed policies

Seeing is believing – Sustainable Events across the City

This section focuses on the Council's leadership role and influence in driving climate action across the city, in relation to outdoor events sector, helping Manchester with its target to be zero carbon by 2038 at the latest.

CCAP Action 3.3 sets out the action the Council will take to improve the sustainability of events: Council-owned events; Council-funded events; and external events on Council land.

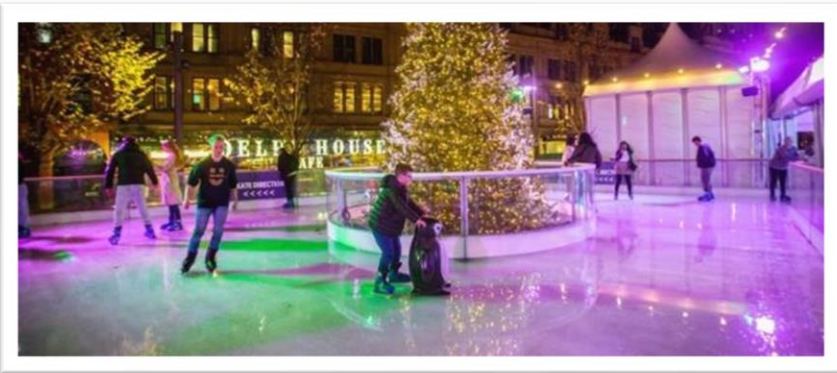
Sustainable Events in Manchester



The Council's work to increase the sustainability of events began with the publication of the [Sustainable Event Guides](#) in 2019, building on good practice from key Council-led events such as Manchester Day and the Christmas Markets over the last 10 years.

It is important to note that the events industry was one of the most impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic. The first 'normal' year of event activity following the pandemic was 2022, which also saw significant cost increases. A targeted approach has taken place over 2022/23 to understand progress, challenges and potential areas of opportunity following this hiatus.

Over 50 events
(with attendance over 1000) take place in parks and other licensed outdoor event spaces every year!



Key achievements in 2022:

- **Skate Manchester:** Access to grid power from the National Football Museum supply enabled a saving of 50,000 litres of diesel, the equivalent of 90 tCO₂e. This was also cost neutral to the organiser.
- **Reusable cup pilot** (using Council-owned cups) enabled savings of 24,000 cups and half a tonne of plastic waste across 3 events.

Developing understanding and measurement of sustainable events

In the last couple of years, the events industry has developed its approach to sustainability, with key developments such as the [Green Events Code of Practice](#). Key funders, such as the Arts Council and UK Sport have developed environmental sustainability strategies and associated funding requirements.

The start of 2023/24 has seen Council processes strengthened to capture more and better data, along with more consistency over engagement with external event organisers.

All events are briefed on the five key areas of action that should be taken:

1. Energy
2. Travel
3. Waste (including Single Use Plastic reduction)
4. Food and Drink
5. Water

Sustainable Event Guides are available as additional support if needed. Organisers are then asked to report back on progress against each key area; alongside a targeted approach being taken for key events.

Paralympic World Swimming Championships (July/August 2023)

Aims to be the most sustainable Para Swim World Championships yet.

Measures include:

- environmental impact as core theme to Board sub-group
- development of a Sustainable Procurement Code
- development of a sustainability action plan (aligned to five key impact areas)
- carbon foot printing to understand impact

Great Manchester Run (May 2023)

Key measures introduced to reduce the amount of plastic waste:

- smaller bottles
- reduced number of water stations-all participants to arrive hydrated
- recycling improvements
- more communication on sustainability goals.



Communication and Engagement Highlights

This section highlights the communications and resident engagement activity during this quarter. Below are examples of how the Council is aiming to influence positive behaviour change both internally with staff and across the city with residents and other stakeholders.

Neighbourhood engagement

As part of our climate leadership role across the city, MCC's Neighbourhood teams support local communities to proactively engage in local climate activity to reduce their carbon footprint. Examples of activities delivered during this quarter include:

- Involvement in the planning of community festivals, such as Envirolution Festival, Whalley Range Celebrate Festival and Mersey Fest.
- Clean Air Day events in Levenshulme, Charlestown, Higher Blackley, Gorton, and city centre – these include school streets, parking enforcements, and street parties.
- Weekly free gardening and vegetable growing workshops for residents led by Sow the City.
- Bid submission to GM Greenspaces Fund by Miles Platting Community & Age-friendly Network: MP-CAN Climate Action Group (supported by MCC Neighbourhoods, University of Manchester and Jigsaw Homes).



Residents at Envirolution showing their pledges to reduce their carbon footprint.



Ardwick Climate Change Roadshow event held at West Gorton Community Park

- Climate Change Neighbourhood Officers supported Biffa to collect discarded clothing at Great Manchester Run 2023, which were donated to Mustard Tree Charity.
 - Great Big Green Week – Community events planned by the In Our Nature programme.
 - Launch of sustainability sessions for residents in Wythenshawe and Chorlton.
 - Woodhouse Park engagement event to incorporate climate conversation.
- Seeds of Joy community garden event led by MCR Active.
 - Bulk purchase and distribution of LED lightbulb units for residents – a conversation tool for domestic energy efficiency.
 - Fallowfield Brow Environmental Project – continuation of alleyway improvement.



Residents and partners engaged in Levenshulme Clean Air Day event

Schools Spotlight

Work is ongoing across the Council's Neighbourhoods and Education teams to implement our zero carbon ambitions in school settings. Examples of activities include:

- Climate Change Neighbourhood Officers visiting schools to support the zero-carbon agenda.

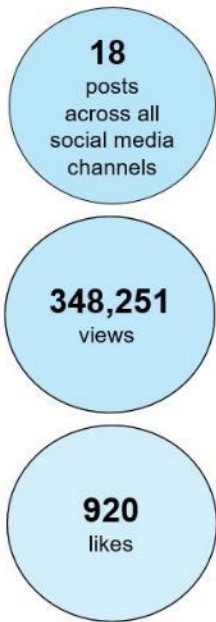
- Schools taking part in an action planning pilot to support the development of their own climate action plans.
- Following on from the Central Green Schools Network meeting held last quarter, Schools Networks have now been set up in North and South Manchester. £5,000 of funding has also been secured to support this agenda.
- MCC’s Communications team visited Armitage CE Primary in Ardwick and recorded films documenting their progress with the Bee Green Relay and the work of their eco-team.

Communications Highlights

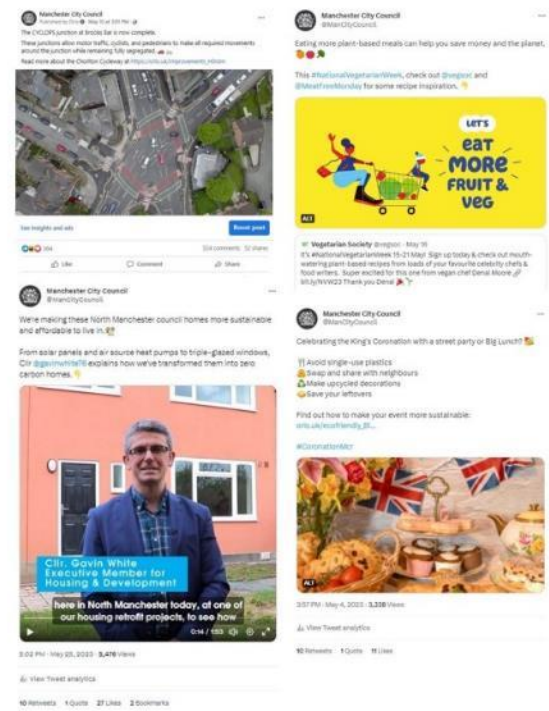
Communications restrictions in the pre-election period (27 March – 5 May) meant that external communications were limited. However, in May and June, activity to promote our zero-carbon ambition through campaigns, ongoing social media activity and regular press releases continued.

During June, planned content for Clean Air Day, Bike Week, World Refill Day and Garden Wildlife Week is scheduled.

Social Media



- Topics covered this quarter:
- Recycling
 - Earth Day
 - Stop Food Waste Day
 - GB Spring Clean
 - Coronation (sustainable events)
 - National Vegetarian Week
 - Active travel
 - Housing retrofit
 - Envirolution



Internal Communications

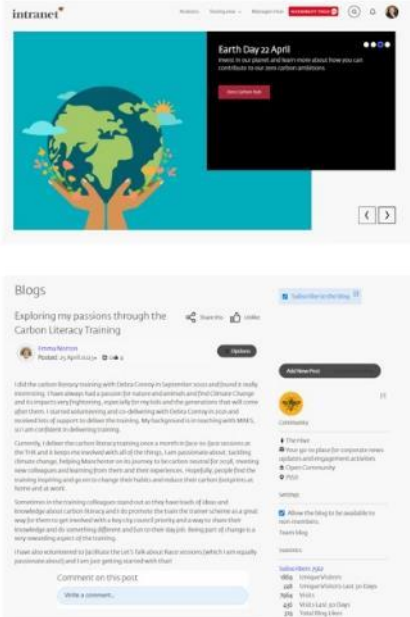
Topics covered in April and May:

- Carbon Literacy training
- Earth Day

For June, we are also planning content around Clean Air Day and Bike Week.

Outcomes:

- 63 staff booked carbon literacy training via the learning hub.
- Following our Earth Day communications, 68 colleagues read our ZC ambitions on the intranet and 253 visited our Carbon Literacy Training intranet page.
- Earth Day was a top feature on the intranet carousel.



63
Staff booked
carbon
literacy
training

41
visits to the
ZC hub

102
visits to the
cycle to work
page

Behaviour Change Campaign

The behaviour change campaign continues to run on digital screens around the city with the aim of promoting positive behaviour change and climate change.



New posters have been created to go in libraries around the city.



Some of this messaging was also shared via social media e.g., in this post for National Vegetarian Week:



The Neighbourhoods team and In Our Nature programme continue to promote these messages through their engagement activities.



Key Performance Indicators:

Community
engagement
at the local
level

Residents
feedback

Social
Media
engagement
and visits to
MCC
website

Press Releases

10 May
Innovative CYCLOPS junction completed as part of Chorlton Cycleway



25 May
Start date announced for Stevenson Square walking and cycling improvements

- Manchester Evening News
- The Manc
- Manchester Wire



31 May
Big and bold changes set for city centre as Council continues push towards sustainable transport.

- Manchester Evening News
- Places North West



In June, we are planning press releases about:

- MCC's commitment to the Refill campaign to reduce plastic waste and promote the availability of refills in public buildings (to be issued on World Refill Day 16 June)
- Red Bank topping out - low carbon affordable housing (14 Jun)
- Ancoats Mobility Hub Start on site (tbc)
- Sustainability of this year's Manchester Day
- Details of decarbonisation schemes being brought forward with recently-awarded housing retrofitting funding.
- Completion of decarbonisation works to Velodrome.



21 June

Following Manchester City Council's commitment to the Refill Scheme ran by the environmental group, City to Sea, the Council's pledge to become a 'refill destination' was highlighted in a news article: [Britain is embracing switch to refillable water bottles, say campaigners | UK news | The Guardian](#)

Appendix 1 – Action RAG Rating and Progress Update

The tables below provide an overview of the progress of actions across all five workstreams included in the CCAP 2020-25 using a RAG (Red, Amber, Green) rating system.

Key

Working to target (Green)		Work in progress (Amber)	Not started / missed critical milestones (Red)	Complete (Grey)
Workstream 1 – Buildings and Energy				
Action	Action Summary	Action Update		
1.1 - Green	MCC Estates carbon reduction programme	Six buildings with live carbon reduction works – estimating carbon savings up to 470 tCO ₂ per annum. Works complete December 2023. Installation of solar car ports at the National Cycling Centre due to complete end of June 2023 – estimating carbon savings up to 36 tCO ₂ per annum. Carrying out 72 carbon reduction site surveys to understand works and budget required to shape the update of the carbon reduction strategy for MCC Estates. A bid to Public Sector Low Carbon Skills Fund submitted to fund technical design work for 12 sites and 5 heat decarbonisation plans in preparation for a bid to Public Sector Decarbonisation Fund (PSDS) 4 late 2023. Awaiting decision.		
1.2 - Amber	Manchester Build Standard	Working with partners to ensure the Standard is being embraced, challenging when no contractual relationship is in place. A full review of the Standard to be undertaken later in the year to ensure latest technologies and practices are included.		
1.3 - Amber	Large scale renewable energy generation	In the implementation phase - Project Team established with external advisors to procure a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA). Clear timeline and resourcing plan established to deliver activities required to have a PPA in place to meet 2025-30 carbon reduction targets. Market engagement session held with developers ahead of the commencement of procurement.		
1.4 - Green	LED street lighting	Refurbishment of existing traffic signs with LED units, 300 completed this period with an estimated saving of 14 tCO ₂ per annum.		
1.5 - Amber	Civic Quarter Heat Network	Manchester Town Hall connection scheduled for late 2024. Ongoing activity underway to identify new customers, with Ener-Vate leading the commercial engagement activity with potential off takers. Regular reports presented to the company Board on engagement activity with a new website for the Network to go live imminently. Options for further efficiencies to the Network are currently being explored.		
1.6 - Green	MCC Housing Carbon Reduction	Approximately 160 air source heat pumps (ASHPs) are expected to be installed funded by ERDF, current sign-up is around 150. Solar PV scheme is ongoing with around 100 properties complete. A pilot of 'Hybrid Retrofit' to 10 properties has been put on hold until suitable properties can be identified. Two deep retrofit properties are complete, which bring these properties to net zero carbon or beyond. Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund Wave 2 bid for £11.6m grant was successful, to retrofit 1603 properties across 6 projects over 2 year.		

1.7 - Amber	Citywide Housing Carbon Reduction	Baseline work on emissions across registered providers stock complete. Working closely with the Chair of Manchester Housing Provider Partnership Zero Carbon subgroup, which involves the four largest housing providers within Manchester, to develop a monitoring framework for social housing stock. Working with GMCA to link up support home owners and private landlords, particularly those on low income.
1.8 - Amber	Commercial and non-domestic building carbon reduction	During April/May support provided by GM Growth Company to the Commercial Sector and claimed under the ERDF Carbon Reduction contract was: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One 'Enterprise Company' supported • Savings of 6.49 tCO₂ across the businesses supported • Financial savings of £4244 due to energy efficiencies • One company investing in Green technology
1.9 - Green	Local Area Energy Plan (LAEP)	Extensive internal contacts have been made and baseline data is being established. Soft marketing exercise carried out in preparation for the electric vehicle charging infrastructure procurement process.
1.10 - Green	Leasing and disposing of Council buildings and land	Zero carbon and environmental credentials are a key element of the Council's Strategic Asset Management Plan asset review process. This covers all decisions relating to the Council's land and property portfolio and is weighted and considered along with other corporate priorities.
1.11 - Amber	Manchester Local Plan	Hearing stages of Greater Manchester's Local Plan, Places for Everyone concluded in March 2023. Evidence base for Manchester's Local Plan continues to be developed across a number of workstreams and policies to support Manchester's Local Plan will be developed over the Summer 2023. A workstream to inform the Local Plan on key zero carbon policy aspects will conclude July 2023.
1.12 - Amber	Partnerships e.g., Green Building Council	Engagement ongoing with partners to understand best practice in build standards and how to influence developers.

Workstream 2 – Transport and Travel

Action	Action Summary	Action Update
2.1 - Green	Electric refuse collection vehicles (eRCVs)	Emissions from the 27 eRCVs continue to be monitored. Next step is to explore efficiency options for the remaining 50% of the fleet.
2.2 - Green	Replace operational fleet with EVs	Mileage by MCC e-Cargo bikes was 415 miles this quarter, four times the distance travelled in Q4. One additional electric vehicle included in MCC's fleet taking the total to 42 electric and 2 hybrid vehicles.
2.3 - Green	Business Travel Policy	The staff Ultra Low Electric Vehicle (ULEV) scheme launched late March 2023 via internal communications and directorate level specific communications. There has been 910 unique visits to the website and 33 vehicles ordered by staff. Engagement workshops are in development to give staff the resources and skills to travel differently, delivered the first workshop to Manchester Adult Education Services. Consideration of the Staff Travel Policy was embedded within the

		2023/24 zero carbon section of the Service Plans to prompt service leads to consider travel as part of their wider service planning.
2.4 - Amber	Environmental actions within Highways	Highways are trialling the National Highways Carbon Tool on the A34 Corridor project. Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) guidance has been rolled out across Highways and various presentations have taken place to introduce staff to the documents. Currently in the process of commissioning a consultant to produce a sustainable materials palette list - outcomes of the work have been agreed.
2.5 - Green	Greater Manchester Transport Strategy 2040	Work has commenced on a refresh of the Manchester Local Implementation Plan, to set out Manchester's priorities for delivering the GM Transport Strategy 2040.
2.6 - Amber	City Centre Transport Strategy	Work has commenced on setting out a plan to progress the aims as set out in the City Centre Transport Strategy.
2.7 - Green	EV Charging Infrastructure Strategy	Soft market testing has been carried out to look at the market interest and feasibility in the proposal for a supplier to fully fund the installation, operation and maintenance of public EV charge-points on council owned assets. A procurement exercise is due later this summer
2.8 - Green	Active Travel	£2.4m secured from Active Travel Fund 4 for Wilmslow Road/Ladybarn Lane CYCLOPS junction (£0.9m) and Stockport Branch Canal upgrade (£1.5m).
2.9 - Amber	Sustainable Travel Incentives for MCC Staff	Communications calendar of sustainable commute days (such as clean-air day, bike-to-work day, car-free day, etc.) has been created. Specific content will be shared with MCC's Communications team on those days/weeks to highlight the various schemes in place to promote sustainable commuting.
2.10 - Amber	Aviation Emissions	The Manchester Airport Group (MAG) contributed to the Sustainable Aviation Net Zero Carbon Road-map Summary Report which was published in April 2023 and sets out the industry's plan to reach net zero by 2050. MAG continue to be a member of the Jet Zero Council who published their 2 year action plan in April 2023.
2.11 - Amber	Air Quality	Manchester's 2016-2021 Air Quality Action Plan has been delivered. A follow-up action plan is on hold whilst awaiting the outcome of the GM Clean Air Plan. Annual regional reports, which include Manchester's progress are available at https://cleanairgm.com/data-hub/monitoring-reports/ .

Workstream 3 – Sustainable Consumption

Action	Action Summary	Action Update
3.1 - Amber	Sustainable Procurement	Work continues to embed sustainable procurement across live commissioning processes. The measurement of scope 3 emissions remains a challenge due to the level of detail on purchasing information. The Council has successfully recruited a Programme Procurement Manager and recruitment is underway for a supporting role. These roles will help drive forward the sustainable procurement work. A recently implemented Contract Management System will aid with monitoring carbon emissions of future contractors.
3.2 - Amber	Reducing Single Use Plastics (SUPs) in the Council	Working Group established to continue engagement with services and external partners to understand SUP usage, challenges and opportunities for reduction. The Council signed up to Refill to raise

		awareness amongst staff, businesses and residents and embed positive behaviour change. Engagement with all events planned for 2023/24, with a targeted approach to events with high SUP usage.
3.3 - Green	Sustainable Events	Findings of the environmental assessment of Christmas Markets has been received and will inform planning for 2023. Engagement with targeted, high-volume events and baseline data collection is underway. Data for Para Swim World Championship is also being collected to understand the impact of sustainable measures. Grid Power Scoping Report is currently being reviewed internally to agree next steps.
3.4 - Amber	Waste Services	Meeting to discuss current waste and recycling processes across MCC estate took place and next steps agreed. Work to improve signage in Central Library is underway, aiming to reduce waste contamination and increase recycling rates in the cafe and library.
3.5 - Amber	Supplier Toolkit	MCC are engaged in Greater Manchester Heads of Procurement discussions to ensure greater consistency in procurement with focus on social value, including zero carbon considerations. Tailored training for procurement and commissioning staff was delivered this quarter. Further guidance on zero carbon considerations is being developed to support outcomes of the training.
3.6 - Green	Influencing Single Use Plastics reduction in the city	Work continues to embed SUP free ambitions across Manchester's parks.
3.7 - Green	Manchester Food Board	Ongoing engagement with FoodSync to scope the content of a Manchester Sustainable Food Policy.

Workstream 4 – Adaptation and Sequestration

Action	Action Summary	Action Update
4.1 - Green	Tree Action Planning	Engagement around the development of a refreshed tree action plan has taken place, with presentations made to the Manchester Green Infrastructure (GI) external stakeholder group and the internal MCC GI officer's group.
4.2 - Green	Nature Based Solutions	MCC representatives continue to attend joint working groups with other authorities and organisations such as United Utilities, City of Trees and GMCA to explore ways to work together on further SuDS projects in Manchester.
4.3 - Green	Parks CCAP	MCC Parks Climate Change Action Plan was shared with Environment and Climate Change Scrutiny Committee in March 2023, before launching in April. The plan is in the implementation phase and having a positive impact with decision making, e.g. the opportunity to change a fleet vehicle to electric has been taken.
4.4 - Green	Green and Blue (G&BI) Strategy	Following on from Environment and Climate Change Scrutiny comments in March 2023, further consideration is needed about the interrelationship between the Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy and other strategies including Local Nature Recovery Strategy (GM level); Our Rivers, Our City; work on Biodiversity Net Gain; Tree Opportunity Mapping; Tree Action Plan; and Biodiversity Strategy.

4.5 - Green	Biodiversity Strategy	Ongoing work with colleagues in the Growth & Development team to prepare for Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) as a statutory part of planning from November 2023. Additional funding from DEFRA has been secured to help pay for a new officer post in the Planning Team to coordinate the delivery of BNG.
4.6 - Green	Tree Planting	Tree opportunity mapping is now live on MCC website, with infographic material for each ward to be added soon. There is further need for consensus on tree site choices.

Workstream 5 – Catalysing Change

Action	Action Summary	Action Update
5.1 - Amber	Carbon literacy training	1,928 members of staff are Carbon Literacy Certified and 93% of elected members have received training. A carbon literacy refresher training module is now live and a targeted roll out is being considered to staff who are already carbon literate. The refresher module will also be made available to school's climate champions.
5.2 - Amber	Embedding zero carbon within Council decision making	Zero Carbon considerations have been built into applications for the latest Our Manchester Voluntary and Community Sector, and Cultural Grant programmes. Updates on the Zero Carbon Culture Guide and climate action in the Culture Sector was taken to the Environment and Climate Change Scrutiny Committee in March 2023. Influencing climate action within the community and voluntary sector can be difficult, these organisations are often small, lack resources and infrastructure. The Council continues to support this sector and lead by example to influence further action.
5.3 - Green	Finance & Investment	Finance & Investment Subgroup focusing on development of the feasibility study as part of the Innovate UK Net Zero Living Pathfinder Phase 1 project, which includes the development of a high-level pipeline of projects with a variety of funding sources.
5.4 - Green	Community Engagement	Ward CCAP templates have been redesigned to include SMART targets. Existing plans will be revised in line with the new template and published in autumn 2023. Recommendations from the Task & Finish Group were presented to the Environment, Climate Change and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Committee in May 2023. Workshops for Neighbourhoods staff and briefings for Ward Members are being planned and will be held next quarter.
5.5 - Green	Citywide Communications Strategy	Zero Carbon communications reduced during pre-election period, however national awareness days were marked. Social media activity increased post-election with celebration of the National Vegetarian Week and planning for Clean Air Day. In Our Nature's community support grants have also been promoted.
5.6 - Green	Fund Manchester Climate Change Agency (MCCA)	Funding for the Manchester Climate Change Agency is now in place for 2023/24 and covers four core posts and a small operational budget. Four members of staff who are 100% funded by In Our Nature are all in post following successful recruitment.
5.7 - Amber	Support Manchester Climate Change Partnership (MCCP)	The Council is working with MCCA, GMCA and NHS colleagues to develop shared approaches for production of the Climate Adaptation Plans. The objective is to ensure plans are joined up and developed at pace.

		Recommended actions in the Framework Update 2022 have been reviewed to identify actions directly delivered by MCC, and those where MCC can influence or enable through local authority powers and as a member of MCCP.
5.8 - Amber	Support Education Providers to reduce carbon	A Green School Network is established in North, South and Central Manchester boundaries and will report to the Governance Review Board chaired by Cllr Bridges. £20k has been secured from MCC's Zero Carbon reserves to support these Networks, as well as action planning pilot in the Zero Carbon Schools programme. This pilot will help to embed climate change into the curriculum and enable schools to calculate their own carbon footprint. Climate Change Champion sessions have begun, the first session was attended by 35 young people.
5.9 - Amber	Influence GM stakeholders to decarbonise	The Council is working in partnership with the GMCA and Oldham Council to access funding from Innovate UK's Net Zero Living Pathfinder Programme, Phase 2, which opens in July 2023 and is targeted at unlocking non-technical barriers to delivering Net Zero at scale across the UK. MCCP's city challenge on commercial building retrofit is being delivered across GM as part of the GM mission-based approach.
5.10 - Amber	Government Lobbying	GM Trailblazer Devolution Deal concluded and signed following a long period of negotiation with Council involvement. The deal confirms a single settlement for GM in next spending review 2025/26 which will cover Retrofit/Net Zero funding alongside Local Growth & Place; Local Transport; Housing & Regeneration and Adult Skills. The Deal also includes commitments to piloting devolution of Net Zero funding to GMCA through allocation rather than competition. Potential setting of GM Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards (MEES), further work on nature recovery & climate change adaptation are also explored.
5.11 - Green	International networks and projects	Core Cities UK are working with Eurocities to promote the 3Ci initiative at the Brussels Urban Summit on 12-15 June 2023. Manchester delegation will meet with partner cities and sign a Eurocities 'Call to Action' on sustainability and inclusion within culture, which will enable Manchester to share our work to date and learn from other partner cities.
5.12 - Amber	Green Skills Plan	Work and Skills team and Strategic Housing are engaging with training providers to develop their understanding of the Council's retrofit needs to deliver Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund programme. Work is underway to ensure Social Value discussions for retrofit procurement are aligned with MCC's inclusive ambitions and strategy priorities. The latest round of £7m skills bootcamps including Construction & Green Skills funding went live on 12 April 2023 via the GMCA / Chest portal. Engagement events and key Manchester providers are sighted via Work and Skills Channels and Networks. Further details can be found on the GMCA website .

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Manchester City Council Report for Information

Report to: Environment, Climate Change and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Committee – 20 July 2023

Subject: Local Area Energy Plan – Progress Update

Report of: Strategic Director (Development)

Summary

GMCA is the first city region in the country to compile and complete Local Area Energy Plans (LAEP) from street to network level. LAEPs have been produced at both the regional level and also for each of the 10 districts. The GM and Manchester LAEP were adopted in September 2022. This report provides Members with an overview of the Manchester LAEP and how this will be used to meet our target to be a zero carbon city by 2038.

Recommendations

The Environment, Climate Change and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Committee is recommended to consider and comment on the information in the report.

Wards Affected: All

Environmental Impact Assessment - the impact of the issues addressed in this report on achieving the zero-carbon target for the city

LAEP aims to accelerate the deployment of low carbon measures in the city. The issues set out in this report, and the development of workstreams to address them are key to driving a reduction in emissions and becoming a zero carbon city.

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion - the impact of the issues addressed in this report in meeting our Public Sector Equality Duty and broader equality commitments

The issues regarding retrofit and decarbonisation of energy as set out in this report, could lead to multiple benefits, including but not limited to:

- lower energy bills and greater energy efficiency, and therefore reduced fuel poverty
- improved health and wellbeing due to better thermal comfort during very cold and very hot periods of the year and better indoor air quality

Manchester Strategy outcomes	Summary of how this report aligns to the OMS/Contribution to the Strategy
A thriving and sustainable city: supporting a diverse and distinctive economy that creates jobs and opportunities	The delivery of the retrofit and decarbonisation of energy ambitions as set out in the LAEP will provide long term employment opportunities to Manchester businesses and residents
A highly skilled city: world class and home grown talent sustaining the city's economic success	Demand for highly skilled retrofit labour will provide opportunities for training and upskilling both new and existing operators
A progressive and equitable city: making a positive contribution by unlocking the potential of our communities	The delivery of the retrofit and decarbonisation of energy ambitions to the city's housing stock will ensure healthier, more comfortable homes for Manchester residents and result in improved health and wellbeing for the city's residents
A liveable and low carbon city: a destination of choice to live, visit, work	The delivery of the retrofit and decarbonisation of energy ambitions will address the transition of Manchester's existing housing stock to zero carbon, and ensure the available housing meets the needs of the city's residents and visitors
A connected city: world class infrastructure and connectivity to drive growth	Investing in the provision of more opportunities to charge electric vehicles (EVs) will contribute to creating a greener and more attractive city utilising modern technologies.

Full details are in the body of the report, along with any implications for:

- Equal Opportunities Policy
- Risk Management
- Legal Considerations

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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.

Greater Manchester Local Area Energy Planning: Overview and Insight
Local Area Energy Plan – Manchester
Manchester Climate Change Framework 2020-25
Manchester Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Greater Manchester (GM) has a target to be a zero carbon city region by 2038, twelve years ahead of UK Government's 2050 target. In 2020, the Manchester Climate Change Partnership developed a high-level strategy for the city to focus action that would help deliver on its climate change ambitions. The Manchester Climate Change Framework 2020-2025¹ has been recently updated and was the subject of a report to the September 2022 meeting of this Scrutiny Committee.
- 1.2 The Framework used a science-based targets approach to set a zero carbon date of 2038 and a carbon budget of 15m tCO₂ for the period 2018-2100 for the city.
- 1.3 The Climate Change Framework 2020-25 sets out that buildings are responsible for 68% of the city's direct emissions and ground transport for 32%. The framework sets out the scale of action needed to reduce direct emissions from buildings and transport by 50%, and the scale of increase in renewable energy generation needed to support this.
- 1.4 The GM Local Area Energy Plan (LAEP), adopted in September 2022, sets out the current position and an energy roadmap towards that decarbonised future and describes a range of near-term, low regret, priority zones and opportunity areas for different technologies to address challenges presented by current energy type and usage. The term 'low regret' is used to describe measures that have a high confidence of succeeding based on current information and available technology.
- 1.5 The Manchester LAEP provides an important tool for identifying and prioritising action to take on the areas identified in the Framework to help the city remain within its carbon budget. This divides the city into 8 priority areas of approximately equal population. The Manchester LAEP can be downloaded using the following link:

<https://gmgreencity.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/Manchester-LAEP-Final.pdf>

2.0 Background

- 2.1 In 2018, the Government invested in a new Prospering from the Energy Revolution Challenge fund via UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) to develop future smart energy systems and prove their use at scale.
- 2.2 The energy revolution challenge brought together businesses, research, and public sector to develop and demonstrate new approaches to provide cleaner, cheaper, and more resilient energy. This included providing energy in ways that consumers want, by linking low-carbon power, heating and transport

¹ [Manchester Climate Change Framework 2020-25 | Manchester Climate Change](#)

systems with energy storage and advanced IT to create intelligent, local energy systems and services.

- 2.3 The Government invested in fast-tracking three practical local energy systems demonstrators and a number of whole system design studies. The design studies' objective was to create a pipeline of investable projects for the future. The energy whole system approach looks at developing a portfolio of options for clean energy in all its various uses (electricity, heating and transport), and by fitting them together in the best combinations to deliver value for business and consumers.²
- 2.4 The £5.9m GM proposal was one of the successful design studies, which included the production of the Local Area Energy Plans (LAEPS). GMCA worked with Energy Systems Catapult (ESC) to develop LAEPs for each of the 10 districts and a GM LAEP summarising the overall position.
- 2.5 The LAEP considers two future energy scenarios for Manchester and identifies a number of activities and technologies that can help meet the city's zero carbon target:
- the primary scenario which makes use of proven measures; and
 - the secondary, alternative future local energy scenario, which assumes the potential for hydrogen heating and energy becoming readily available
- 2.6 As well as setting out the scale of work required and identifying priority areas, both the GM LAEP and Manchester LAEP set out the estimated total costs of the measures with a modelled investment required of c£65bn GM wide, with the proportion within Manchester being c£13bn. It is noted that around 70% of this expenditure would be classed as business as usual and would be spent anyway on new equipment and upgrades. The majority of the costs relate to private sector properties, both residential and non-domestic, where the council has limited direct control.
- 2.7 The National Infrastructure Assessment is produced every five years by the National Infrastructure Commission. The second one is due to be published in the autumn of 2023. Each Assessment analyses the UK's long term economic infrastructure needs, outlining a strategic vision over the next thirty years and setting out recommendations for how identified needs should be met.
- 2.8 In relation to net zero and energy, recommendations are likely to focus on achievable and affordable actions to speed up the transition to low carbon heat and to find ways to motivate consumers to make the necessary changes. To do this the Commission has considered how the electricity network could facilitate higher demand, what role hydrogen may take in providing heat and electricity, and the role of carbon capture and storage networks. It is likely that if transition is to happen at scale then government support to consumers will be required, such as the Boiler Upgrade Scheme. Once published the work of the Assessment will help in developing future LAEP actions and directions.

² [A whole energy systems approach can help deliver the Clean... | The ETI](#)

3.0 Opportunities and Challenges

- 3.1 The LAEP aims to define the extent of the transformation needed (including a focus on identifying first steps to progress action), and to provide a robust evidence base and plan to help engage businesses and residents in accelerating towards the carbon neutral goal and Manchester's net zero ambition. The LAEP sets out a number of focus areas and these are described below:
- 3.2 **Fabric Retrofit** – Improving insulation and heating efficiency will ensure that buildings will lose less energy and reduce energy demand. Around a third of homes (around 100,000) across the city will need some level of fabric retrofit, and the case for this is likely to have increased with recent energy price rises. Fabric retrofit and solar PV are low regret measures (seen as having a high confidence of succeeding based on current information and available technology) to progress in the short term.
- 3.3 MCC has already started to undertake retrofit works to both its domestic and non-domestic building stock as funding becomes available. A number of schemes have been utilised to ensure that energy efficiency improvements are being made to the city's housing stock including:
- Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund
 - Your Home Better Scheme
 - Home Energy Loan Plan
 - Home Upgrade Plan
- 3.4 **Heating systems and networks** – To move towards decarbonised heating systems three heating options are explored for buildings: electric heating (primarily heat pumps), hydrogen to replace natural gas, and district heat networks. For hydrogen to play a significant heat decarbonisation role, certainty would be required that hydrogen will be available to supply Manchester in a timeframe that supports the delivery of the GM carbon budget. Alternatively, it is estimated that heat pumps could potentially serve most dwellings (over 180,000) and 95% of non-domestic buildings. In those areas where there is a higher density of buildings district heat networks could supply a large share of buildings, potentially serving 32,000 homes.
- 3.5 A net result of transitioning to low carbon will be an increase in electricity demand across all the city and all scenarios by 2038. Understanding this impact in a whole systems approach is critical to how we model our transition. Also, as much of the existing gas network could be suitable for repurposing to hydrogen, understanding and identifying where the initial priority areas for hydrogen are likely to be within the region is also key along with an understanding of deployment timescales.
- 3.6 District Heat Networks have the potential to supply a significant proportion of buildings in and can be considered low regret. There may also be opportunities to consider expanding and even joining up heat networks across

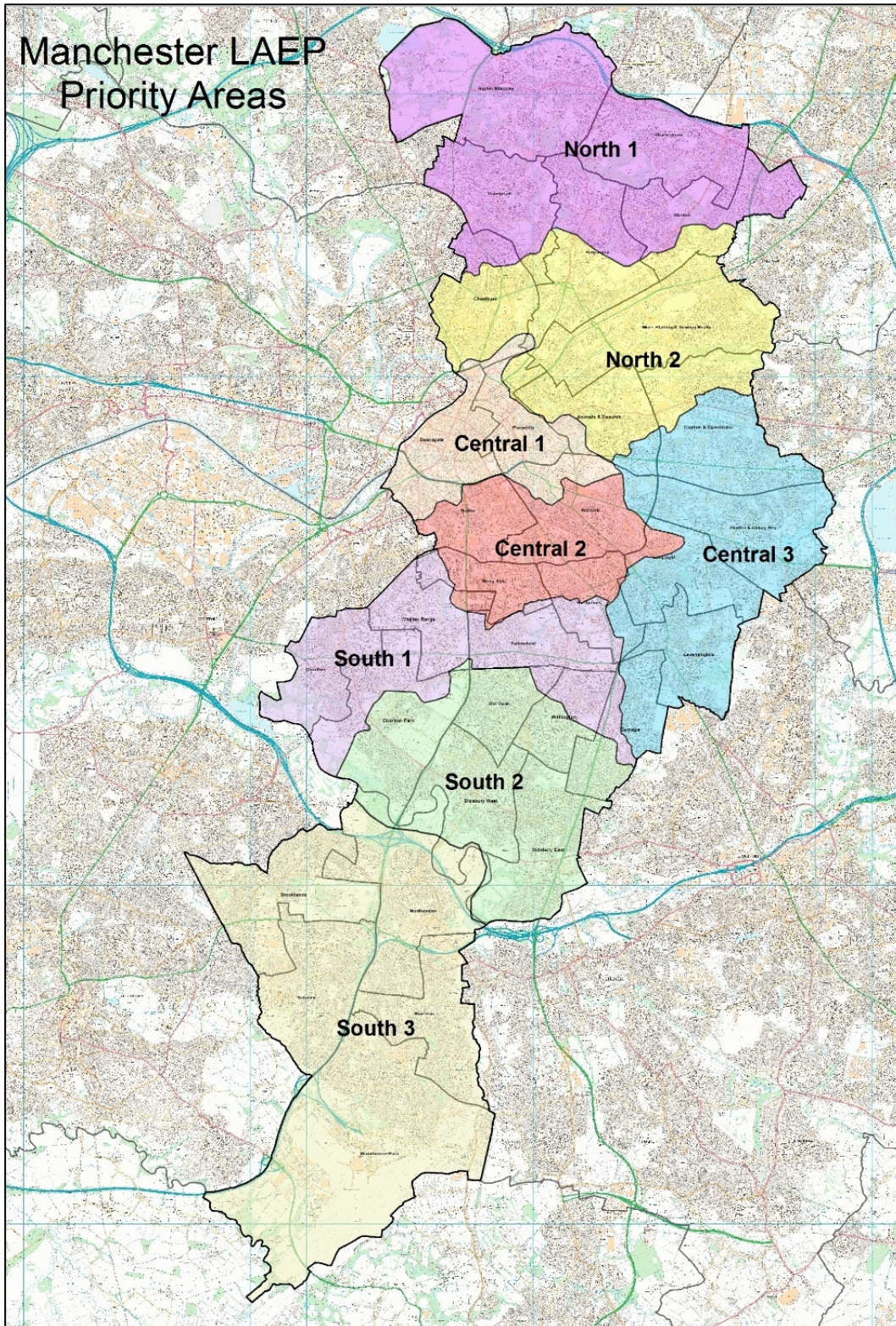
district boundaries. A number of the council's buildings within the city centre are currently connected to the Civic Quarter Heat Network and although this is currently gas-powered alternative fuel sources, such as hydrogen, are being considered.

- 3.7 **Local Energy Generation and Storage** - There is significant potential for local renewable energy generation within the city mainly through the deployment of rooftop solar photo voltaic (PV) panels. There is a potential capacity to generate approximately 680MW_p domestic and 523MW_p non-domestic through this means by 2038, potentially yielding 901GWh of energy annually. It is more beneficial to deploy generation as early as possible, while the national electricity mix is more carbon intensive. Deploying such high quantities of generation will, however, be very challenging and may present challenges to the electricity network as well as requiring considerable coordination. To reduce emissions in line with the GM carbon budget, in Manchester local energy generation could increase significantly, consisting predominantly of the installation of solar PV on much of the available roof space but the installation of micro-turbines should also be considered.
- 3.8 **Transport and EV charging** - The transition to electric vehicles (EVs) will require significant supporting infrastructure and a separate Manchester EV Charging Strategy was adopted in December 2022. It is recognised that all areas of the region will require an extensive shift away from liquid fuels to electric vehicles for personal cars by 2038. Across the city all homes with off-street parking are expected to have EV charging facilities installed by 2038 (around 72,000), with publicly available charging hubs offering a potential solution for charging for those homes that have no off-street parking. Uptake of electric vehicles in Manchester is forecast to increase from c2,000 EVs today to over 150,000 by 2038 and this will continue to drive a demand for EV chargers to be installed across all areas, along with multiple public charging stations (or hubs). By the end of December 2022 this amounted to 1,848 EVs in Manchester.
- 3.9 Of the MCC council vehicle fleet 23% are currently EVs and as vehicles come to the end of their lease periods, further EVs are sought to replace them. Currently 27 of the Biffa fleet of refuse lorries are electric and there are plans to transition the remainder of the refuse fleet to electric in the next 12-18 months. The council currently operate a fleet of 12E-cargobikes and 3 trailers predominantly used by Parks and Bereavement Services.
- 3.10 As part of the Clean Air Guidance Note, Best Practice Recommendations are considered in the assessment of planning applications and conditions for the installation of EV points are applied to planning approvals in relevant circumstances.

Priority Areas

- 3.11 The LAEP divides the city into 8 Priority Areas (based on 33-11kV substation boundaries) for the purposes of modelling and to understand what is needed for decarbonisation at a more local level. These areas are shown on Map 1

below. These areas and first steps/opportunities were defined in the LAEP produced by GMCA and ESC.



The table below indicates potential activities in each of the Priority Areas in terms of 'First Steps' and 'Long Term Deployment Areas'.

Table 1: Priority Area Actions

Priority Area	First Steps	Long term deployment
North 1	Retrofit priority area Solar PV priority area	Heat pump prevalent area Hydrogen for heat opportunity area
North 2		Hydrogen for heat opportunity area District heat prevalent zone Non-domestic opportunity area
Central 1	District heat priority area EV charging hub priority area Solar PV priority area Non-domestic priority area	Hydrogen for heat opportunity area
Central 2	Heat pump priority area	Hydrogen for heat opportunity area
Central 3	Retrofit priority area	Heat pump prevalent area Hydrogen for heat opportunity area Non-domestic opportunity area
South 1	Heat pump priority area	Hydrogen for heat opportunity area
South 2		Heat pump prevalent area Hydrogen for heat opportunity area Flexibility & storage opportunity area
South 3	Home EV charging priority area Heat pump priority area	Hydrogen for heat opportunity area

Challenges

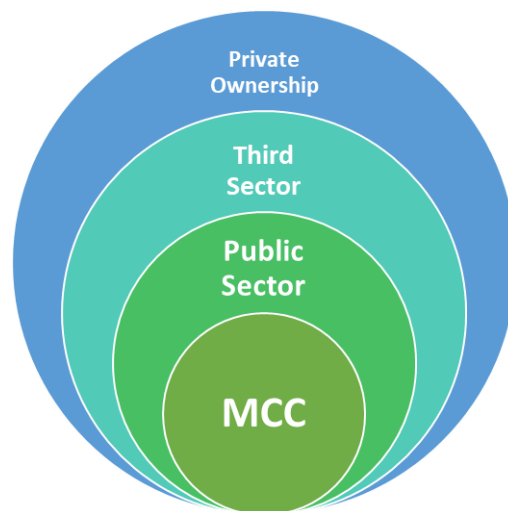
3.12 A number of barriers have been identified which will need to be overcome if the LAEP is to be delivered and its benefits realised. These include:

- Clearly set out roles and responsibilities
- Finance sources and length of pay back periods
- Levels of stakeholder and co-operation required as an ad hoc approach may not provide all the opportunities
- Speed of deployment of proposed interventions
- Skill shortages in the 'green skills' sector
- Supply chain issues in providing the necessary equipment
- Grid capacity and the need for improved and new infrastructure

4.0 MCC Sphere of Influence

- 4.1 The council's main role in taking the LAEP forward is that of facilitator and enabler rather than as a main delivery agent. Although the council has control over its own estate and through its own powers it will need to work with other stakeholders (such as Electricity North West (ENWL), Cadent, GMCA, etc) to ensure that the LAEP is delivered. Figure 1 below indicates that the council has decreasing influence the further we move from the centre of its own activities and powers.

Figure 1. Sphere of influence



- 4.2 The main areas of MCC influence is in the areas of building retrofit to the MCC estate (both domestic and non-domestic), the transition of the council's vehicle fleet to EVs, expansion of the public EV charging network on council owned land, planning policy in terms of requirements for new developments (energy efficiency and EV provision) and in the development of Strategic Regeneration Frameworks and working in a co-ordinated way with ENWL to ensure that the necessary grid upgrades occur in a timely manner.

5.0 Progress to date

- 5.1 Two posts have been created (Principal Policy Officer and Policy Officer) to lead on the progress of the LAEP. Recruitment has taken place and these posts have been filled as of March 2023.
- 5.2 Initial work has involved the following:
- contacts have been made in relevant departments across the council to understand the work already being undertaken in these areas where the council has direct control
 - contacts have been made with relevant external organisations, e.g the GMCA, Climate Change Agency, ENWL

- ENWL have set up regular meetings to discuss future work programmes to assist in identifying potential grid improvement works and staff are acting as liaison for this
- identifying and collecting information in order to establish a baseline data source to monitor progress of the LAEP (further information can be found in Appendix 1)
- the formulation of an Action Plan which can be further developed going forward (Appendix 2)
- following the adoption of the EV Charging Strategy work is progressing towards the procurement of an EV charge point operator to extend the city's public charging network within council owned car parks.
- commencement of a review of Local Plan policies in relation to the requirement for new build developments

Electric Vehicle Charging

- 5.3 Following the adoption of the Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Strategy in December last year progress is being made towards procuring a charge point operator (CPO) to install, manage, and operate public chargepoints in off-street locations at council owned car parks and facilities. The initial phase of this procurement is expected to provide in the region of 150-200 chargers with installation expected to take place over a 24 month period commencing early next year however the details of the tender specification and any subsequent rollout programme are still to be finalised. A soft market testing exercise has recently taken place and was completed at the end of May. Over 20 responses were received from CPOs and the analysis of these will be used to finalise the tender documents.
- 5.4 Additional funding is available to the council to assist in the expansion of the public charging network. Funding that had been put aside by Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM) for this purpose from the City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement (CRSTS) has now been released by GMCA to the districts as the delivery mechanism of programmes going forward has now changed. For MCC this allocation amounts to £1,108,160 towards capital investment. Funds will be released to the council in line with the agreed CRSTS drawdown process where it can be shown that it helps deliver charging in underserved or otherwise uncommercial areas as part of a commercial deal with a CPO partner.
- 5.5 The Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) grant is a government funding stream coordinated by the Officer of Zero Emission Vehicles and is split into two elements, capability and capital funding. In April 2023, GM were advised on its allocation for 23/24 and 24/25. Funding has been made available across both funding streams, Capability (resource) and Capital for the region.
- £1.44m for Capability (primarily for recruitment, internal transfer or additional time spent by existing staff, but there would be consideration of a limited amount of consultancy)
 - £16.2m for Capital (primarily for residents without off-street parking, but consideration areas such as park and ride).

- 5.6 The MCC allocation from the Capability fund amounts to £54,600 over the two financial years and will part fund the Policy Officer LAEP post in relation to the resource spent on EV related work. OZEV state that the LEVI Capital fund will be administered “using a flexible approach. Projects must demonstrate that they primarily focus on low powered chargepoints to benefit residents without off-street parking. But other chargepoints and users will be considered.” The final allocations are yet to be agreed but the indicative LEVI Capital allocation for MCC is £2,245,216.

6.0 Next Steps

- 6.1 In the next few months officers within the Infrastructure and Environment Team will take forward work in relation to the procurement of a charge point operator and a further report in relation to EV charging will be considered at the September meeting of the Environment, Climate Change and Neighborhoods Scrutiny Committee.
- 6.2 Officers will also provide assistance with the update to the energy policies contained within the Draft Local Plan which is due to be published for consultation later this year.
- 6.3 Subject to funding, an Infrastructure Delivery Plan will be commissioned to focus the delivery actions to be taken.

7.0 Recommendations

- 7.1 The Environment, Climate Change and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Committee is recommended to consider and comment on the information in the report.

8.0 Appendices

- 8.1 Appendix 1 – LEAP Monitoring Report
- 8.2 Appendix 2 – LEAP Action Plan

Local Area Energy Plan: Monitoring Report (2023)



Background

Manchester Climate Change Framework states that 68% of direct CO2 emissions arise from buildings and 32% from ground transport. The Local Area Energy Plan (LAEP) aims to support Manchester City Council to transition to an affordable and decarbonised energy system and to support the delivery of its commitment to carbon neutrality by 2038. LAEPs can help provide a roadmap for changes in green, clean energy infrastructure to meet 2038 carbon neutral targets and it does this in 4 main ways, through:

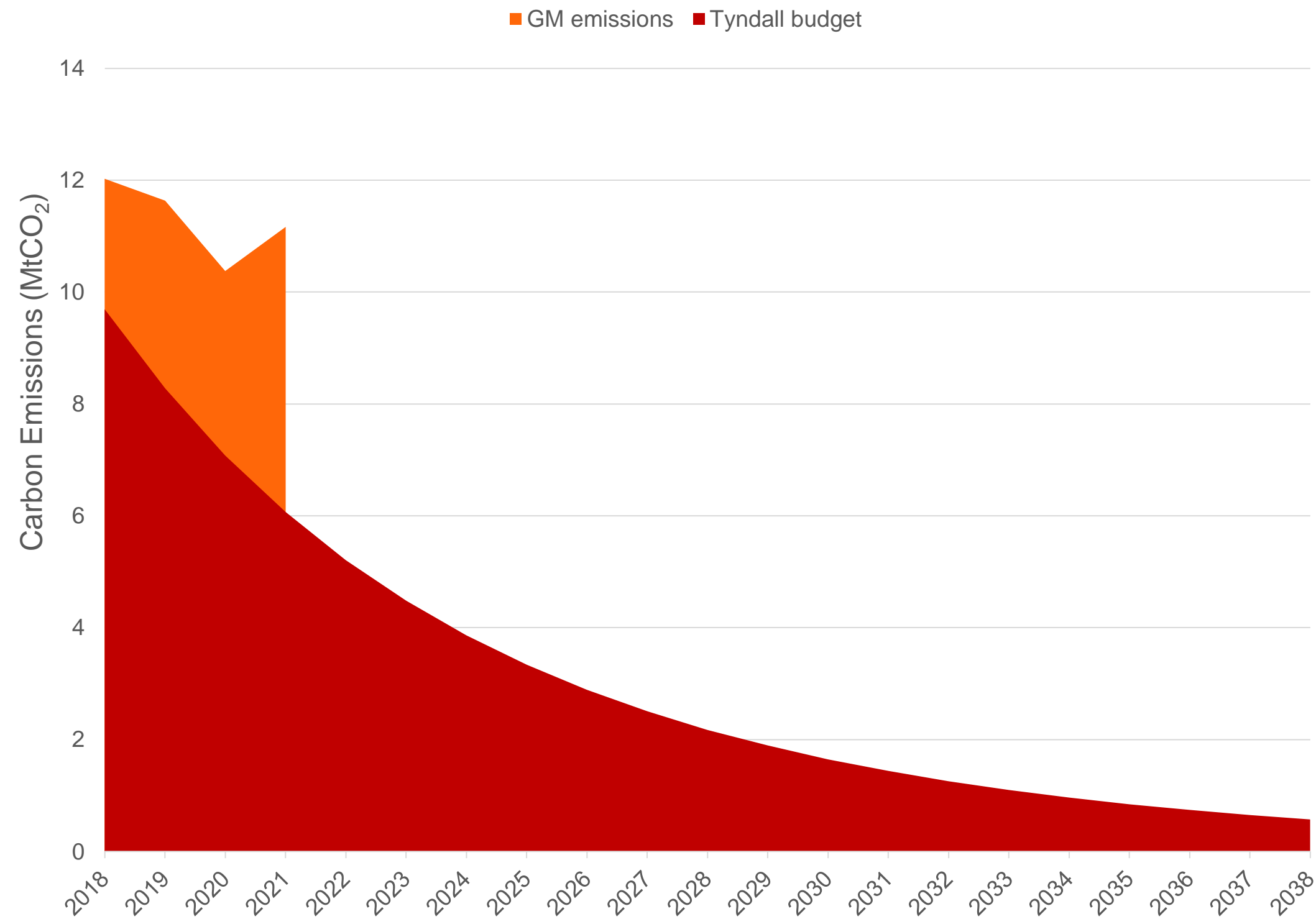
- Building fabric retrofit
- Heat De-carbonisation
- Local energy generation and storage
- Transport

This transition will involve the greatest infrastructure change across Manchester and key chapters of the LAEP illustrate the scale of change and investment needed. The LAEP, adopted in September 2022, sets out the current position and an energy roadmap towards that decarbonised future. It describes a range of near-term, low regret, priority zones and opportunity areas for different technologies to address challenges presented by current energy type and usage. The term 'low regret' is used to describes measures that have a high confidence of succeeding based on current information and available technology. The LAEP identifies two separate scenarios going forward, the primary scenario utilises existing technology (such as heat pumps, increased insulation, PV solar panels, etc) whilst the secondary one takes into account a greater use of hydrogen for domestic energy usage, should this become available.

This monitoring report provides an indication of the progress being made towards the 2038 net zero targets in the areas outlined in the Manchester LAEP. The report will predominantly focus on the activities of Manchester City Council as it has the most control and responsibility over the its own estate and fleet practices. Where wider data and information is available this has also been included.

Emissions

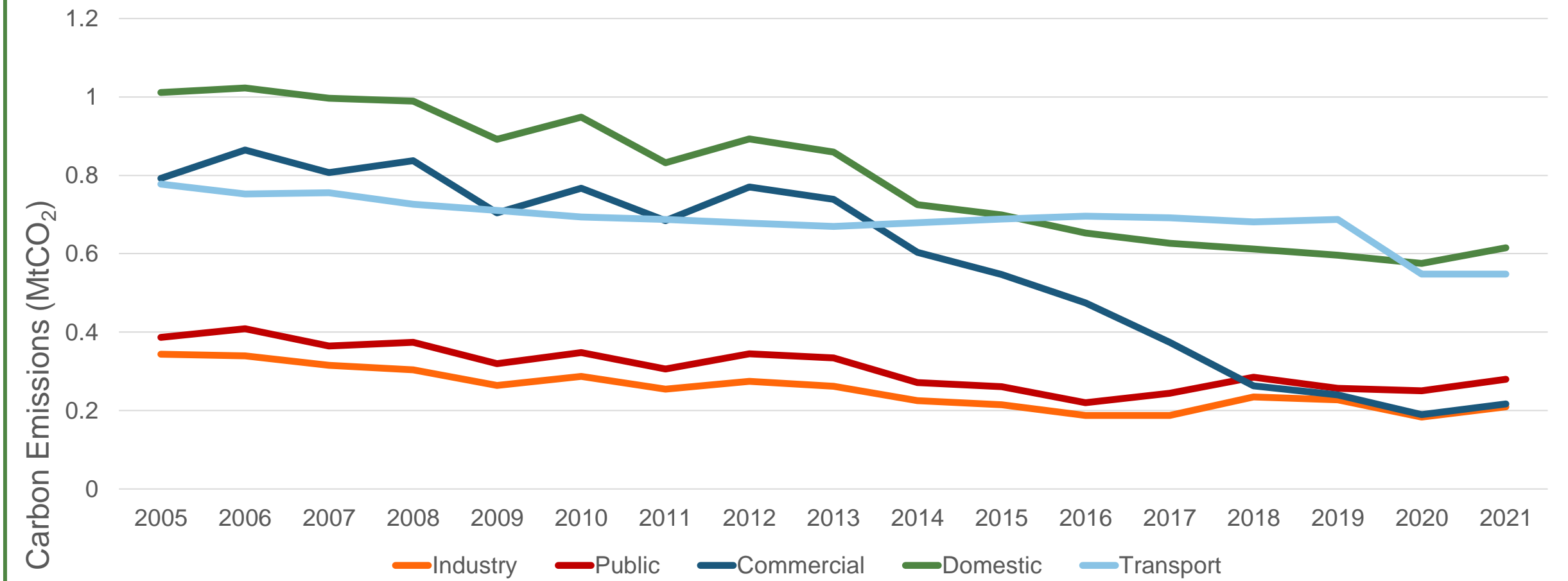
GM Progression Against 2038 Carbon Budget



This graph displays Greater Manchester's 2018-2020 share of BEIS' local authority territorial carbon dioxide emissions data, compared against the Manchester Tyndall Centre's carbon budget for Greater Manchester. The red section shows the Tyndall agreed carbon budget between 2018 and 2038. The orange section shows how this differs from how much carbon dioxide Greater Manchester actually emitted from 2018 up until the most recently available data, 2021. This currently represents an overspend of 14.1 MtCO₂ in carbon emissions against the budget.

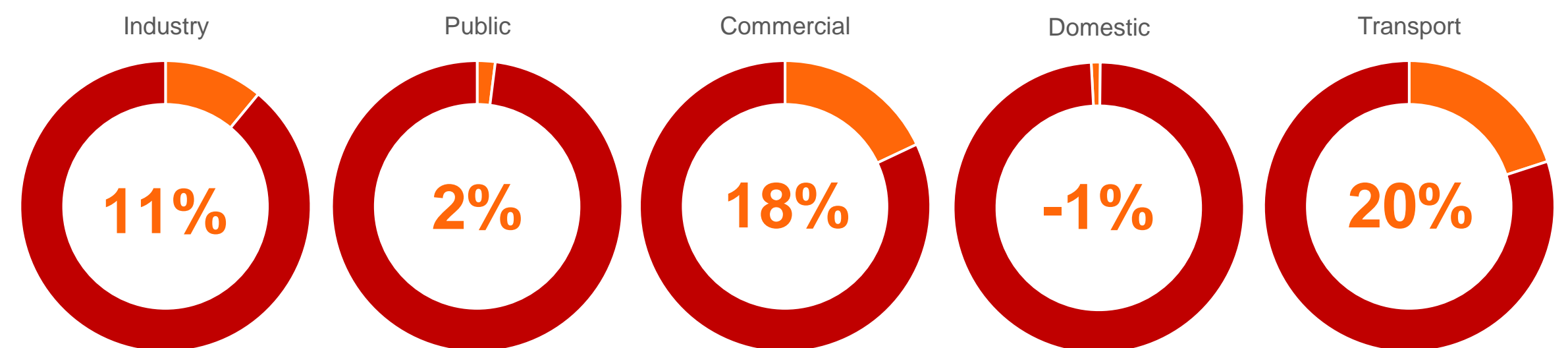
Source: [BEIS](#) and [Tyndall Centre](#)

Carbon Emissions by Sector



This graph displays Manchester's 2005-2021 share of BEIS' local authority territorial carbon dioxide emissions data, broken down by sector. It shows how fast or slow progress in reducing emissions has been within each sector. Each point on a line represents the total emissions for that year.

Below is the reduction of emissions by sector since the baseline year in 2018. Although the reductions below look small and emissions from the domestic sector appear to have increased, most sectors saw a more significant drop in emissions before 2018.

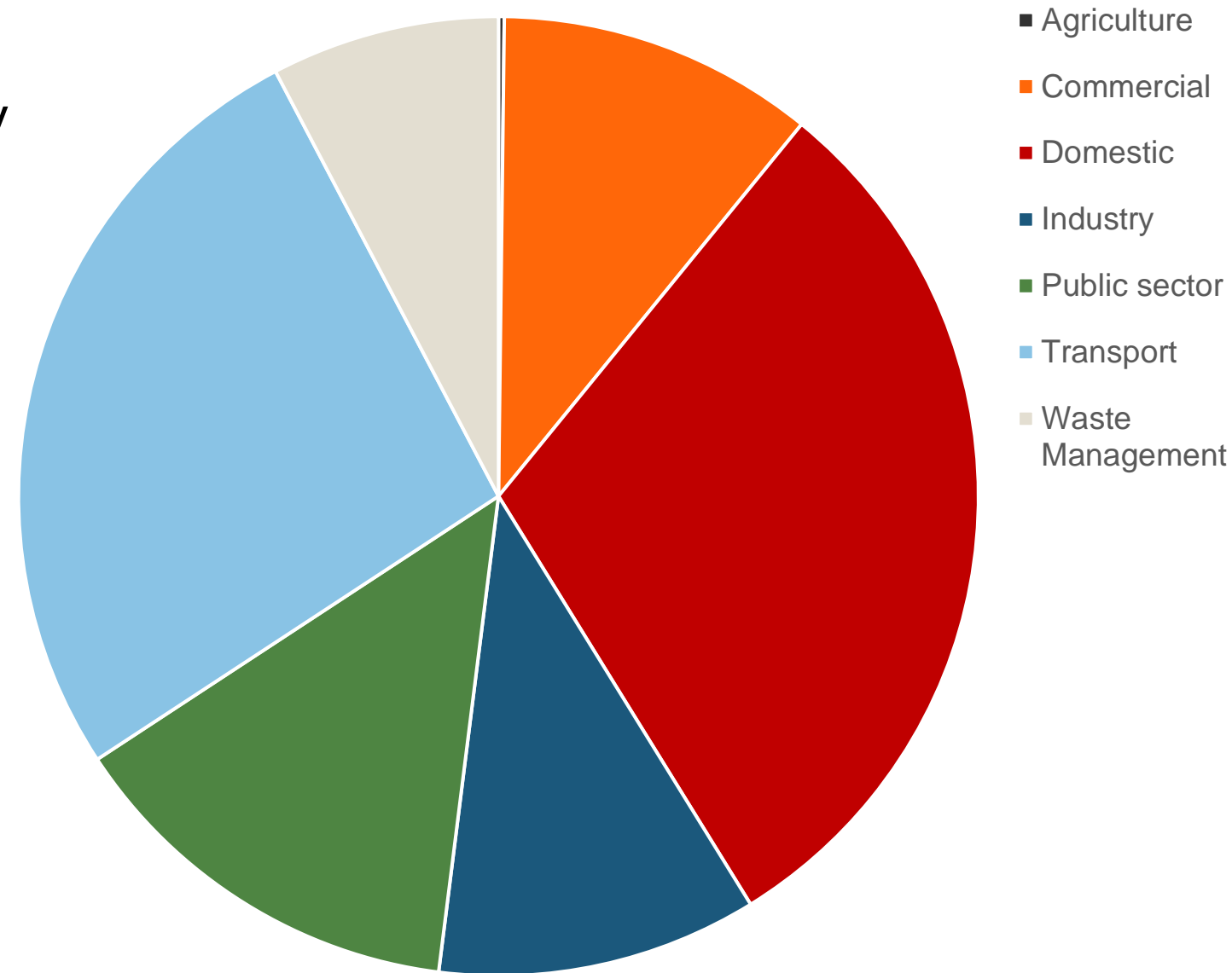


Emissions

These pie charts show Manchester's 2021 local authority greenhouse gas emissions data, broken down by sector and subsector. They demonstrate where our emissions currently come from and therefore where we need to make most progress in reducing emissions. The Domestic and Transport sectors are shown as those areas requiring to make the most progress.

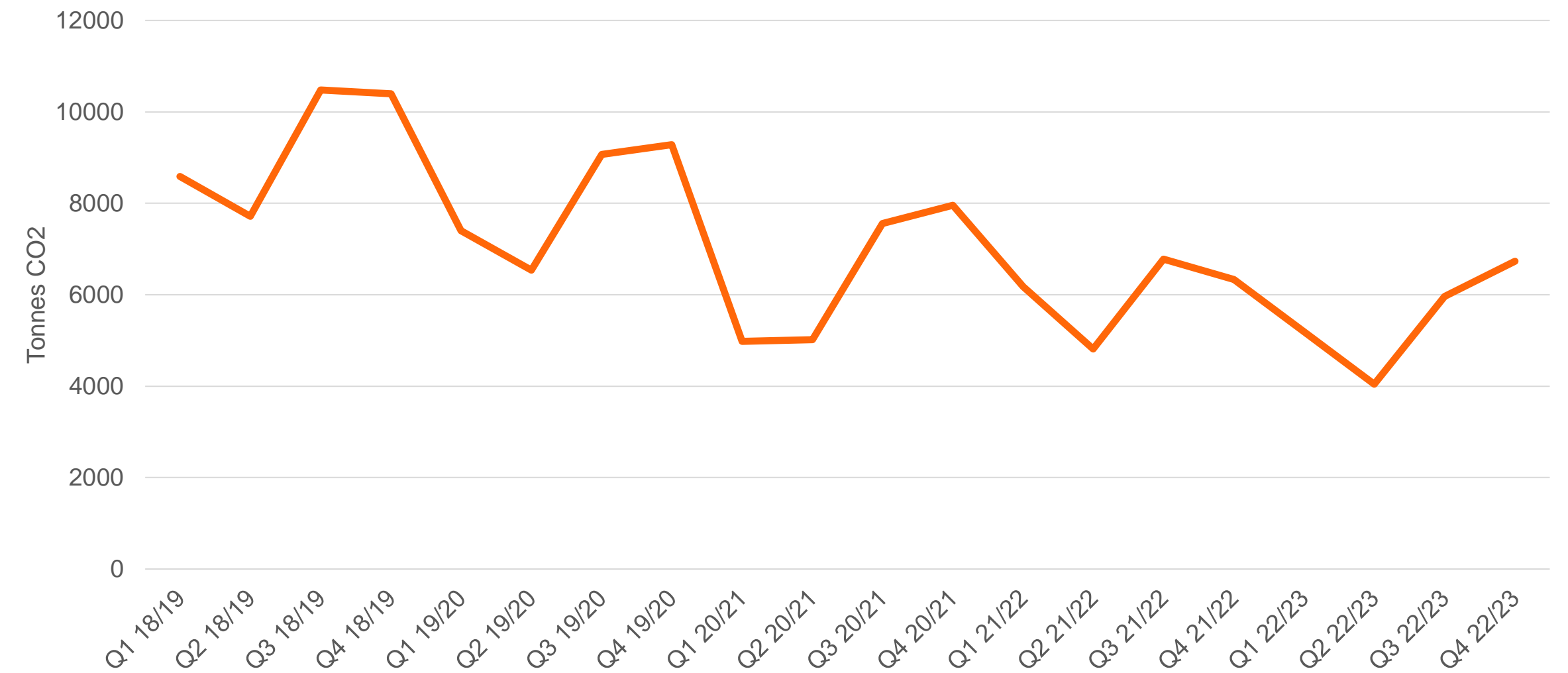
Emissions from aviation and land use, land-use change and forestry (LULUCF) are not available.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions by Sector

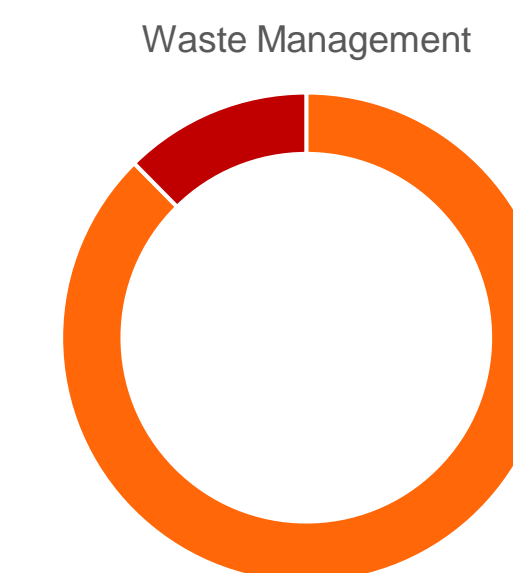
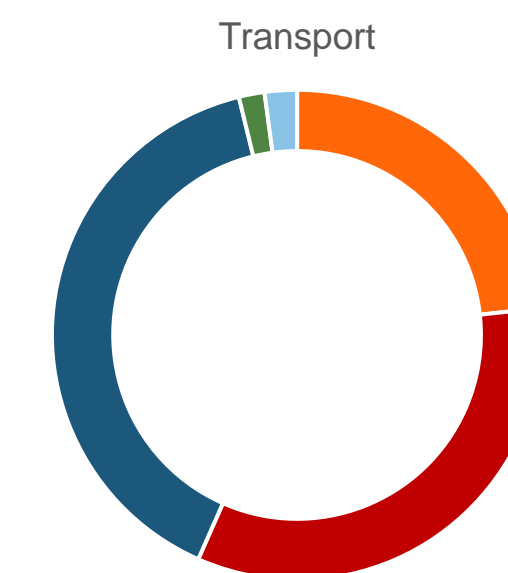
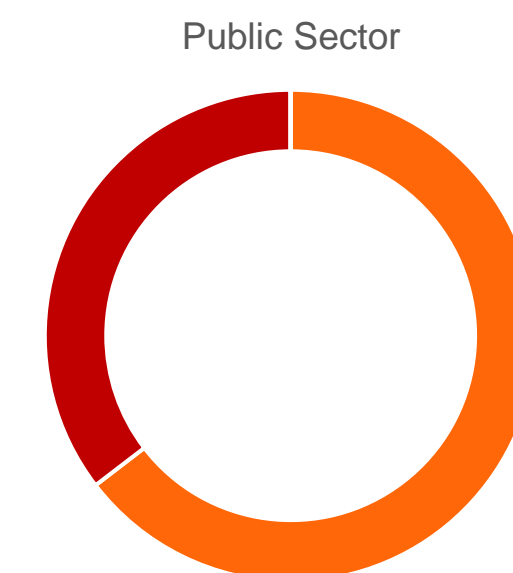
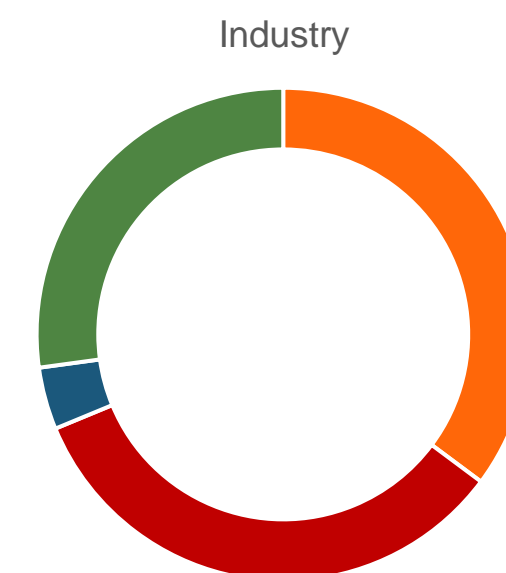
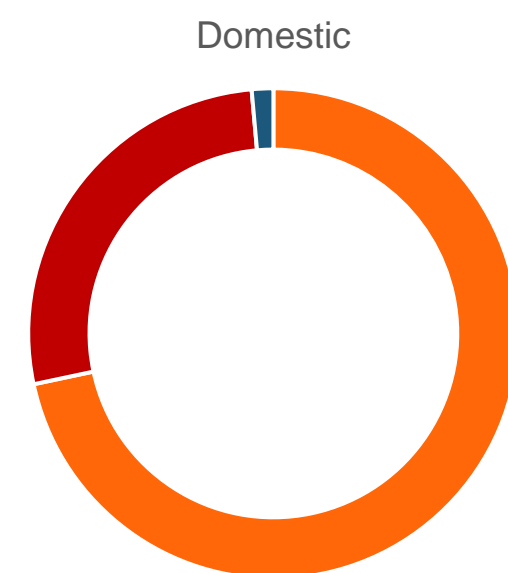
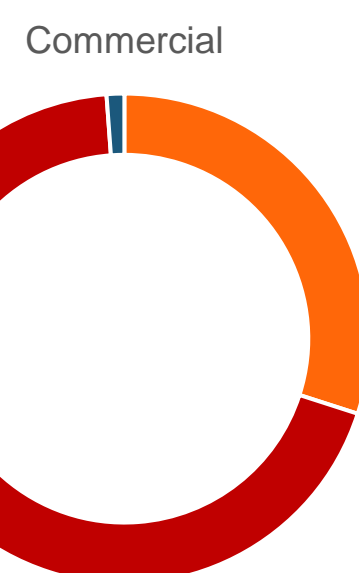
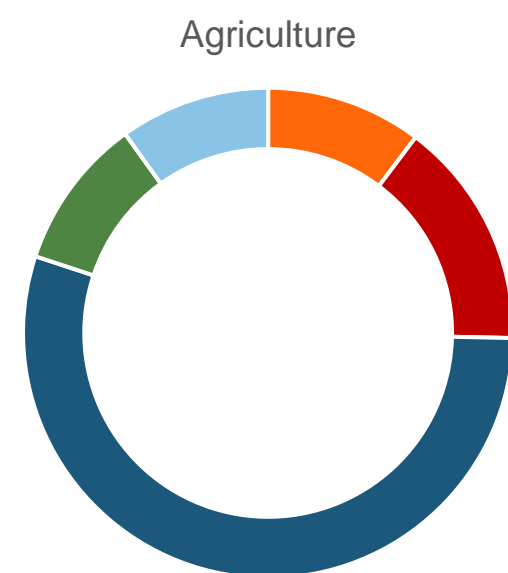


MCC's emissions have generally been falling. The graph shows clear peaks and troughs demonstrating seasonal change in emissions and lower levels during the covid-19 pandemic when buildings were closed or less used.

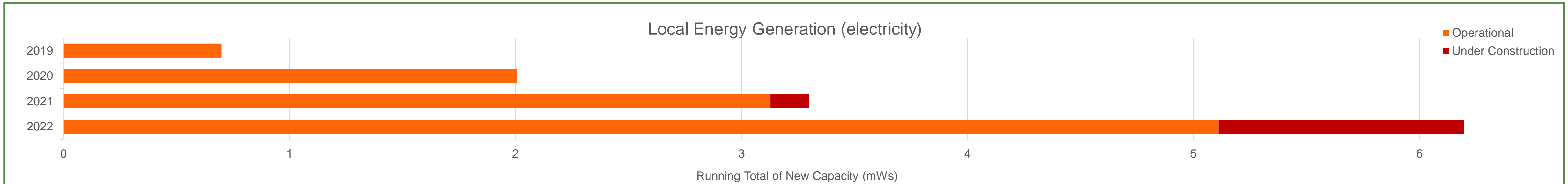
Total MCC Emissions



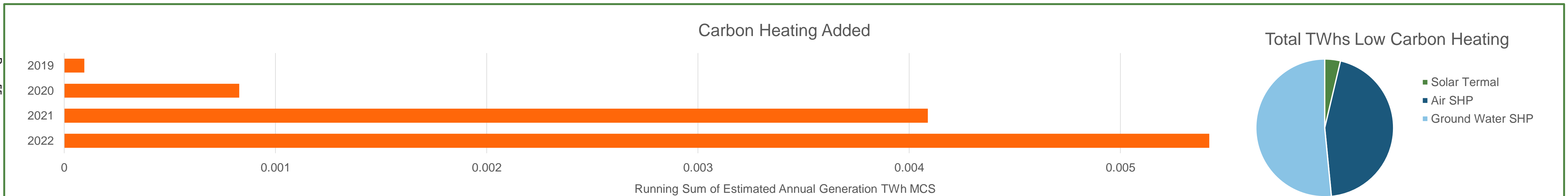
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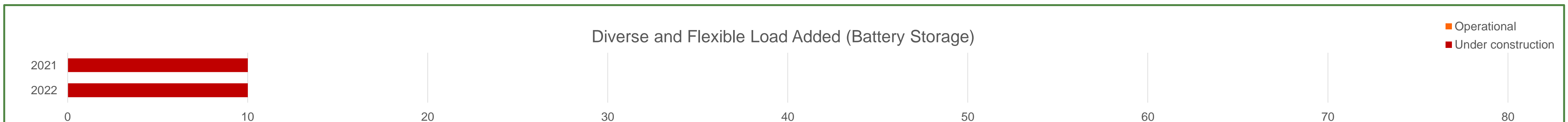
Energy



This graph shows a running total of renewable energy generation capacity added in Manchester each year since the start of 2019. It combines data from BEIS Renewable Energy Planning Database (projects over 150kW) with the MCS Installations Database (projects under 50kW). These two datasets do not capture new supply between 50-150kW, so GMCA have added in capacity within this range from public sector-led projects they are aware of. It is likely there is further new capacity GMCA have yet to report. Currently it shows only solar generation.



This graph shows a running total of low carbon heating added in Manchester each year since the start of 2019. It takes data from the MCS Installations Database (projects under 50kW). BEIS Heat Network Planning Database (HNPd) also offers some insight into low carbon heating, however the HNPd data is measured in a way which makes combining it with MCS data difficult. These figures are therefore likely to be underestimates.



This graph shows a running total of diverse and flexible load added in Manchester each year since the start of 2019. It takes data from BEIS Renewable Energy Planning Database (projects over 150KW) and supplements it with smaller public sector led projects. Currently this shows only battery storage but it will also include alternative storage projects such as liquid air energy if and when they are built.

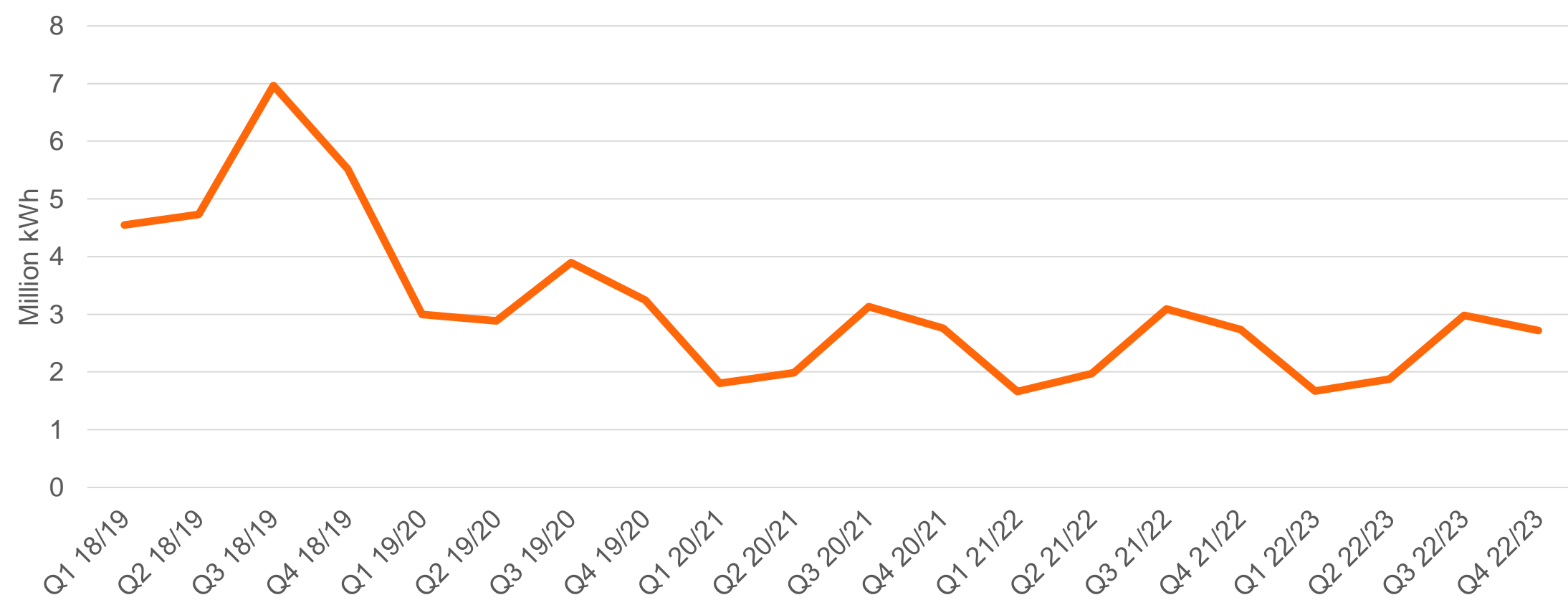
MCC Estate Retrofit

The Zero Carbon Estate Programme was established to take a strategic approach to retrofitting MCC buildings to meet our 2038 net zero carbon target. Works include measures such as LED lighting, lighting controls, solar photovoltaic panels, battery storage, ground and air source heat pumps, insulation and heat recovery.

During phase 1 and 2 of the project, 16 buildings within the MCC estate were retrofitted. In phase 3 of the project, the following MCC buildings will be retrofitted:

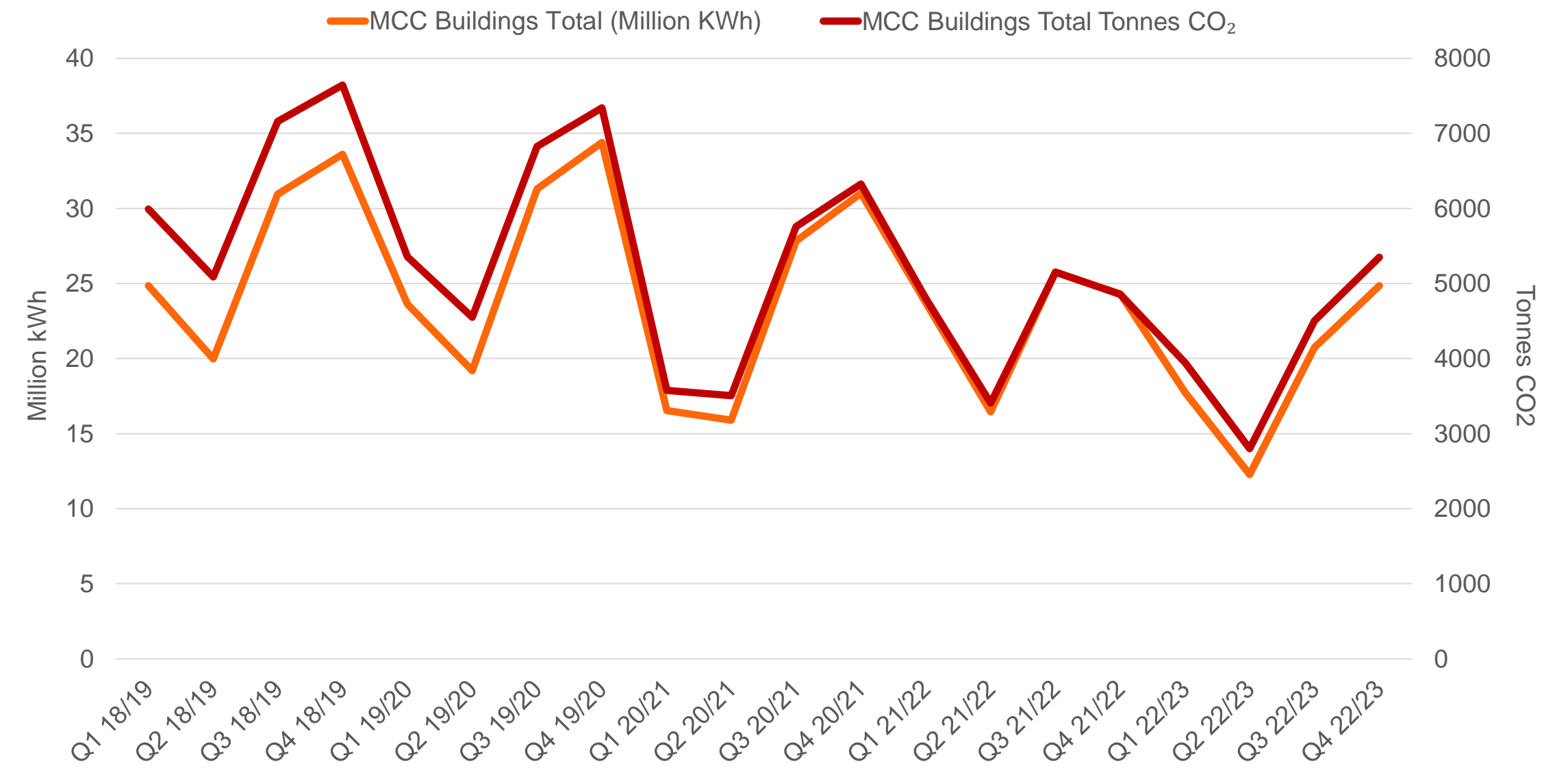
- Active Lifestyle
- Arbeta
- Didsbury Library
- Hall Lane Resource Centre
- Harpurhey District Social Office
- The Place at Platt Lane (Fallowfield Library)

Streetlights Total Emissions (Million kWh)



Emissions from MCC streetlights dropped significantly in 2019 when the rollout of LED lights was completed. Since then emissions have remained steady.

MCC Buildings Emissions



Emissions from MCC buildings is generally decreasing. The graph shows clear peaks and troughs demonstrating seasonal change in emissions and a dip during the covid-19 pandemic when buildings were closed or less used.

Large scale retrofit will require thousands of new operatives to be trained and upskilled to undertake retrofit work. To support retrofit skills in Manchester, the Council's Work and Skills team have embedded retrofit within the Liveable and Zero Carbon priorities in the refreshed Work and Skills Strategy. Institutions such as GC Skills Centre and Manchester College are delivering construction and retrofit skills training alongside smart tech, renewable energy and vehicle electrification through bootcamps and technical education etc. It is difficult to effectively capture progress in this area as green skills are often elements of wider courses and not separately quantified.

Housing Retrofit

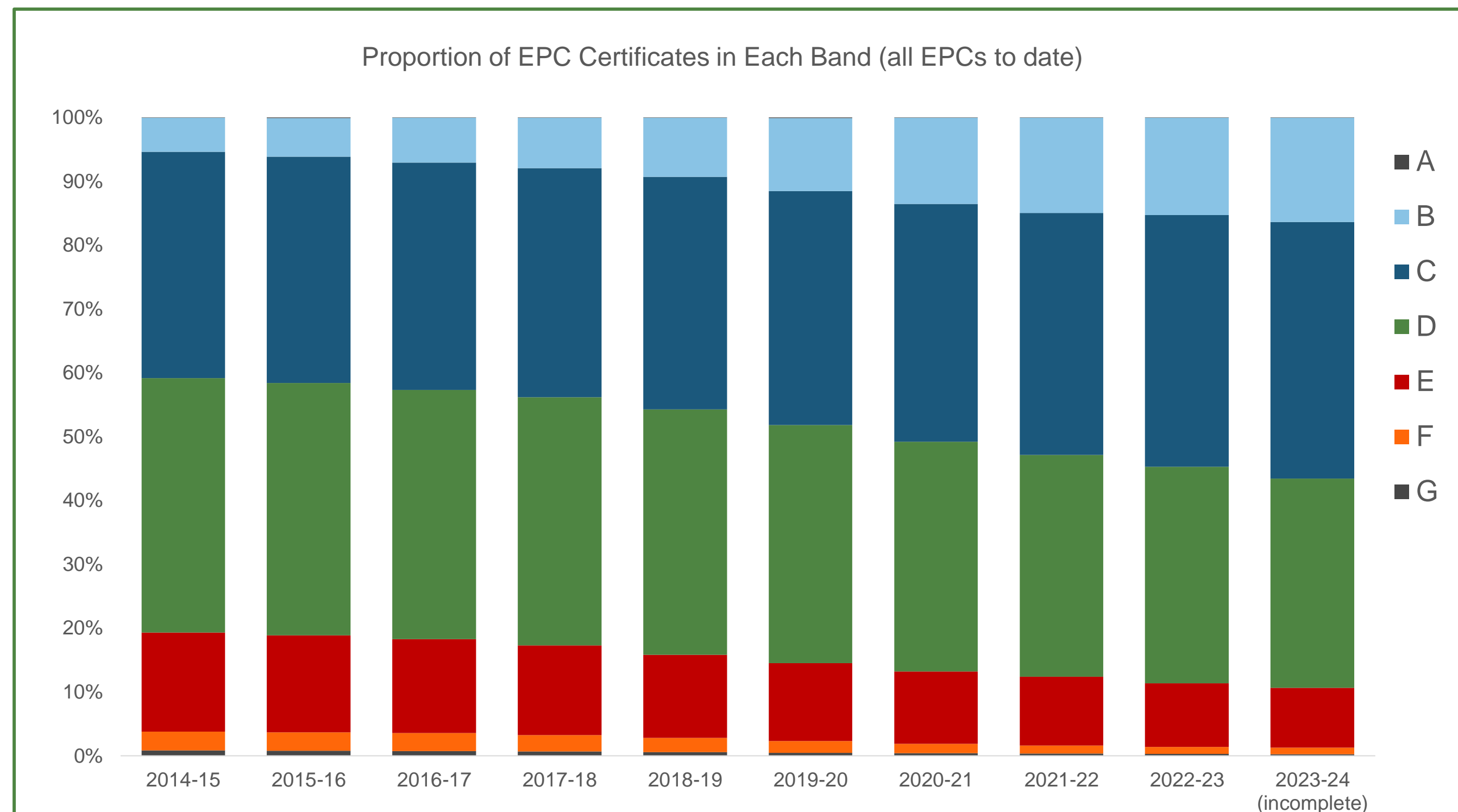
The Manchester LAEP says:

At least a third of Manchester's dwellings receive insulation retrofit in the LAEP: 101,500 in the primary scenario and 135,700 in the hydrogen focused secondary scenario. The greater number of retrofitted dwellings, which involves more extensive (or deep) measures, required in the hydrogen scenario is included to help meet the carbon budget. Fabric retrofit and solar PV are low regret measures to progress in the short term.

Three heating options are explored to decarbonise buildings: electric heating (primarily heat pumps), hydrogen to replace natural gas, and district heat networks. For hydrogen to play a significant heat decarbonisation role, certainty would be required that hydrogen will be available to supply Manchester in a timeframe that supports the delivery of the GM carbon budget. Alternatively, over 180,000 heat pumps are deployed, serving most dwellings, except in North 2 and Central 1 where district heat supplies a large share of buildings due to the higher density of buildings. The combined cost of fabric retrofit and heating system replacement is £3bn for homes, and 5.7bn for nondomestic buildings. It is recognised that delivery of any option presents comparable challenges and risks, resulting in the need to focus on the demonstration and scale-up approach advocated.

Ongoing and future new build housing in Manchester:

- 69 new low carbon Council properties are being developed at Silk Street, Newton Heath
- In February 2022, MCC launched its own housing development company known as "This City", with the focus being to deliver high-quality, low-carbon, affordable homes in Manchester



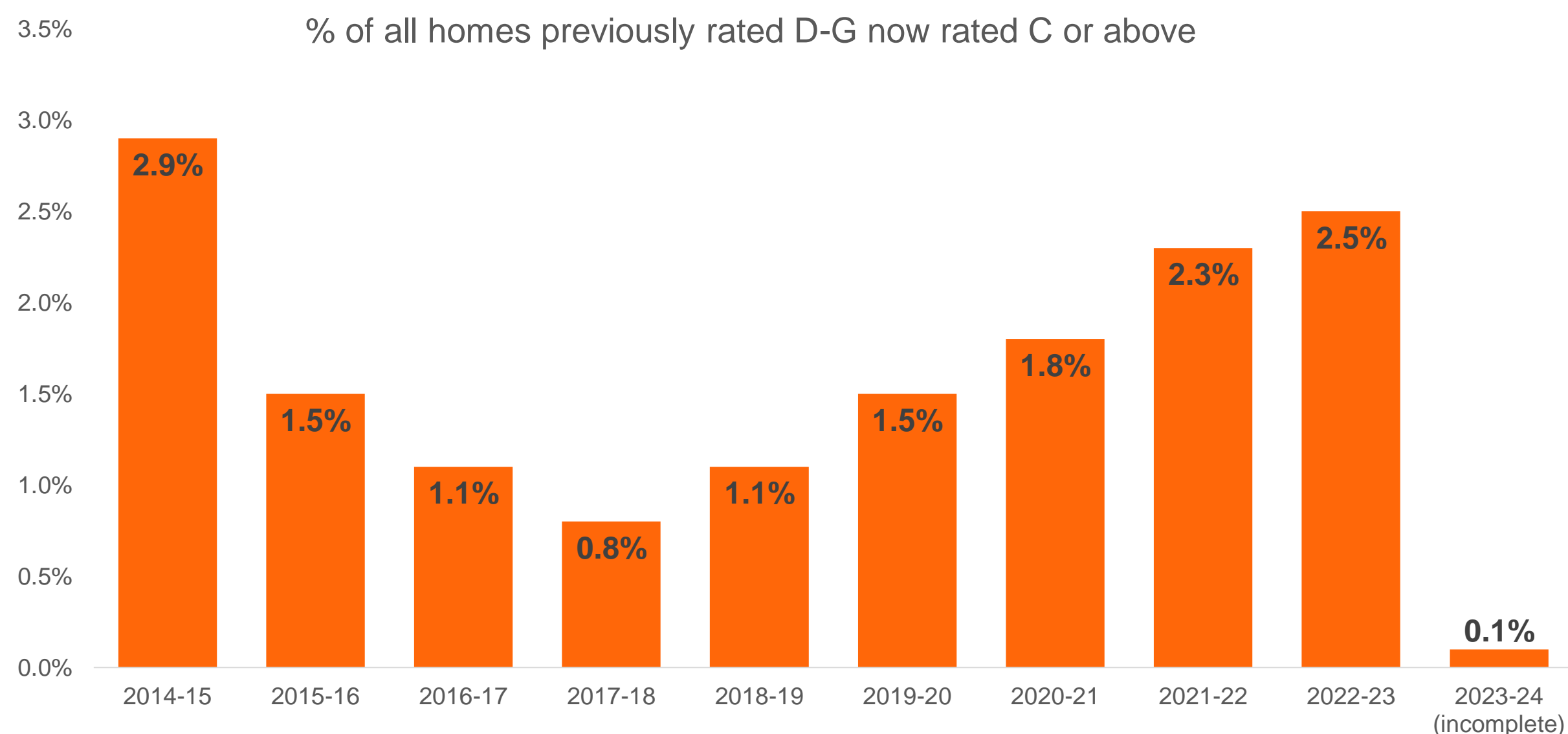
This chart shows how the spread of Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) ratings across Manchester has evolved each year. The figures are a running total, and suggest that Manchester's housing stock is generally improving in terms of overall efficiency. EPCs older than ten years (as of 31 March each year) are discounted. For the year 2022-23, 46.5% of homes in Manchester had an EPC rating of C or above.

An A rating indicates the most energy efficient homes, while G indicates the least. The UK Department for Energy Security and Net Zero wants as many UK homes as possible to reach EPC C by 2035. Not all homes have an EPC (primarily owner-occupiers), and those which do have an active EPC may only be updated every ten years, so this data cannot provide a full snapshot.

Housing Retrofit

According to the Climate Change Framework 2022 Update [1], Manchester homes make up approximately a quarter of the city's total carbon emissions. The Council's Housing Strategy commits the Council to the target of completing the zero-carbon retrofitting of a minimum of 1/3rd of the 67,300 homes managed by Manchester Housing Providers to an EPC rating of B or above by 2032. The council owns approximately 15,700 homes, 60% of which will need to be retrofitted in order for the city to meet the Housing Strategy target for social housing. The retrofitting measures are likely to include:

- energy efficiency improvements, such as insulation of walls, roof and floors
- moving away from fossil fuel-based heating such as gas boilers to using low carbon systems such as heat pumps or connecting to heat networks.



This chart shows the number of homes with an EPC rating which moved from D or below to C or above, as a proportion of the total number of homes which had an EPC rated D or below at the start of the year (i.e. what proportion of inefficient homes are being made efficient each year).

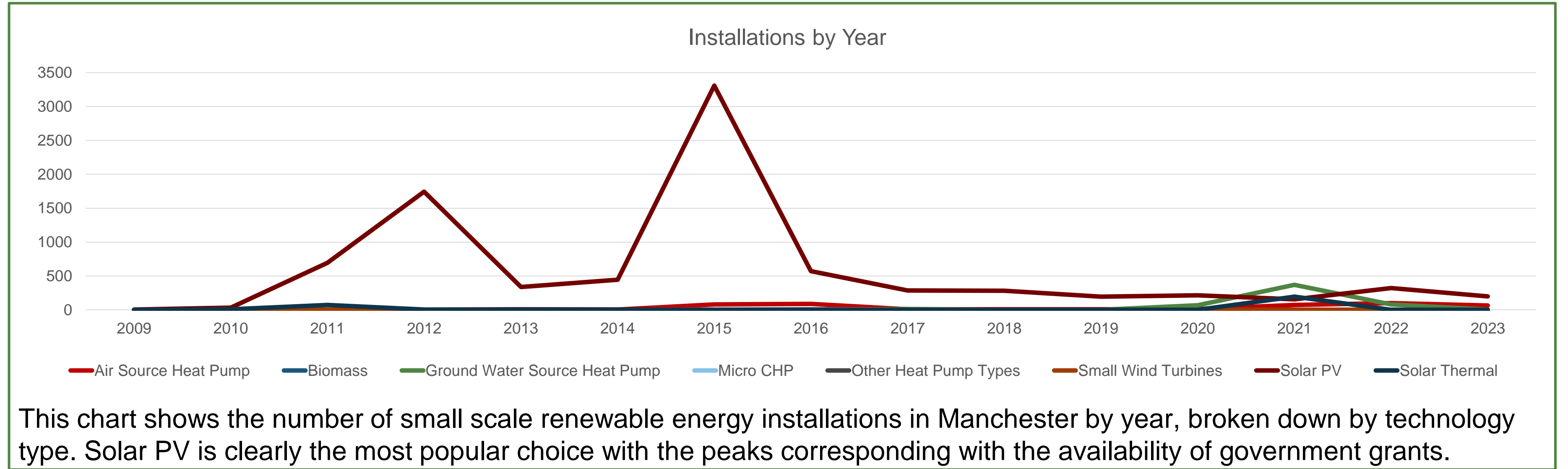
Source: [DLUHC](#)

Ongoing and Future Retrofit projects in Manchester:

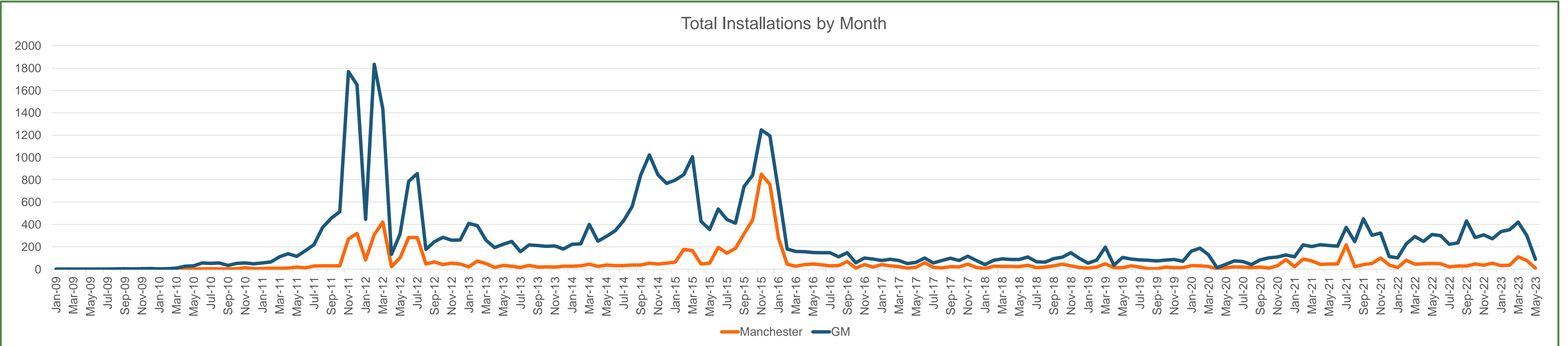
1. Completed Homes as Energy Systems project with approx. 500 properties with energy efficiency measures, air and ground source heat pumps and 130 solar PV and battery systems.
2. Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund (SHDF) Demonstrator scheme in partnership with One Manchester Housing Association has resulted in around 90 properties along Grey Mare Lane in Beswick undergoing deep retrofit works, with 70% taking up a heat pump.
3. Secured £11.6m of government funding with £38m match funding from MCC towards retrofitting council housing stock - approx 1,600 homes with additional insulation and ventilation and also for the installation of renewable energy systems.
4. Home Upgrade Grant 2 (HUG2) - £10m to support approximately 500 privately owned homes
5. ECO4 LA Flex – GMCA-led scheme to help fuel-poor households living in poorly insulated homes. Targeting approximately 400 homes per year for the next three years in Manchester alone.
6. Levenshulme scheme to demonstrate how the delivery of whole house retrofits can be scaled up to area level. The scheme involves retrofitting a small number of privately owned pre-1919 terraced homes
7. The Council have continued to work with the Zero Carbon Working Group of the Manchester Housing Providers Partnership to ensure all social housing properties are on a path to zero-carbon
8. Your Home Better Scheme (GMCA) launched June 2022 currently helping those willing and able to pay - looking for other financial solutions going forward
9. Home Energy Loan Plan (HELP) - assisting homeowners and some private sector landlords to get access to low interest finance. Interest free loans for up to £10,000 can be made for energy efficiency works and heating system upgrades

Small Scale Renewable Energy

The Manchester LAEP says:
 To reduce emissions in line with the GM carbon budget, local energy generation could increase significantly, consisting predominantly of the installation of solar PV on much of the available roof space across all parts of Manchester (under all scenarios considered), providing up to 1,230 MWp of installed capacity, at a cost of £3.1bn. Electricity networks could expand to accommodate electrification at a cost of £375m, and £835m could be invested in district heat networks.



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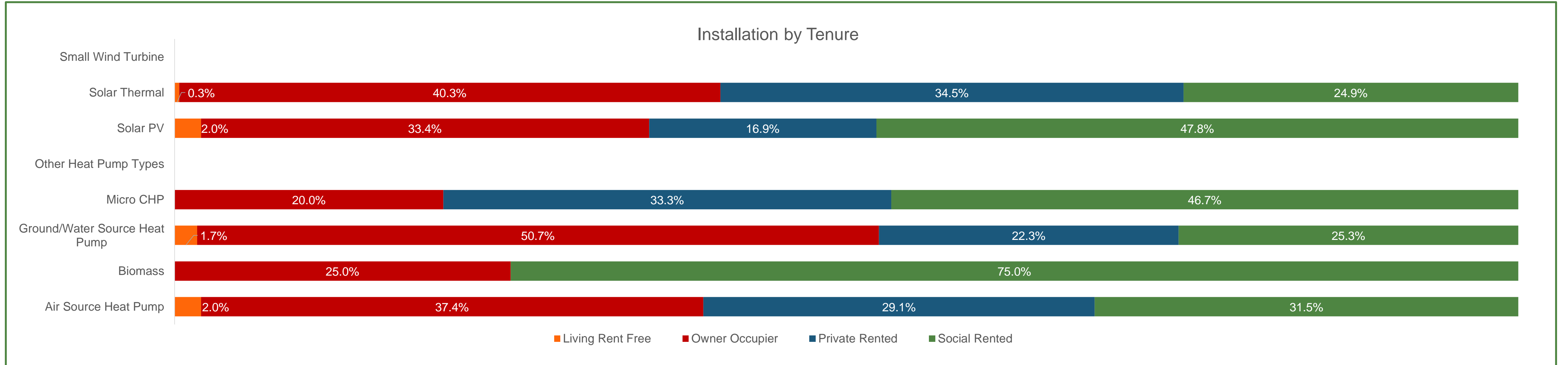
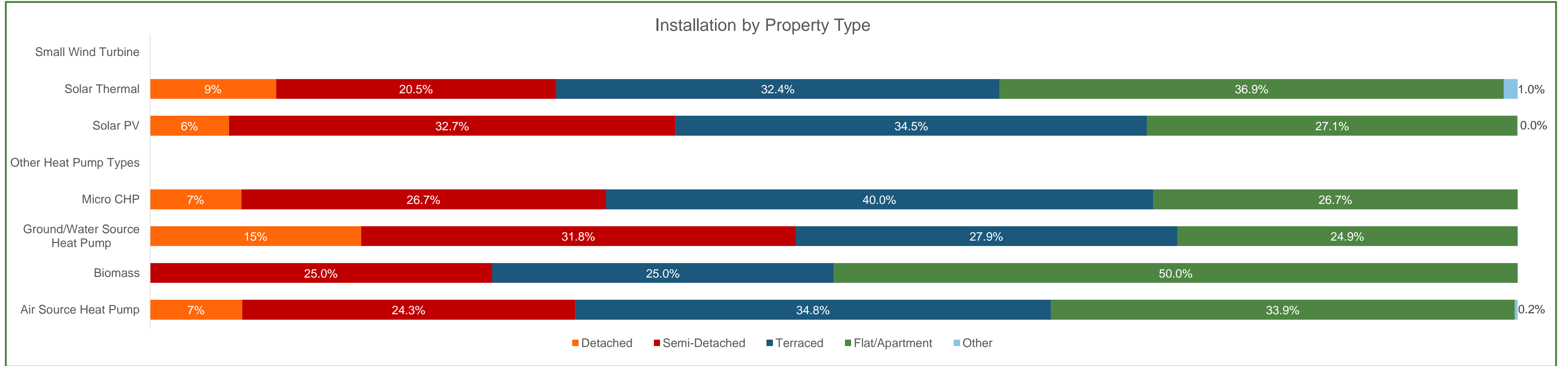


This chart shows the total number of small scale renewable energy installations in Manchester and Greater Manchester by month. After fairly low levels of installations in recent years the number of installations in the last two years has slightly increased.

Source: [MCS](#)

Appendix 1, Item 6

Small Scale Renewable Energy



These graphs show the proportion of small scale renewable energy installations in Manchester by property type and by tenure.

Source: [MCS](#)

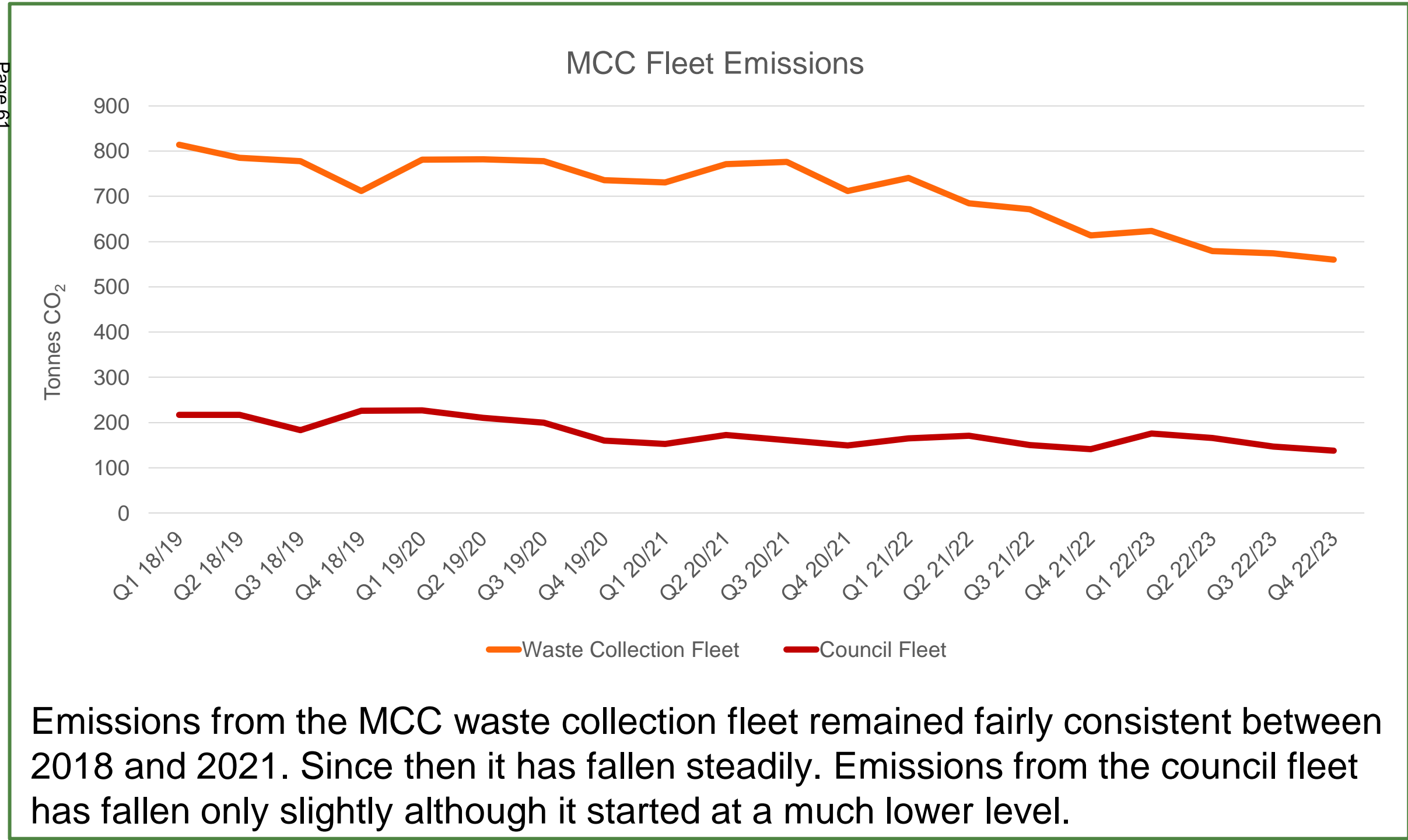
MCC Fleet Emissions and Fleet Transition

The MCC fleet currently includes 41 all electric vehicles (EVs) and 4 hybrid cars, totalling 45 vehicles. This represents some 23% of our fleet.

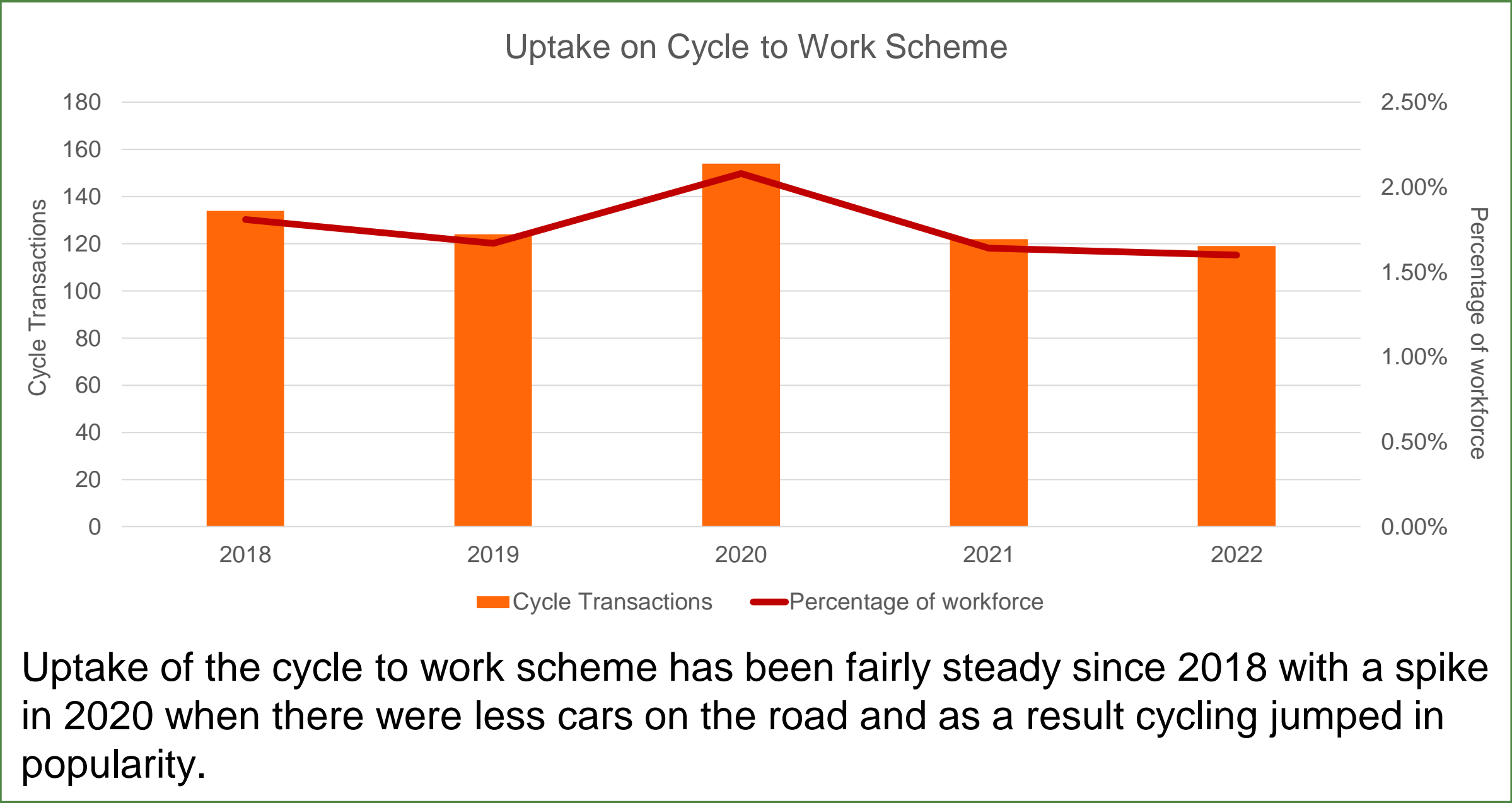
This includes 13 vehicles for Facilities Management, of which 10 are electric, representing 77% of the fleet.

Additionally Council partners Mitie have 8 vehicles, which are all electric and Equans currently have 8 EVs but are due to shortly move to 22, which will equate to 80% of their fleet.

MCC currently have 27 Electric refuse collection vehicles in our Biffa fleet and a further 3 small vans. This is approximately 30% of the RCV fleet and around 15% of small vans. There are plans to transition the remainder of the refuse fleet in the next 12-18 months.



Emissions from the MCC waste collection fleet remained fairly consistent between 2018 and 2021. Since then it has fallen steadily. Emissions from the council fleet has fallen only slightly although it started at a much lower level.



Uptake of the cycle to work scheme has been fairly steady since 2018 with a spike in 2020 when there were less cars on the road and as a result cycling jumped in popularity.

The MCC ultra-low emission vehicle staff salary sacrifice scheme opened in March 2023. As of 9th June 2023, 46 people have enrolled in the scheme with 20 people having already received their vehicle.

From January 2022, 12 e-cargo bikes & 3 trailers were integrated into the MCC fleet funded by the Energy Saving Trust and DfT with support from Manchester Bikes. There was a staggered delivery of bikes due to supply chain issues, but all were deployed by December 2022.

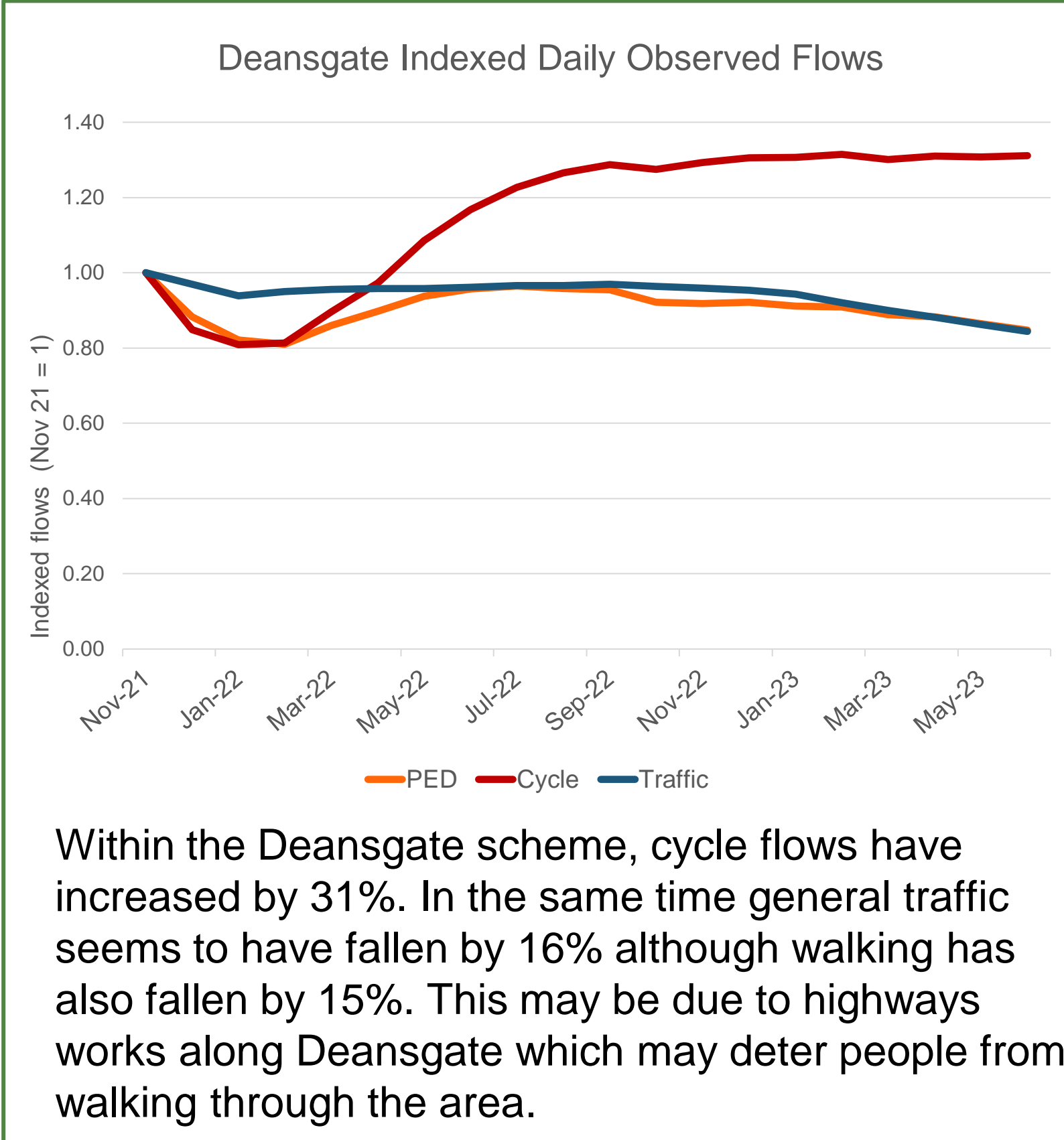
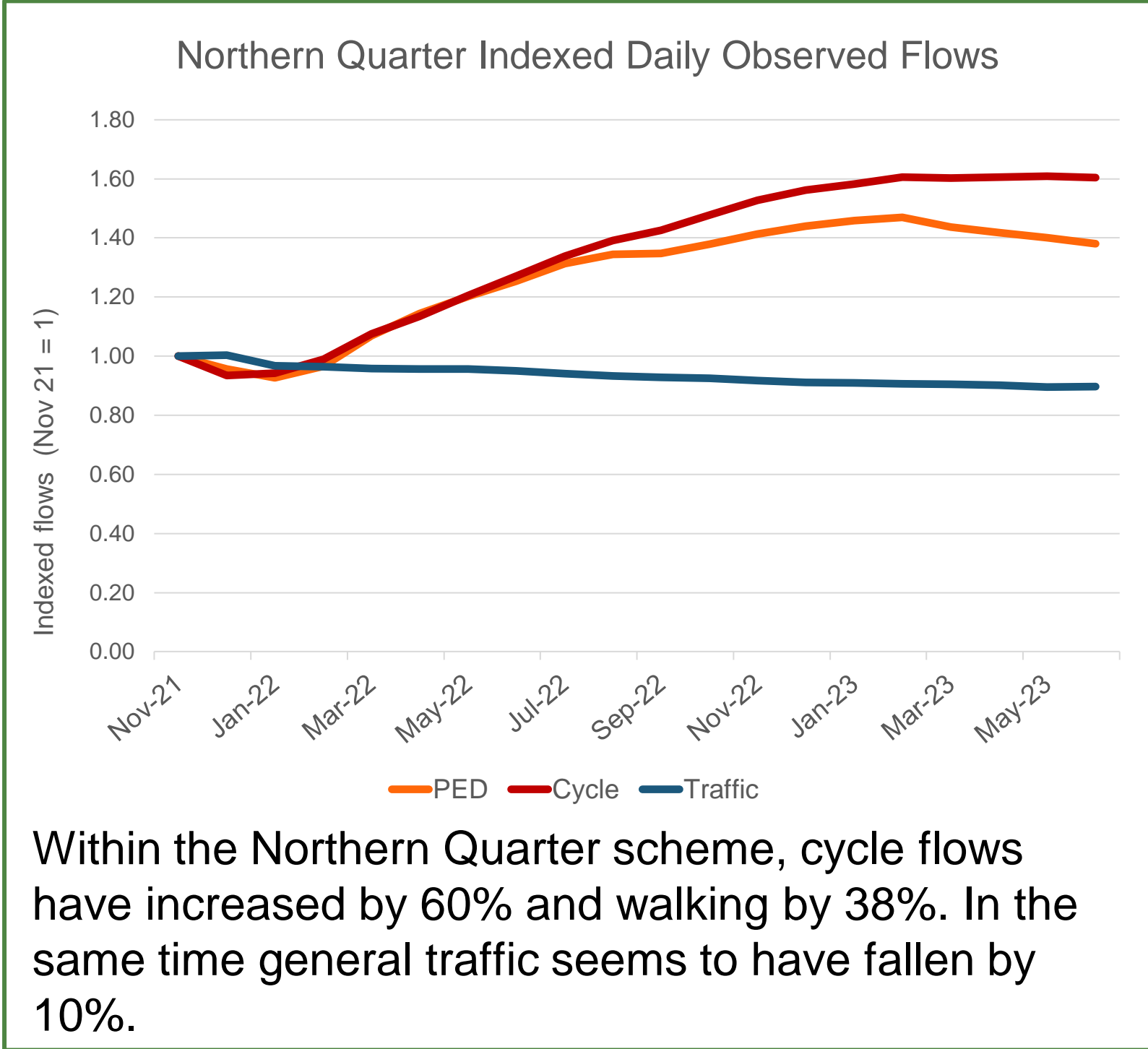
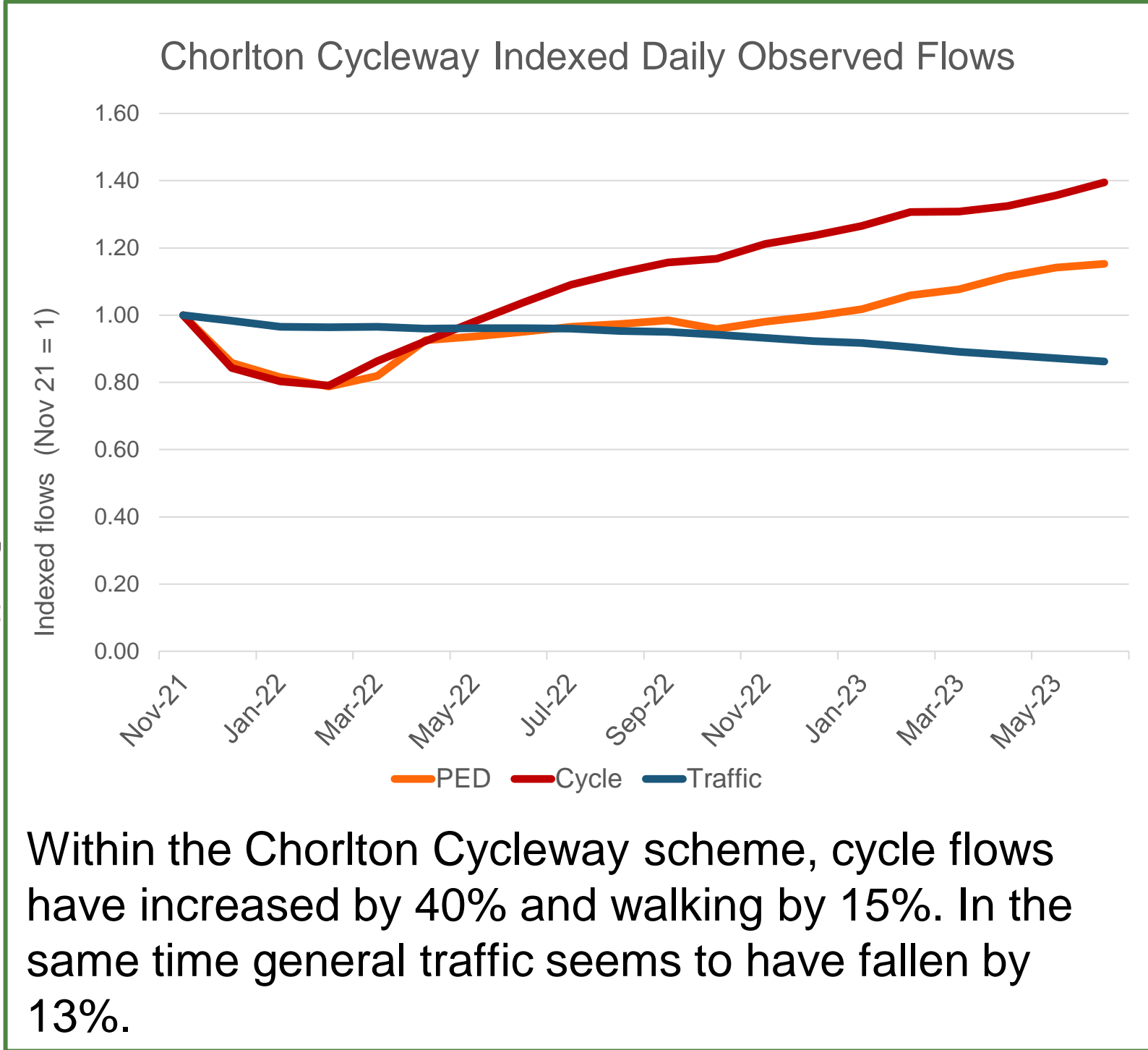
Total milage for MCC bikes so far: approx. 1475 miles

Bikes were provided to several departments within the council including Parks (Wythenshawe Park and Heaton Park), Cemeteries, Grounds Maintenance, Mcr Active (leisure centres including national cycling centre) and Neighbourhoods. Manchester Bikes also run a library of e-cargo bikes which can be used by council officers as well.

Active Travel

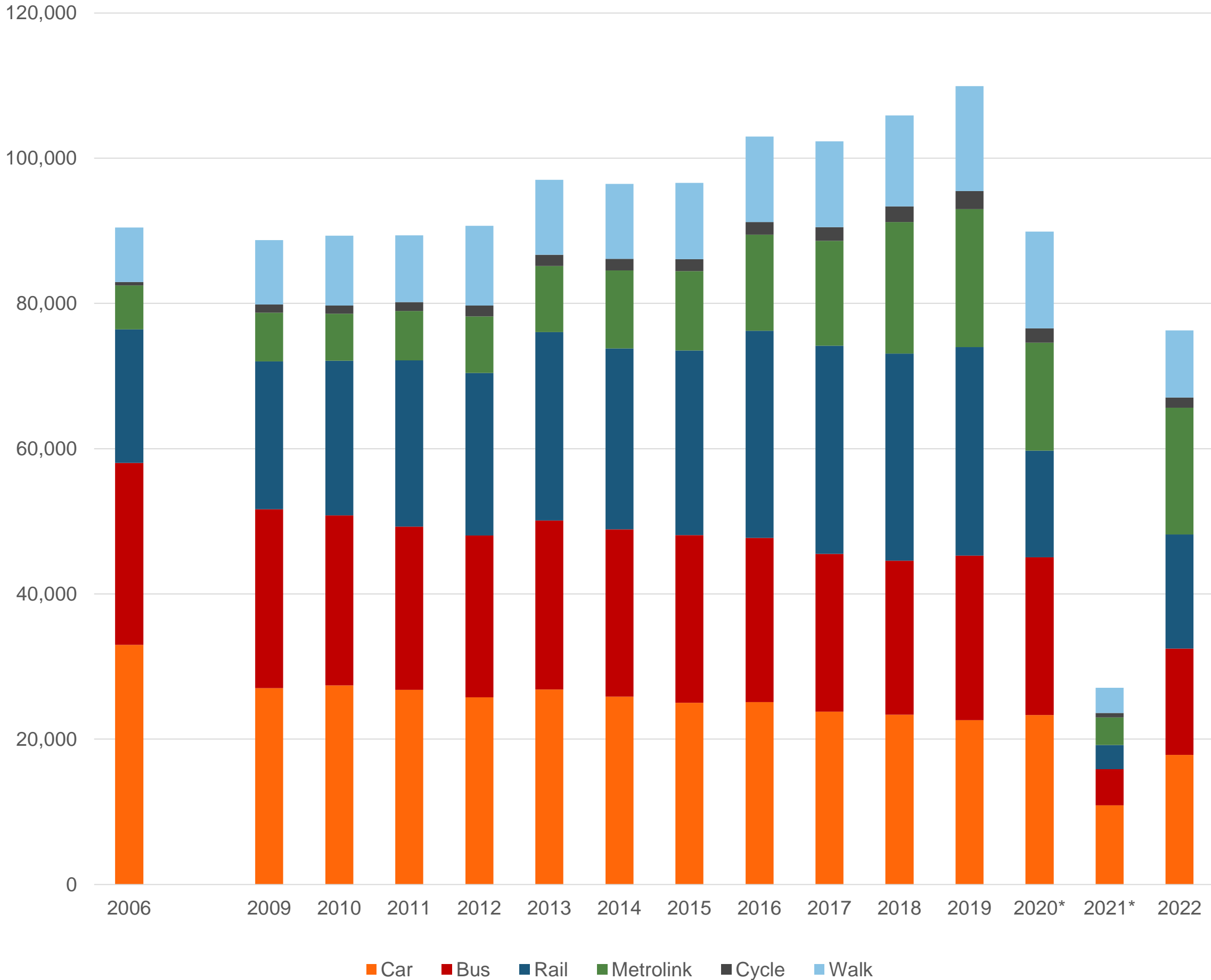
The graphs below show data for three active travel schemes over the last 20 months. The data has been indexed to show the relative change in cycle, walk and general traffic flows indexed to November 2021 (the start of the data collection) and allow easy comparison between modes. In all cases cycling has increased and general traffic has decreased.

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Modal Shift

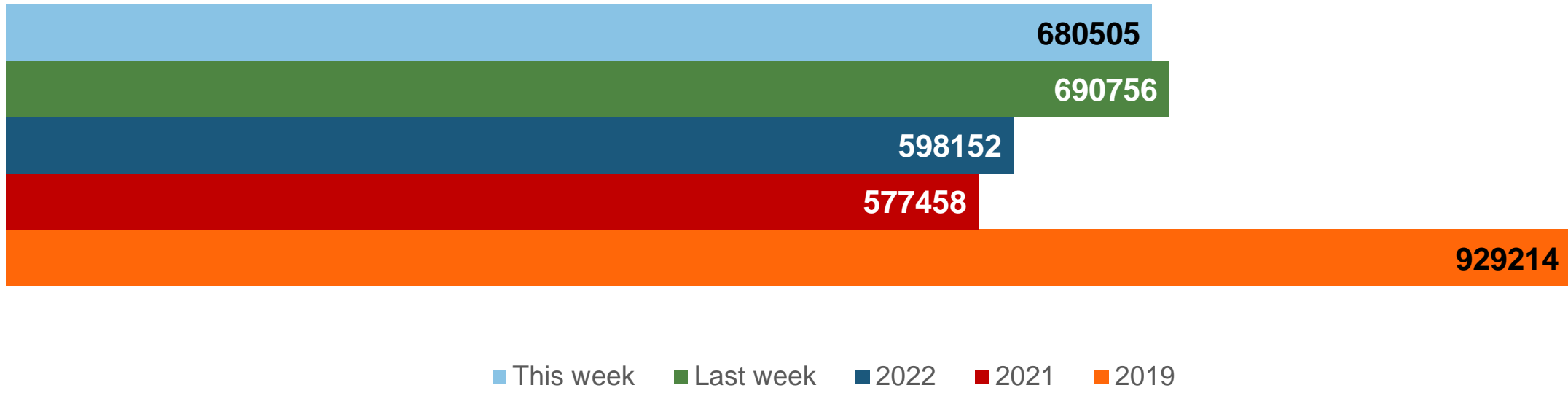
Trips into Manchester City Centre (7.30–9.30am) by mode



This graph shows trips into Manchester City Centre by mode during the morning peak. The number of trips has not fully recovered since the covid 19 pandemic. The trend of growing numbers on metrolink and shrinking numbers of car users has continued.

Source: TfGM, [CityCo](#)

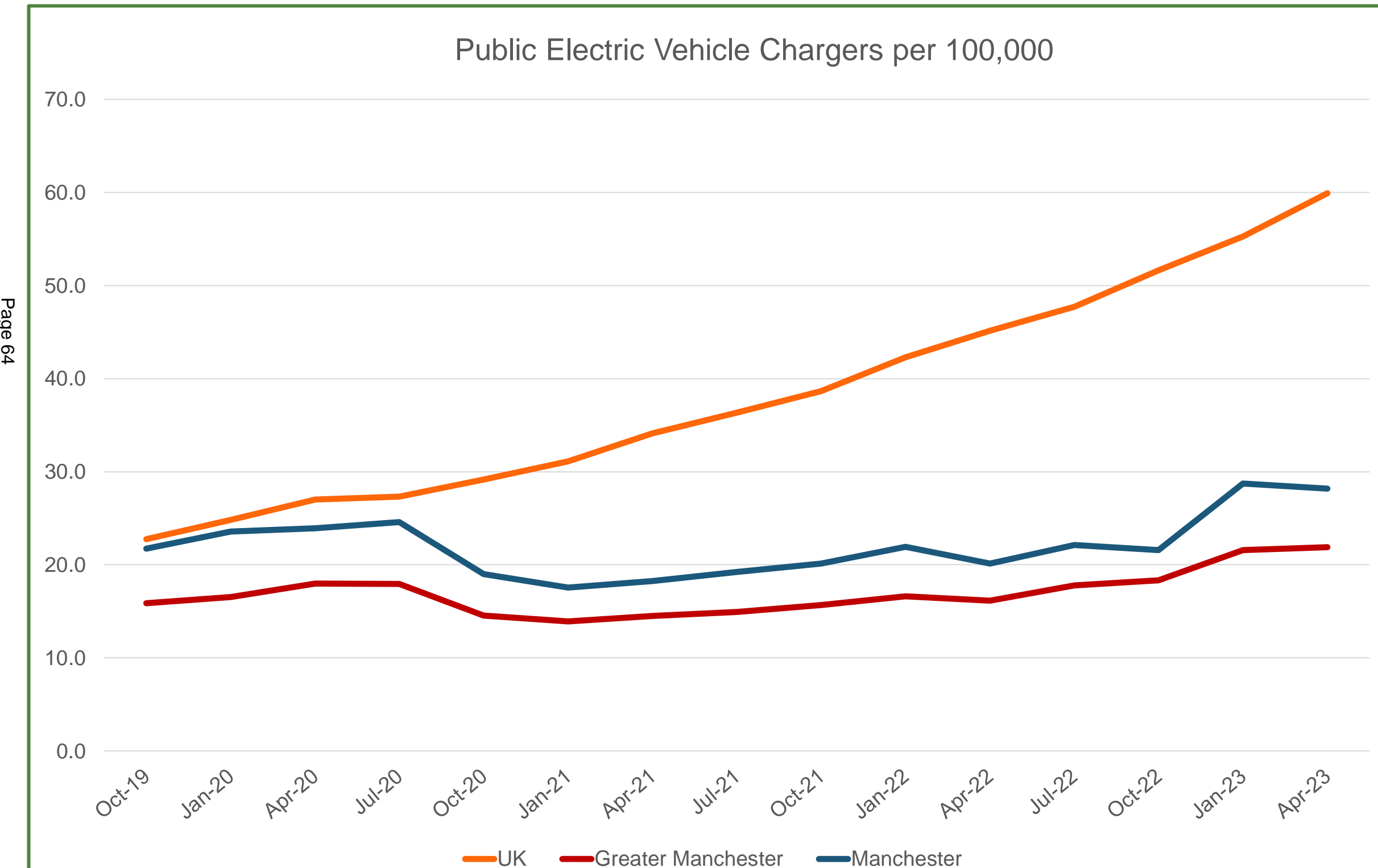
Manchester BID Footfall by Week: 25th June 2023 – 1st July 2023



The total number of visitors to Manchester BID in week commencing 25 June 2023 was **680,505**. The total number of visitors to Manchester BID for the last 52 weeks is **36,342,404** which is **15.2%** up on the previous year. The total number of visitors for the year to date is **17,227,381** which is **15.2%** up on the previous year.

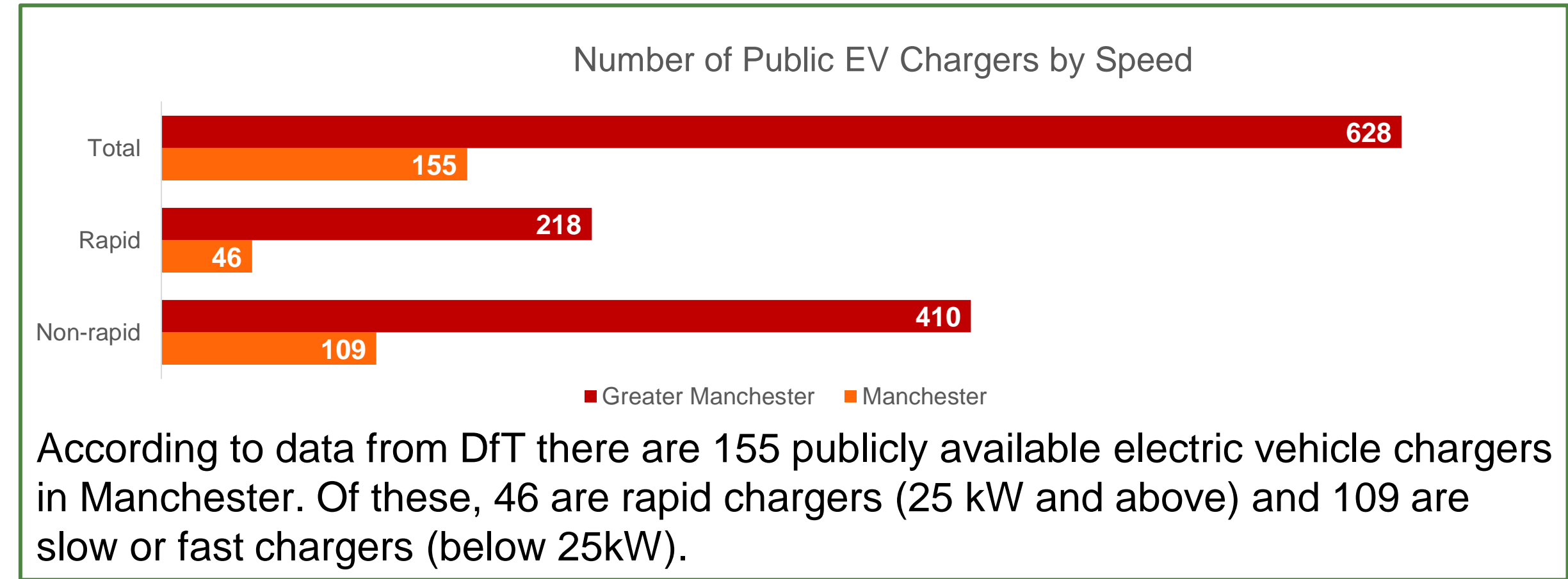
Electric Vehicles

The transition to electric vehicles (EVs), with uptake increasing from <2,000 EVs today to over 140,000 by 2038, drives a demand for EV chargers to be installed across all areas. According to the LAEP around 72,000 domestic chargers would be installed (one for every home with potential for off-street parking) at a cost of £40m, along with multiple public charging stations (or hubs).

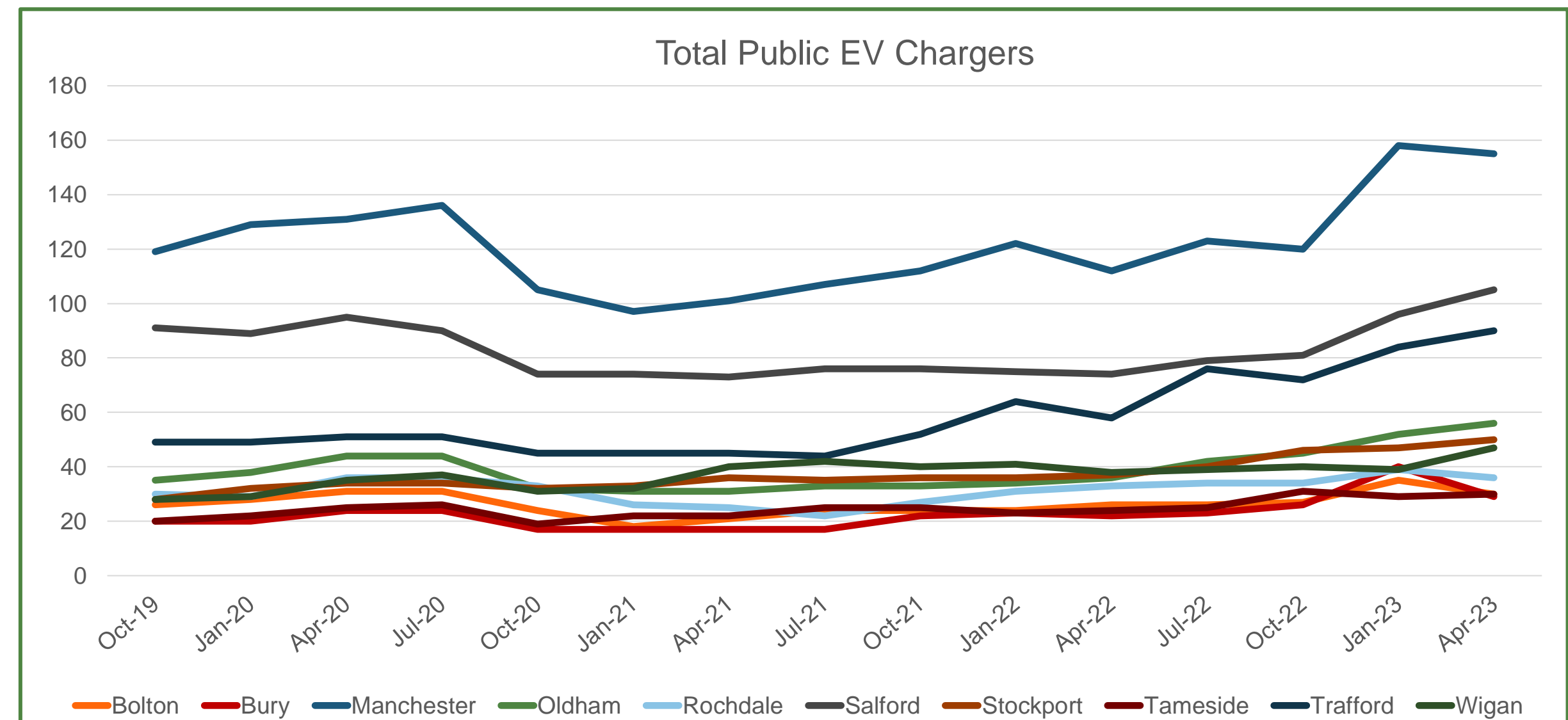


In Manchester there are 28.2 electric vehicle chargers per 100,000 people. This is well below the UK score of 59.9 but slightly above the Greater Manchester figure of 21.9.

Source: [DfT](#)



According to data from DfT there are 155 publicly available electric vehicle chargers in Manchester. Of these, 46 are rapid chargers (25 kW and above) and 109 are slow or fast chargers (below 25kW).

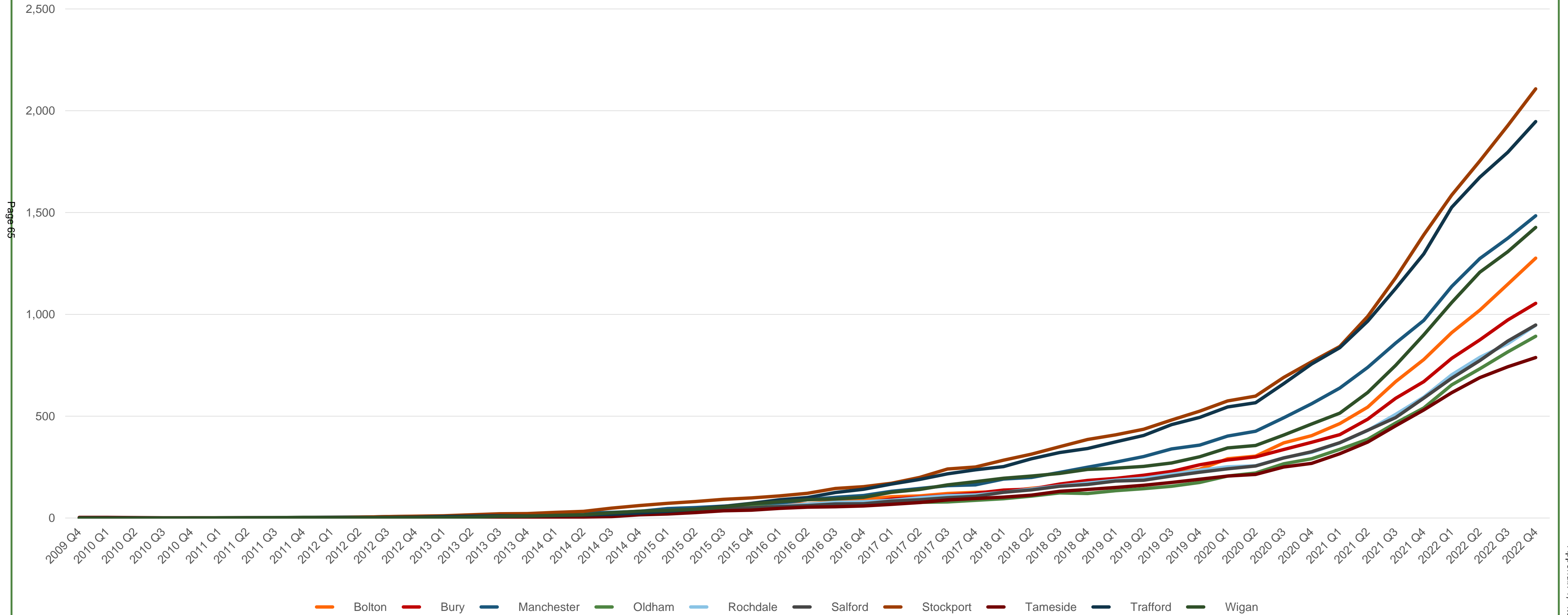


The number of publicly available electric vehicle chargers in Manchester is generally increasing and there are more chargers in Manchester than in anywhere else in Greater Manchester.

Electric Vehicles

This graph shows the total number of private electric vehicles registered in Greater Manchester since 2010. This includes battery electric, plug in hybrid and range extended electric cars. As of the latest update, Q4 2022 there were 1484 private electric cars out of a total of 168188 cars registered in Manchester which represents 0.9% of all cars in Manchester.

Total Private Electric Cars



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Appendix 2

Local Area Energy Plan (LAEP) Action Plan

Topic	Ref.	Action	Deadline	Key Achievements	RAG Status	Priorities Going Forward
Action Plan						
	1.1	Development of Action Plan to implement and deliver the LAEP	Jul-23	An initial Action Plan has been developed	Green	The Plan will continually be reviewed and updated
Monitoring						
	2.1	Annual monitoring report to be produced for consideration at Environment, Climate Change and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny - to include key data relating to MCC activities to assist in implementing and delivering the LAEP along with any available external information	Jul-23	First report to be considered at the E, CC &N Scrutiny July 2023	Green	To develop the monitoring and reporting of the delivery of the LAEP
Infrastructure Study						
	3.1	Commission an Infrastructure Delivery Plan to provide recommendations on how to deliver and implement the LAEP and to act as an evidence base for the Local Plan	Sep-23	Not commenced (this will be subject to funding being identified)	Red	
Local Plan						
	4.1	Development of energy policy for the Local Plan	Autumn 2023	Initial research work on policy structure and framework has been carried out	Yellow	Consultation due on Draft Local Plan due Autumn 2023
Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging						
	5.1	Development of EV Charging Strategy	Dec-22	Completed	Green	
	5.2	Develop strategy for deployment of public chargepoints in MCC assets	Mar-23		Green	
	5.3	Formulate list of possible locations for public EV chargepoints	Jul-23	Ongoing	Yellow	
	5.4	Soft Market Testing to assess potential feasibility of proposed strategy	May-23	Completed	Green	

	5.5	Procurement exercise to commission a Charge Point Operator to install, operate and manage a public network of EV chargepoints across the MCC estate	Sep-23	Ongoing		
	5.6	Commence installation of EV public network - installation is likely to be over a 2 year period	Jan-24			
	5.7	Phase 2 of public EV network - once the initial installation is complete a further phase will be considered to take into account gaps in the network and to areas of increased demand	Jan-26			
	5.8	Development of MCC Fleet and Workplace EV Charging Strategy	Aug-23	An internal workshop with relevant officers is arranged for....		
	5.9	Review of EV Charging - MCC Best Practice Recommendations (used for planning application purposes)	Dec-23			
	5.10	Review of EV Charging Strategy	Mar-24			
	5.11	Attendance at regular GM wide EVCI officer group meetings	Approx. every 6 weeks	Ongoing		
		ENWL Co-ordination				
	6.1	Co-ordination of information and data collection for ENWL collaboration meetings	Every 3 months	Initial meetings have taken place to set up reporting arrangements		

**Manchester City Council
Report for Information**

Report to: Environment, Climate Change and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Committee – 20 July 2023

Subject: Integrated Water Management

Report of: Director of Planning, Licensing and Building Control

Summary

This report provides a summary of the Council's approach to slowing water flow and water capture, with a particular focus on nature-based solutions and consideration of Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG).

The report briefly considers the Overview and Scrutiny Committee Task and Finish Report on Integrated Water Management which was presented to the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) in May. The Task and Finish report highlights several recommendations which are considered in this report. Moreover, the GMCA meeting on 30 June agreed a draft Integrated Water Management Plan which will be subject to consultation from July to September.

In connection to specific recommendations from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, the Council is already engaged in important areas of work around the delivery of nature-based solutions; and preparations for the statutory requirements for Biodiversity Net Gain as set out in the Environment Act 2021. This report outlines specific activities and complements the update report on the Biodiversity Strategy that is also subject to consideration at this scrutiny meeting.

Recommendations

The Committee is recommended to consider and comment on the information in the report.

Wards Affected: All

Environmental Impact Assessment - the impact of the issues addressed in this report on achieving the zero-carbon target for the city

The delivery of nature-based solutions and work on Biodiversity Net Gain/Urban Green Factor will contribute to integrated water management. This will assist in reducing flood risk with associated benefits in terms of capturing and storing carbon. Rivers and canals provide a cooling effect during times of heat stress; and with the general environmental quality of water courses can be improved through the delivery of nature based solutions and biodiversity net gain.

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion - the impact of the issues addressed in this report in meeting our Public Sector Equality Duty and broader equality commitments

The impacts of flooding can potentially disproportionately impact upon communities that already face challenges in terms of their existing resilience. Work already underway on nature based solutions looks to increase community engagement with diverse audiences, improving local biodiversity and improved access to nature.

Manchester Strategy outcomes	Summary of how this report aligns to the OMS/Contribution to the Strategy
A thriving and sustainable city: supporting a diverse and distinctive economy that creates jobs and opportunities	Addressing integrated water management through the application of nature-based solutions and biodiversity net gain increases the attractiveness of Manchester as a place in which to work and invest. Biodiversity-related land management projects build capacity and provide work, skills and training and volunteering opportunities for individuals and groups.
A highly skilled city: world class and home grown talent sustaining the city's economic success	Manchester competes on a world stage to attract skilled people. A high quality, attractive natural environment and good quality open spaces make an important contribution to this.
A progressive and equitable city: making a positive contribution by unlocking the potential of our communities	The impacts of flooding can potentially disproportionately impact upon communities that already face challenges in terms of their existing resilience. Nature based solutions looks to increase community engagement with diverse audiences, offering the potential to gain health benefits through improved access to nature for relaxation and exercise and learning new skills through volunteering opportunities.
A liveable and low carbon city: a destination of choice to live, visit, work	Improving our response to flood incidents through integrated water management enables the city's open spaces and natural environment, its woodlands, rivers and meadows to play a valuable role in storing carbon and creating a liveable city
A connected city: world class infrastructure and connectivity to drive growth	Improved connectivity between wildlife friendly sites increases and improves species abundance and movement, while at the same time improving local public access to nature and open spaces, reducing the need to travel.

Full details are in the body of the report, along with any implications for:

- Equal Opportunities Policy
- Risk Management
- Legal Considerations

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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.

GMCA report on the draft Integrated Water Management Plan (June 2023)

GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee Task and Finish Report on Integrated Water Management (May 2023)

Report on Manchester Green and Blue Strategy and Implementation Plan, including annual update and a report on the Tree Action Plan to Environment and Climate Change Scrutiny Committee (9th March 2023)

Report of Draft Manchester Biodiversity Strategy to Environment and Climate Change Scrutiny Committee (13th October 2002) and Executive (19th October 2022)

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee Task and Finish Report on Integrated Water Management was presented to the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) in May. The report was commissioned with an initial premise to consider the specific issue of flooding. During the course of the work, it became clear that flooding was part of a wider matter of integrated water management. The report states,

“The review highlighted that the scale of the issue is immense and with precipitation levels expected to rise significantly over the next 25 years, action is needed now to minimise further impact to local residents and businesses. Solutions need to be innovative, sustainable and predominately nature-based with the supporting planning regulations and guidelines to offer the best chance in mitigating the future effects of flooding and drought.”

- 1.2 The Task and Finish Report makes 10 recommendations which are summarised in section 2 of this report and considered further with respect to specific recommendations in section 3.
- 1.3 A Mayoral round table was held on the 30 September 2022, and it was agreed that the GMCA, United Utilities (UU) and Environment Agency (EA) should jointly produce an Integrated Water Management Plan (IWMP). A further round table meeting was held on the 31 March 2023, with a third session planned to take place in September 2023 to further review progress. A draft IWMP was considered by the GMCA on 30 June. Consultation on the draft plan will take place from July to September 2023.
- 1.4 The work undertaken for nature-based solutions and biodiversity net gain has already demonstrated their importance as part of a wider Integrated Water Management process. Examples are included in this report to illustrate current projects and how we are investigating future opportunities.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee Task and Finish Report identifies the challenge underlying that is driving the need for an integrated water management approach,

“Future climate change projections evidence a potential precipitation rise of 59% by 2050 even if we are able to meet our carbon reduction targets, with the Northwest projected to have the highest percentage increase in rainfall in the country. Winters will be wetter and summers drier. Rainfall will be more intense.”

“Ensuring new buildings and developments incorporate integrated water management into their initial design phase is one of the most effective approaches to managing Greater Manchester’s future flood risk. Conventional and hard engineered water storage options, which are traditionally below ground would require significant disruption, land, cost and carbon. Above

ground Sustainable Drainage Systems and nature-based solutions will provide multifunctional benefits including carbon sequestration and biodiversity net gain. As increased levels of rain are now unavoidable and climate risks increase, more sustainable options must be used.”

2.2 The report sets out 10 recommendations which are summarised below (the full set of recommendations are set out in Appendix 1).

- Recommendation One – Increase awareness across Greater Manchester including discussions with local scrutiny committees to enable local authorities to consider their approach to IWM.
- Recommendation Two – A clear co-owned plan, the Integrated Water Management Plan (IWMP). The draft plan was considered by the GMCA on 30 June.
- Recommendation Three – Strong governance framework within GMCA including a specific thematic board to oversee integrated water management.
- Recommendation Four – Effective use of knowledge, skills and resources seeking adequate additional national resources and support for local authorities to manage and mitigate the issues arising as a result of a poor legacy of integrated water management.
- Recommendation Five – Ensuring social justice is at the heart of action
- Recommendation Six – Influencing planning laws and guidance to ensure that integrated water management is a predominant consideration for all new planning developments; and request that DLUHC implement Schedule 3 of the Flood and Water Management Act.
- Recommendation Seven– Improving advice and information via briefings, for all GM councillors, MPs, Council Leaders, portfolio holders, and planning committees; and raising citizen awareness of the situation, and the role that everyone can play to manage water, by launching a calendar of campaign messages as part of the Integrated Water Management Plan.
- Recommendation Eight – Effective measures to assess the impact of improved integrated water management with a focus on wider benefits such as carbon sequestration or improved biodiversity over the number of homes at risk of flooding.
- Recommendation Nine – Learn from others through seeking the experience of other areas of the country.
- Recommendation Ten – Further areas for scrutiny review including how the issue of water quality objectives from the North West River Basin Management Plan are integrated into future work plans for the GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

2.3 The draft Integrated Water Management Plan (IWMP) reiterates the challenge of future patterns of heavier rain alongside drier summers. The plan details three core objectives.

1. Breaking down the barriers

- Collaboration to break barriers to managing water in an integrated way to enable the delivery of sustainable growth in Greater Manchester.
- Identifying innovative solutions and combining efforts with public and

- private investors to deliver more.

2. Creating multiple benefits

- Ensuring that all interventions consider water neutrality, flood resilience, water quality improvement and build in climate adaptation.
- Aiming to maximise multifunctional blue-green infrastructure, restore natural function and water landscapes, protecting and valuing biodiversity and the water environment.

3. Businesses and the community become an important part in creating the value.

- Involving businesses and community stakeholders to deliver resilient, diverse, and inclusive public spaces.
- Creating opportunity and access for jobs and skills needed for integrated water management.

- 2.4 The draft IWMP identifies the opportunity to improve coordination between future investment from key organisations including United Utilities and the Environment Agency alongside the significant delivery of new development across Greater Manchester. United Utilities are focusing much of their investment onto rainwater management in the 'catchment' of Greater Manchester to deliver blue/green schemes (circa £200M investment) that reduce rainwater (surface water) into the combined system.
- 2.5 The draft IWMP will be consulted on via engagement with stakeholders (including the individual Local Authorities within and adjacent to Greater Manchester) throughout July to September. Post this round of consultation, a further update about the plan will take place at the GMCA Green Summit in October.
- 2.6 It is important to appreciate that the Council is already engaged in areas of work around the delivery of nature-based solutions; and preparations for the statutory requirements for Biodiversity Net Gain as set out in the Environment Act 2021. These are already looking to address some of the challenges set out by the draft IWMP and the Overview and Scrutiny Committee Task and Finish Report. Further details are set out in section 3 to illustrate some of the key activities already underway.

3.0 Main issues

- 3.1 Section 2 provides the key details about the draft IWMP and the recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee Task and Finish Report. This section focuses on the nature-based solutions and preparatory work the Council is engaged in to take on the statutory requirements for Biodiversity Net Gain and exploring the application of an urban green factor within emerging planning policy.

Nature Based Solutions

- 3.2 The Council has an established track record of delivering nature-based solutions. Much of this work can be of benefit to integrated water management. A key project has been Grow Green which was a five-year €15million European Commission funded project that aimed to create climate and water-resilient, healthy, and liveable cities by investing in nature-based solutions. One of the key elements was the creation of the West Gorton Community Park, which opened in June 2020. It stores water from extreme weather events and uses surface water run-off for irrigation. The impact of this is continuing to be monitored by the university partners and will help our understanding of how to replicate this approach elsewhere.
- 3.3 Manchester has three rivers that flow into the city: the Irk, Medlock and Mersey. There has been a long history of active work around the Mersey; in 2013-15 the renaturalisation of the Medlock, through Clayton Vale; and in more recent times the development of Mayfield Park (also along the Medlock) and the proposals for the city river park within Victoria North (Irk). The Our Rivers, Our City (OROC) strategy, undertaken by the Council in 2020/21, has already supported Groundwork's successful £1.2 million Resilient River Valleys project and the Love Your River Irk project delivered by Groundwork and Mersey Rivers Trust. It was also recognised within the Natural England studies focused on Fallowfield Brook in the Highfield Local Nature Reserve, and the River Medlock. The Environment Agency has provided further funding for Mersey Rivers Trust to undertake feasibility studies to naturalise and daylight sections of Baguley Brook. OROC has also provided a baseline assessment of a potential urban green factor on a ward level analysis across the city, as featured in the report to Environment & Climate Change Scrutiny in February 2023. This will inform the development of policy to improve green infrastructure across the city. Further work is currently being undertaken on examining the application of the urban green factor within local planning policy as part of the commission on Biodiversity Net Gain (see paragraphs 3.6 to 3.9).
- 3.4 The recently completed Resilient River Valleys project has been a strong response to the ambition set out in the OROC strategy. It was funded by the Government's Green Recovery Challenge Fund and is a partnership project between three environmental charities – Groundwork Greater Manchester, City of Trees and the Mersey Rivers Trust. The project focused on delivering nature-based solutions for climate mitigation and adaptation, such as leaky dams and tiny forests, in Manchester's river valleys and urban green spaces. The project has helped create 38 new roles providing training and capacity building for citizens, with twenty-two of these roles being for unemployed young people. Over 200 training courses have been provided, and 5,700 people have been engaged in activities and events in areas in Wythenshawe, Burnage, Moston and Collyhurst.
- 3.5 An update on the latest iteration of the Council's Biodiversity Strategy is also before this scrutiny committee. The report (Section 3) refers to projects across the three main objectives of the strategy. Improving biodiversity across the city

can be beneficial to integrated water management, for example the resilient river valleys project noted above demonstrates the correlation between nature-based solutions and integrated water management.

- 3.6 The Council, under the auspices of TreeAction MCR, has undertaken a significant programme of tree planting across the city over the past three years. In total, during phase 1 and 2, 2288 standard trees were planted across all of the city, including 59 in cemeteries, 287 in parks, and 1942 on street scene. The focus of tree planting has now shifted. In 2022 Manchester delivered the most comprehensive assessment of the City's tree and woodland resources ever undertaken. City Roots provides an informative look back at the evolution of our treescape over the last 100 years, whilst citywide Capacity Mapping provides a ward based analysis identifying opportunities for improving and enhancing the City's tree scape for generations to come. Work is now needed to use this evidence to engage communities in planting in those areas which have fewer trees. City of Trees have secured funding through Defra's Woodland Accelerator programme and have recruited four new posts to work across GM for two years, helping the districts to deliver meaningful treescape improvements. This will link into the ward based capacity maps provided. There are opportunities to link this body of work into future thinking around integrated water management, with appropriate tree planting being one of the nature-based solutions that can assist with local flooding issues.

Biodiversity Net Gain/ Urban Green Factor

- 3.7 The Council has commissioned a new study to undertake detailed analysis around the need for BNG and to consider the application of an urban green factor within emerging planning policy. The study will provide further Manchester specific detail to work already undertaken by the Greater Manchester Ecology Unit that provided information across Greater Manchester about the potential for BNG. The work will feed into the evidence base for the emerging Local Plan and provide additional information on potential supply sites for when the national requirements for BNG commence in November 2023.
- 3.8 The proposed study has three main purposes:
- Identify the amount of biodiversity units that are likely to be required to provide 10% Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) as a result of the level of development taking place in Manchester over the period 2023/24-2038/9.
 - Scope out potential sites for BNG within Manchester to allow biodiversity units to be provided as near to the development sites as possible.
 - Understand how the use of an Urban Green Factor could enable green infrastructure to be embedded within new developments to increase both biodiversity and resilience to climate change, given that a significant proportion of development sites within Manchester are on brownfield land that may have little or no biodiversity value.

- 3.9 The study is still at an early stage but there will be further opportunities to engage and update members later in the year.
- 3.10 One of the key areas of policy development proposed in the local plan is the concept of an urban green factor. This policy approach encourages urban greening that incorporates appropriate forms of permeable surfaces within developments helping to increase both biodiversity and climate resilience. The concept has been previously developed via an adopted policy in the London Plan. Work has also been undertaken via the Our Rivers Our City study that incorporates a baseline assessment of a potential urban green factor based on a ward level analysis across the city. In essence, the baseline assessment in OROC provides information on what is the current state of play on an urban green factor. The work being undertaken in the latest commission will explore the practical challenges of developing a policy approach for an urban green factor in Manchester.

4.0 Recommendations

- 4.1 The Environment, Climate Change and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Committee is recommended to consider and comment on the information in the report.

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Appendix 1 – Recommendations from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee Task and Finish Report

Recommendation One – Increase awareness

- Use the roundtable discussions with the GM Mayor and other key partners to highlight the scale of the problem ahead publicising the projected scale of increased rainfall on Greater Manchester and the impact it will have on residents and communities if no action is taken.
- Share this report with Local Scrutiny Committees to ensure they are aware of its findings and can make recommendations to their Local Authority as appropriate.
- Agree how GMCA Overview & Scrutiny will monitor the implementation of the recommendations of this review in future.

Recommendation Two – A clear co-owned plan

- Co-create a GM Integrated Water Management Plan with all responsible partner agencies, establishing a set of shared objectives, agreed outcomes against metrics, with clear lines of responsibility and accountability.

Recommendation Three – Strong governance framework

- Ensure that there are clear lines of accountability at GM level through an improved governance framework that actively engages with the relevant GMCA Portfolio Leads and ultimately reports to the GMCA.
- Create a specific thematic board to oversee integrated water management, recognising its significance, building on from round table discussions and creating a mechanism to ensure that the objectives of the Integrated Water Management Plan are delivered.

Recommendation Four – Effective use of knowledge, skills and resources

- Continue to lobby for adequate additional national resources to support Local Authorities to manage and mitigate the issues arising as a result of a poor legacy of integrated water management and to develop and strengthen the resources available at GM level to offer Local Authorities support, additional specialised advice and guidance and provide capacity for better collaboration to enable the effective delivery of projects.

Recommendation Five – Ensuring social justice is at the heart of action

- Ensure that the co-owned strategy provides clear guidance to all partner organisations that all GM schemes must be viewed through the lens of social justice.

Recommendation Six – Influencing planning laws and guidance

- Request that DLUHC seeks guidance from GM Local Authorities as to how best to review current planning policy to ensure that integrated water management is a predominant consideration for all new planning developments.
- Request that DLUHC implement Schedule 3 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 in line with the outcome of the consultation to ensure effective delivery with an appropriate level of central government resource devolved.

Recommendation Seven– Improving advice and information

- Provide briefings, supported by a portal of information for all GM councillors, MPs, Council Leaders, portfolio holders, and planning committees.
- Raise citizen awareness of the situation, and the role that everyone can play to manage water, by launching a calendar of campaign messages as part of the Integrated Water Management Plan.

Recommendation Eight – Effective measures

- Introduce more effective ways of measuring the impact of improved integrated water management with a focus on wider benefits such as carbon sequestration or improved biodiversity over the number of homes at risk of flooding.
- Develop mechanisms by which these and others can be used as a more appropriate metric to measure progress towards the successful delivery of the Greater Manchester Strategy.

Recommendation Nine – Learn from others

- Seeking the experience of other areas of the UK will expand the awareness of good practice and collaboration in Greater Manchester. Developing relationships with Greater London Authority (and other highlighted examples) in order to share best practice, innovation and common messaging is recommended.

Recommendation Ten – Further areas for scrutiny review

- Consider how the issue of water quality objectives from the North West River Basin Management Plan are integrated into future work plans for the GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

**Manchester City Council
Report for Information**

Report to: Environment, Climate Change and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Committee – 20 July 2023

Subject: Update on the Manchester Biodiversity Strategy and the Open Space Study

Report of: Director of Planning, Licensing and Building Control

Summary

This report provides an update on delivery of the Biodiversity Strategy that was endorsed by Executive in October 2022. The report also includes information on the findings of the open space audit that will inform the development of the emerging Local Plan.

Recommendations

The Committee is recommended to consider and comment on the information in the report.

Wards Affected: All

Environmental Impact Assessment - the impact of the issues addressed in this report on achieving the zero-carbon target for the city

Ecosystems, such as Manchester's woodlands, helps to capture and store carbon, as do effectively managed meadows, while rivers and canals provide a cooling effect during times of heat stress. Access to nature encourages walking and cycling and improves health and wellbeing, reducing reliance on cars with a consequent reduction in carbon emissions.

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion - the impact of the issues addressed in this report in meeting our Public Sector Equality Duty and broader equality commitments

Actions set out in the Manchester Biodiversity Strategy 2022-30 relate to the need for addressing environmental inequalities across Manchester. This includes areas such as increased community engagement with diverse audiences, improving local biodiversity and improved access to nature which are referenced in the Action Plan

Manchester Strategy outcomes	Summary of how this report aligns to the OMS/Contribution to the Strategy
A thriving and sustainable city: supporting a diverse and distinctive economy that creates jobs and opportunities	Thriving biodiversity and good quality open spaces increase the attractiveness of Manchester as a place in which to work and invest. Jobs are created in the environmental sector through the need to plant and manage the local green and blue infrastructure resource. Specialist jobs are also created such as Forest Schools leaders, ecologists and wildlife related engagement officer roles. Biodiversity-related land management projects build capacity and provide work, skills and training and volunteering opportunities for individuals and groups.
A highly skilled city: world class and home grown talent sustaining the city's economic success	Manchester competes on a world stage to attract skilled people. A high quality, attractive natural environment and good quality open spaces make an important contribution to this.
A progressive and equitable city: making a positive contribution by unlocking the potential of our communities	A more biodiverse environment should be accessible to all communities within Manchester, offering the potential to gain health benefits through improved access to nature for relaxation and exercise and learning new skills through volunteering opportunities.
A liveable and low carbon city: a destination of choice to live, visit, work	The city's open spaces and natural environment, its woodlands, rivers and meadows play a valuable role in storing carbon and creating a liveable city
A connected city: world class infrastructure and connectivity to drive growth	Improved connectivity between wildlife friendly sites increases and improves species abundance and movement, while at the same time improving local public access to nature and open spaces, reducing the need to travel.

Full details are in the body of the report, along with any implications for:

- Equal Opportunities Policy
- Risk Management
- Legal Considerations

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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.

Manchester Biodiversity Strategy – 2022-2030

Report on Manchester Green and Blue Strategy and Implementation Plan, including annual update and a report on the Tree Action Plan to Environment and Climate Change Scrutiny Committee (9th March 2023)

Report of Draft Manchester Biodiversity Strategy to Environment and Climate Change Scrutiny Committee (13th October 2022) and Executive (19th October 2022)

Manchester City Council Assessment of Open Space Report Dec 2022,

Manchester City Council Assessment of Open Space Report Exec Summary March 2023

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 The Manchester Biodiversity Strategy was approved at the Council's Executive on 19th October 2022. It is the third Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan to be developed in the city over the past 18 years. The Strategy focuses on the need to conserve, protect and enhance biodiversity in the city for current and future generations. This is set within the strategic context of delivering economic growth, new jobs and new homes that are essential to a prosperous, modern city. This report provides an update on the delivery of the Strategy based on an analysis of the three main objectives set out in the document.
- 1.2 Work on an updated Open Space audit was undertaken throughout 2022. The completed study will form an important component of the evidence base to inform the emerging local plan. Presentations to members were previously held in December 2022 and this report provides a quick overview of the information presented at that point plus an update on a key aspect of making the audit available via online mapping tools.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 The development of the latest Biodiversity Strategy involved a range of partner organisations including Natural England, The Environment Agency, The Wildlife Trust for Greater Manchester, Greater Manchester Ecology Unit, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, City of Trees, Canal and River Trust, The Conservation Volunteers, Manchester Metropolitan University, Manchester Museum and the University of Manchester.
- 2.2 The Strategy consists of three objectives with several priority actions that flow from each objective.
 - Objective 1 - Managing and understanding biodiversity
 - Greater Manchester Nature Recovery Network Strategy, contextualised for the urban character of Manchester, guides the focus of habitat management work.
 - All priority wildlife sites to be in active management by 2030.
 - Key species action plans will be developed which will guide management work across the recovery network as well as indicator species recording to measure change.
 - Objective 2 - Involving people
 - Creatively involving more people in the city to encourage action to help the nature recovery network in Manchester.
 - Manchester Biodiversity Action Group (MBAG) acting and supporting communities (includes the Council, MMU and UofM universities, Natural England, RSPB, GMEU, Groundwork, Environment Agency, City of Trees, The Conservation Volunteers and Friends of the Earth).

- Increase knowledge and skills amongst land managers and practitioners in the city to protect, enhance and restore biodiversity.
 - Objective 3 – Planning, policy and partnerships
 - Biodiversity embedded and mainstreamed into refreshed City Council policies to help protect and enhance nature.
 - Cross thematic links established with partners delivering against challenges including climate change, health and wellbeing and air quality to ensure new effective collaboration in the City.
 - Realise funding opportunities for recovery of nature, particularly through the planning and development process.
- 2.3 Section 3 of this report provides an update across key actions under each of the three objectives that have taken place since the adoption of the Strategy in October 2022.
- 2.4 The commissioning of a new Open Space audit (referred to in 1.2) provided an opportunity to update the last major study conducted in 2009/10. The City's increasing population places many demands on land, such as meeting housing, employment, and social needs, including the requirement for recreational open space. Manchester already has more than 150 parks and significant areas of semi natural and amenity open space. Some new areas of open space are being created, for example at Mayfield and along City River Park at Victoria North. Although the new Local Plan will not be identifying large areas of new open space, it is important to ensure that all communities within Manchester have good access to high quality open space and that we understand where opportunities arise to improve this.

3.0 Main issues

Biodiversity Strategy

- 3.1 The recognition of biodiversity in all work undertaken by the Council is a key component of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006. Section 40 of the NERC Act places a duty to conserve biodiversity on public authorities in England. It requires Local Authorities to have regard to the purposes of conserving biodiversity in a manner that is consistent with the exercise of their normal functions such as policy and decision-making. 'Conserving biodiversity' may include enhancing, restoring or protecting a population or a habitat. Having a plan or strategy for Biodiversity contributes to realising NERC act objectives.
- 3.2 The activities set out below demonstrate the breadth of work that is taking place across the city involving the Council and the various partners noted above (paragraph 2.0).

3.3 Objective 1 - Managing and understanding biodiversity

a) Local Nature Reserves

- Two additional Local Nature Reserves recommended for designation by the Council. The two new LNRs cover an area of 50 hectares equating to about the size of 125 football pitches:
 - Kenworthy Woods in Northenden (36 hectares) Approved at Executive 19th December 2022
 - Broadhurst Clough in Moston (14 hectares) Approved at Executive - March 15th 2023.
- This takes the number of LNRs in Manchester up to 10, covering 441 hectares of land in total.
- Working with our colleagues in other land managing departments, we are looking to establish a pipeline of other sites as candidate LNRs.

b) Sites of Biological Importance (SBIs)

- Manchester has 37 Sites of Biological Importance. In 2008 we had 35, with 40% deemed to be in active conservation management. There are now 37, with around 65% in active conservation management. The park teams in the council have commissioned park specific biodiversity management plans for SBIs within their control.

c) Species Action Plans

- The Manchester Biodiversity Action Group has collaboratively progressed with the identification of 39 key indicator species for Manchester's Local Nature Recovery Network and 22 additional focus species to encourage wider public engagement. Working with the Universities, Draft Species Action Plans are now being developed.

d) City Wide – Trees Capacity Work

- The ward-based tree capacity assessment is now available online through the Council's website. It is the most comprehensive treescape assessment ever undertaken in the City and will enable neighbourhoods to prioritise tree planting in their wards.

e) Pollinator Parks and the Northern Flowerhouse

- Working with the Eden Project, the National Wildflower Centre and Groundwork Trust, the Council's Parks team are developing a pilot project to establish large scale harvestable wildflower crops in the city. Dependent on the outcome of the project, this has the opportunity to be rolled out to other spaces across Manchester.

f) Manchester Meadows

- The City Council Grounds Maintenance Team are looking to sow approximately 14,000 square metres of wildflower areas along verges and in greenspaces across the City.

g) Resilient River Valleys

- This project to engage local communities in a developing work and skills opportunities across the Mersey, Irk and Medlock River Valleys, has concluded. A summary video has been produced –see link here: [Our impact | Resilient River Valleys - YouTube](#)

h) City Centre

- Through the Council’s Neighbourhood Initiatives Fund, resources have been committed to improve habitats in Bridgewater Basin and other areas of Deansgate Ward. The project will also undertake nestbox monitoring and surveying.

3.4 Objective 2 - Involving people**a) Manchester Museum**

- The Museum reopened in February 2023 after extensive refurbishment to excellent reviews and customer feedback. Over 11,500 people visited the museum in its first week after opening. A new Exhibition called Wild! is in development for 2024.

b) City Nature Challenge

- In April 2023, Manchester was one of over 400 cities to have taken part in this year’s global City Nature Challenge, which encourages people to record their local wildlife sightings via an easy-to-use app, capturing data for useful monitoring purposes.

c) Manchester Festival of Nature

- This year’s festival was held at Heaton Park in June and was organised by the Manchester Nature Consortium (a partnership made up of key environmental organisations and the City Council). The day delivered an exciting range of nature-based events and activities.

3.5 Objective 3 – Planning, Policy and Partnerships**a) Biodiversity Net Gain – Focused Study**

- The Council has commissioned a new study to undertake detailed analysis around the need for BNG, looking at the potential level of biodiversity units required on a range of future development sites and considering options for “supply sites” which may be needed for possible off site mitigation. The study will provide further detail to work already undertaken by the Greater Manchester Ecology Unit that provided information across Greater Manchester about the potential for BNG. The work will feed into the evidence base for the emerging Local Plan and provide additional information for preparations for when the national requirements for BNG commence in November 2023.

Open Space Study

- 3.6 The Open Space Study was commissioned as part of the necessary evidence to underpin the new Local Plan. The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) requires policies on open space to be based on up-to-date information

and an understanding of where there may be a surplus or a deficit in different types of open space. The last comprehensive study was undertaken in 2009/10. In undertaking the work, it is also important to reflect on the findings of the Marmott review into equality and impacts on health.

- 3.7 The consultants looked at the following types of open space across Manchester:
- Parks - City, Neighbourhood, Local
 - Local Green space/Amenity green space
 - Natural and semi natural greenspace
 - Children’s play space and youth space
 - Allotments
 - Cemeteries
 - Civic spaces
 - Green corridors - e.g., Canal towpath
- 3.8 The focus of the study was on sites with public access that were larger than 0.2 hectares. Site visits were undertaken to many of the sites identified. Consultation was also undertaken via online survey; and specific conversations with “friends of” groups and other relevant stakeholders.
- 3.9 The final draft study was presented in December 2022 at two member briefings to enable further feedback and clarifications to be taken on board. Five key recommendations emerge from the report and are set out below.

Recommendation 1

Quantity standards should be used to help determine priorities for open space provision.
--

Quantity levels should be utilised to indicate if there is a potential lack of provision in any given area may have. This should be done in conjunction with accessibility.

The quantity standards would help to determine if there are open space requirements as part of new housing developments. In the first instance, all types of provision should look to be provided as part of new housing developments. Where this isn’t viable, improving quality and accessibility should be the key priorities.

Recommendation 2

Sites helping or with the potential to help serve areas identified as having gaps in catchment mapping should be recognised through opportunities for enhancement.
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The approach to these sites should be to enhance their quality and/or value to the applied standards (i.e., high quality and/or value).

The key focus should be to work to improving existing open space for more multi-purpose outcomes. Across the City, there are 75 sites highlighted as helping to serve gaps in accessibility catchment mapping.

Recommendation 3

Ensure lower quality sites helping to serve potential gaps in accessibility catchments are prioritised for enhancement

There are 344 sites that rate as below quality and/or value thresholds. Of these 344 sites, 26 are identified as helping to potentially serve catchment gaps in other types of open space. This also includes any site which has not been assessed as a result of not meeting the various criteria used to determine whether a site was included (further details available in the methodology section of the Open Space Study).

These sites should first look to be enhanced in terms of quality. Consideration should be given to changing the primary typology (see Recommendation 4) or strengthening the secondary function of these sites, to one which they currently help to serve a gap in provision, even if their quality cannot currently be enhanced. For some sites, such as natural and semi-natural greenspace, the ability to adapt or strengthen secondary roles may be limited due to the features and characteristics of the site.

Recommendation 4

Recognise low quality and value sites and how they may be able to meet other needs

This study identifies 22 sites currently rated as low quality and low value. Where sites of low quality and value appear to fall within an area of sufficiency, a change of primary typology should be considered. If no shortfall of other open space type is noted or the practicality of enhancing the site is not cost effective, then the site may be redundant in its current form.

Further exploration into these sites should be undertaken to establish whether they could be better at serving the city as a different open space type. For example, allotment demand is identified as being high. Consequently, some sites could look to be repurposed on this basis.

Recommendation 5

Keeping data, report and supporting evidence base up to date to reflect changes over time

The Assessment of Open Space provides a snapshot in time. Whilst significant changes are not as common for open space provision, inevitably over time changes occur through creation of new provision, loss of existing provision and/or alterations to site boundaries and management. Population change and housing growth are also another consideration to review when undertaking any form of update as this may impact on quantity provision levels and standards. It is therefore important, particularly given the growing

recognition of open space provision because of Covid-19, for the Council to undertake regular reviews of the data and/or actions informed by it.

- 3.10 A web browser is currently being created to allow easy access to the information that underpins the different open space typologies in the Open Space Audit. This will allow different teams across the council to understand where there are gaps in types of open space and how their area of work, whether planning, parks, regeneration or neighbourhoods, can help to mitigate this by repurposing land, improving access and quality, as set out in the recommendations above.

4.0 Recommendations

- 4.1 The Environment, Climate Change and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Committee is recommended to consider and comment on the information in the report.

**Manchester City Council
Report for Information**

Report to: Environment, Climate Change and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny
Committee – 20 July 2023

Subject: Overview Report

Report of: Governance and Scrutiny Support Unit

Summary

This report provides the following information:

- Recommendations Monitor
- A summary of key decisions relating to the Committee's remit
- Items for Information
- Work Programme

Recommendation

The Committee is invited to discuss the information provided and agree any changes to the work programme that are necessary.

Wards Affected: All

Contact Officers:

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Background documents (available for public inspection): None

1. Monitoring Previous Recommendations

This section of the report lists recommendations made by the Environment and Climate Change Scrutiny Committee. Where applicable, responses to each will indicate whether the recommendation will be implemented, and if it will be, how this will be done.

There are no outstanding previous recommendations.

2. Key Decisions

The Council is required to publish details of key decisions that will be taken at least 28 days before the decision is due to be taken. Details of key decisions that are due to be taken are published on a monthly basis in the Register of Key Decisions.

A key decision, as defined in the Council's Constitution is an executive decision, which is likely:

- To result in the Council incurring expenditure which is, or the making of savings which are, significant having regard to the Council's budget for the service or function to which the decision relates, or
- To be significant in terms of its effects on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more wards in the area of the city.

The Council Constitution defines 'significant' as being expenditure or savings (including the loss of income or capital receipts) in excess of £500k, providing that is not more than 10% of the gross operating expenditure for any budget heading in the in the Council's Revenue Budget Book, and subject to other defined exceptions.

An extract of the most recent Register of Key Decisions, published on **10 July 2023**, containing details of the decisions under the Committee's remit is included overleaf. This is to keep members informed of what decisions are being taken and to agree, whether to include in the work programme of the Committee.

There are no Key Decisions currently listed within the remit of this Committee.

**Environment, Climate Change and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Committee
Work Programme – July 2023**

Thursday 20 July 2023, 2pm (Report deadline Monday 10 July 2023)

Item	Purpose	Lead Executive Member	Lead Officer	Comments
MCC Climate Change Action Plan – Quarter 1 Update Report	To receive and comment upon the MCC Climate Change Action Plan quarterly update report. The Committee have requested specific information in relation to the communications strategy with residents, businesses and other key stakeholders.	Cllr Rawlins	Mark Duncan Sarah Henshall Gina Twigg	
Local Area Energy Plan	To receive and comment upon the Manchester Local Area Energy Plan and progress made.	Cllr Rawlins	Becca Heron James Tate	
Integrated Water Management	To consider a report that discusses the Council's approach to slowing water flow and water capture, with a particular focus on nature based solutions and consideration of Biodiversity net gain (BNG).	Cllr Rawlins	Julie Roscoe Duncan McCorquodale	
Biodiversity Strategy	To provide an update on delivery of the Biodiversity Strategy including information on the findings of the open space audit.	Cllr Rawlins	Julie Roscoe Duncan McCorquodale	
Overview Report	This is a monthly report, which includes the recommendations monitor, relevant key decisions, the Committee's work programme and any items for information.	-	Lee Walker	

Thursday 7 September 2023, 2pm (Report deadline Friday 25 August 2023 - To take account of the August Bank Holiday)

Item	Purpose	Lead Executive Member	Lead Officer	Comments
MCC Climate Change Action Plan 2022/23 Annual Report	To receive and comment upon the MCC Climate Change Action Plan 2022/23 Annual Report.	Cllr Rawlins	Mark Duncan Sarah Henshall Gina Twigg	
Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy - Update	To receive an update report on the Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy.	Cllr Rawlins	Rebecca Heron James Tate	
Housing Retrofit	This report will provide an update on the progress made since March 2023, describing the key achievements and planned activity in housing retrofit. This report will also incorporate an update on the Green Skills agenda.	Cllr White Cllr Hacking	David Lynch Martin Oldfield	Invitation to the Chair of the Economy and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee
Street Cleansing Update	To receive a report that considers the approach to street and pavement cleansing (i.e litter and leaf fall) and an update on campaigns with Keep Britain Tidy. This will also include specific information on the approach to the cleansing of cycle lanes.	Cllr Igbon	Heather Coates Kevin Gilham	
Overview Report	This is a monthly report, which includes the recommendations monitor, relevant key decisions, the Committee's work programme and any items for information.	-	Lee Walker	

Thursday 12 October 2023, 2pm (Report deadline Monday 2 October 2023)

Item	Purpose	Lead Executive Member	Lead Officer	Comments
Manchester Climate Change Agency/ Partnership 2022/23 Annual Report	To receive and comment upon the Manchester Climate Change Agency 2022/23 Annual report.	Cllr Rawlins	Samantha Nicholson	
MCC Climate Change Action Plan – Quarter 2 Update report	To receive and comment upon the MCC Climate Change Action Plan quarterly update report.	Cllr Rawlins	Mark Duncan Sarah Henshall Gina Twigg	
A Cleaner, Greener Manchester	<p>This report provides an update on progress in delivering waste, recycling, and street cleansing services, including the impact of the additional £1m budget.</p> <p>The Committee have specifically requested information in relation to the management and disposal of commercial waste and management of alleyways behind commercial properties where there are domestic dwellings above.</p> <p>Planning for the additional waste generated over the Christmas period (including information on Christmas trees and household waste recycling centres).</p> <p>An update on the engagement work to reduce fly tipping.</p>	Cllr Igbon	Heather Coates	
Single Use Plastics	To receive and comment upon progress made on the	Cllr	Peter	

	Single Use Plastics work programme.	Rawlins	Schofield Helen Harland	
Overview Report	This is a monthly report, which includes the recommendations monitor, relevant key decisions, the Committee's work programme and any items for information.	-	Lee Walker	

Thursday 9 November 2023, 2pm (Report deadline Monday 30 October 2023)

Item	Purpose	Lead Executive Member	Lead Officer	Comments
Budget Proposals		Cllr Rawlins Cllr Igbon	Neil Fairlamb Carol Culley Paul Hindle	
Power Purchase Agreement to Decarbonise the Energy Supply	To receive a report on the Power Purchase Agreement to decarbonise the energy supply.	Cllr Rawlins	David Houlston	
Manchester Active Travel Strategy and Investment Plan (MATSIP)	To receive an update in the Manchester Active Travel Strategy and Investment Plan (MATSIP).	Cllr Rawlins	Becca Heron	
Vision Zero	To receive an update that describes Vision Zero and how this will be delivered. Vision Zero is a strategy to eliminate all traffic fatalities and severe injuries, while increasing safe, healthy, equitable mobility for all.	Cllr Rawlins	James Tate	
Planning Policy,	To receive a report that considers how planning policy	Cllr White	Julie Roscoe	

Construction and Climate Change	contributes to addressing climate change, with specific consideration of the emissions associated with the construction phase. This will include an update on the Local Plan and climate related issues.			
Tree and Woodland Action Plan	To receive a report on the Tree and Woodland Action Plan.	Cllr Rawlins	Julie Roscoe Duncan McCorquodale	
Overview Report	This is a monthly report, which includes the recommendations monitor, relevant key decisions, the Committee's work programme and any items for information.	-	Lee Walker	

Thursday 7 December 2023, 2pm (Report deadline Monday 27 November 2023)

Item	Purpose	Lead Executive Member	Lead Officer	Comments
In Our Nature Progress Update	Update on the delivery of the £3.5m In Our Nature project.	Cllr Rawlins	Samantha Nicholson Shefali Kapoor	
Neighbourhood Teams Engagement with Residents	Update on the role of Neighbourhood Teams in engaging Manchester residents on Climate Change. This report will also include an update on the implementation of the Climate Change Ward Action Plans Task and Finish Group recommendations.	Cllr Igbon	Shefali Kapoor	
Climate Change Communications	Update on the Council's Communications Campaign.	Cllr Rawlins	Alun Ireland	
Embedding Carbon	To receive a progress report on the progress being	Cllr	Suzanne	

Literacy within the Council	made towards embedding a zero-carbon culture within the Council.	Rawlins	Grimshaw	
Street Weeding Pilot	To receive a report on the Street Weeding Pilot.	Cllr Igbon	Neil Fairlamb	
Overview Report	This is a monthly report, which includes the recommendations monitor, relevant key decisions, the Committee's work programme and any items for information.	-	Lee Walker	

Thursday 11 January 2024, 2pm (Report deadline Friday 29 December 2023)

Item	Purpose	Lead Executive Member	Lead Officer	Comments
Manchester Airport and Aviation Emissions	To receive a report that discusses the steps taken to reduce emissions that result from the aviation industry.	Cllr Rawlins	David Houliston	
Compliance and Enforcement	The scope and reporting of this activity is to be determined following discussion between the Chair of the Committee and the Executive Member for Vibrant Neighbourhoods.	Cllr Igbon	Neil Fairlamb	
MCC Climate Change Action Plan – Quarter 3 Update report	To receive and comment upon the MCC Climate Change Action Plan quarterly update report.	Cllr Rawlins	Mark Duncan Sarah Henshall Gina Twigg	
Overview Report	This is a monthly report, which includes the recommendations monitor, relevant key decisions, the Committee's work programme and any items for	-	Lee Walker	

	information.			
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Thursday 8 February 2024, 2pm (Report deadline Monday 29 January 2024)

Item	Purpose	Lead Executive Member	Lead Officer	Comments
Budget Proposals		Cllr Rawlins Cllr Igbon	Neil Fairlamb Carol Culley Paul Hindle	
Zero Carbon Culture	To receive a report that describes the progress the Council's Culture Team has made in responding to the climate emergency, and how the team is working in partnership with the cultural sector to support Manchester's progress towards its 2038 zero carbon target.	Cllr Rahman	Mark Duncan Sarah Elderkin	Invitation to the Chair of the Economy and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee
Parks and Open Spaces – Parks Climate Change Action Plan	To receive an update on the delivery of Manchester's Parks Climate Change Action Plan.	Cllr Igbon	Kylie Ward	
Park Strategy	To receive a report that provides an update on the programme of investment in Parks, commonly referred to as the Parks Development Programme (PDP)	Cllr Igbon	Neil Fairlamb	
Bereavement Services – Approach to Environmental Sustainability	To receive an update on Bereavement Services and the approach to environmental sustainability.	Cllr Igbon	Heather Coates	
Overview Report	This is a monthly report, which includes the recommendations monitor, relevant key decisions, the	-	Lee Walker	

	Committee's work programme and any items for information.			
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Thursday 7 March 2024, 2pm (Report deadline Monday 26 February 2024)

Item	Purpose	Lead Executive Member	Lead Officer	Comments
Green and Blue Infrastructure	To consider an update report on the Manchester Green and Blue Strategy and Implementation Plan.	Cllr Rawlins	Julie Roscoe	
Sustainable Food	Update on the Council's sustainable food policy and citywide action including relevant work of the Manchester Food Board. This report will also provide information on the support offered to community groups to grow their own food.	Cllr Rawlins	David Houliston	
Allotments	To receive a report that provides information on the provision and management of allotments. This will include, but not restricted to the approach to the use of herbicides, water use, volunteers and equality and diversity.	Cllr Igbon	Neil Fairlamb	
Housing Retrofit	This report will provide an update on the progress made since September 2023, describing the key achievements and planned activity in housing retrofit. This report will also incorporate an update on the Green Skills agenda.	Cllr White Cllr Hacking	David Lynch Martin Oldfield	Invitation to the Chair of the Economy and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee
Overview Report	This is a monthly report, which includes the recommendations monitor, relevant key decisions, the Committee's work programme and any items for information.	-	Lee Walker	

Items to be scheduled

Item	Purpose	Lead Executive Member	Lead Officer	Comments
Scope 3 Emissions for the city	To receive a report that considers Scope 3 Emissions for the city. Scope 3 encompasses emissions that are not produced by the company itself, and not the result of activities from assets owned or controlled by them, but by those that it's indirectly responsible for, up and down its value chain.	Cllr Rawlins	Samantha Nicholson	
Clean Air Plan	To receive a report that provides the Committee with information on the Clean Air Plan.	Cllr Rawlins	Rebecca Heron James Tate	

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