



# **Environment, Climate Change and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Committee**

Date: Thursday, 12 October 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, 12 October 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.**

## **Filming and broadcast of the meeting**

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## **Membership of the Environment, Climate Change and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Committee**

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

## Agenda

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- 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. [2.00-2.05] Minutes** 7 - 14  
To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 7 September 2023.
- 5. [2.05-2.45] Manchester Climate Change Partnership and Agency - Impact Report 2022/23 - To Follow**
- 6. [2.45-3.00] MCC Climate Change Action Plan – Quarter 2 Update Report** 15 - 42  
Report of the Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer  
  
This report provides an update and overview of progress made in delivering the Council’s refreshed Climate Change Action Plan during Quarter 2 2023-24 (July – September 2023)
- 7. [3.00-3.30] Waste and Recycling Update** 43 - 64  
Report of the Strategic Director (Neighbourhoods)  
  
This report provides an update on progress in delivering waste, recycling, and fly-tip removal. Describing how the activity contributes to the climate change agenda and key priorities for future. Updates are also included for commercial waste, flats above shops and Christmas collection arrangements.
- 8. [3.30-3.50] Single Use Plastics** 65 - 76  
Report of the Head of Integrated Commissioning and Procurement, Strategic Lead – Resources and Programmes and Sustainability Project Manager, Zero Carbon

This report provides an update on work being undertaken across the Council on Single Use Plastics (SUPs) as part of the action under Workstream 3 of the Council's Climate Change Action Plan 2020-25.

**9. [3.50-4.00] Overview Report**

77 - 86

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

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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  
Chief Executive  
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## Further Information

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

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This agenda was issued on **Wednesday, 4 October 2023** by the Governance and Scrutiny Support Unit, Manchester City Council, Level 2, Town Hall Extension (Library Walk Elevation), Manchester M60 2LA

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## **Environment, Climate Change and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Committee**

### **Minutes of the meeting held on 7 September 2023**

#### **Present:**

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

**Apologies:** Councillor Razaq

#### **Also present:**

Councillor Rawlins, Executive Member for Environment and Transport  
Councillor Igbon, Executive Member for Vibrant Neighbourhoods  
Councillor Ahmed Ali, Deputy Executive Member for Vibrant Neighbourhoods  
Councillor White, Executive Member for Housing and Development  
Councillor Hacking, Executive Member for Employment, Skills and Leisure  
Matt Roberts, Strategic Director, Property and Development, Southway Housing Trust

#### **ECCNSC/23/44      Minutes**

#### **Decision**

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 20 July 2023 as a correct record.

#### **ECCNSC/23/45      Manchester City Council Climate Change Action Plan 2022/23 Annual Report**

The Committee considered the report of the Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer that presented the third Annual Report of the Manchester City Council Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP) 2020-25.

Key points and themes in the report included:

- Providing an introduction and background;
- Noting that this report brought together updates to the Committee provided over the last 12 months (April 22 – March 23) into a single report and highlighted progress made during this time against the CCAP Work Plan 2022-23 as well as progress made on the Council's direct carbon emissions;
- Key messages;
- Key achievements; and
- Summary and next steps.

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

- Further information was sought regarding the reported sustainable practices within Highways;

- Recognising the significant challenges post 2025 to continue delivering on this important work and deliver the stated ambition for the organisation to become zero carbon by 2038 at the latest;
- Request that comparative data and analysis of the communications strategy was needed to understand the impact on behaviour change, recognising that this could be difficult to quantify and report;
- Analysis as to the impact of the poster and billboard campaigns was requested;
- Commenting that Active Travel schemes needed to be coordinated and linked up with neighbouring authority schemes to deliver connectivity across the city region;
- A request for information on the next round of tree planting; and
- Commenting on the need to decarbonise the national electricity grid.

The Principal Resources and Programmes Officer, Zero Carbon Team informed the Committee that Scope 3 emissions associated with Highways (Scope 3 encompasses emissions that are not produced by the company itself and were 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) were not accounted in the carbon budget. The Chair commented that responsibility for Highways sat within the remit of the Economy and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee and that she would speak with the Chair to discuss bringing a report on this area of activity to that Committee.

The Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer acknowledged the discussion regarding communications campaigns and informed the Committee that a substantive report was scheduled for consideration at the December meeting. Similarly, a report on a Power Purchase Agreement was listed for the November meeting. The Chair referred to a comment made regarding young people and climate change and advised that this had been considered recently by the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee and asked that the Scrutiny Support Officer circulate the report that had been considered to all Committee members for information.

The Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer noted the comments regarding Active Travel and commented that the next stage of planning around this activity would include consideration of joining up schemes as part of wider infrastructure planning considerations. She further commented that she shared Members' disappointment in relation to national policy towards decarbonisation of the national electricity grid.

The Zero Carbon Manager advised the Committee that discussions and planning were ongoing regarding establishing an action plan post 2025, acknowledging the comment from a Member regarding the importance of adaptation and resilience as part of these discussions.

The Zero Carbon Manager further responded to questions regarding resident engagement by advising that a report on Neighbourhood Teams Engagement with Residents was scheduled for consideration at the December meeting.

The Executive Member for Environment and Transport stated that work across Greater Manchester was ongoing in relation to Active Travel and expressed her



frustration that funding to deliver such schemes was piecemeal and inadequate to deliver the ambitions of the city region, however lobbying of government would continue on this subject. She advised that a report on the Manchester Active Travel Strategy and Investment Plan was scheduled for the November meeting, and she further acknowledged the comment made regarding the need to promote diversity when encouraging cycling.

The Executive Member for Environment and Transport informed the Committee that a report on the Tree and Woodland Action Plan was listed for consideration at the November meeting, adding that Members were informed via the regular Member communication channels when any planting of trees in their ward was scheduled.

The Chair concluded this item of business by acknowledging the work delivered by all the officers working in this area of activity and paid tribute to their continued dedication to this important work.

## **Decision**

To note the report.

### **ECCNSC/23/46 Street Cleansing Programme and Campaigns Update**

The Committee considered the report of the Strategic Director (Neighbourhoods) that provided an update on street cleansing services and the Keep Manchester Tidy programme. Describing how the activity contributes to protecting the environment, climate change agenda and key priorities for future.

Key points and themes in the report included:

- Providing an introduction and background;
- Information regarding cleansing standards;
- Information relating to the street cleansing contract;
- An update on the additional investment in waste collection and street cleansing services;
- Improvements to the street cleansing model;
- Street cleansing performance;
- Information on education, awareness and engaging local communities;
- Trials and innovations to tackle all forms of littering; and
- Priorities for 2023/24.

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

- Information was requested on the criteria and definitions of the cleansing standards;
- Information was sought as to the location of the additional (200) litter bins secured through the investment to deliver service improvements;
- The challenge presented by different landowners across the city to apply consistent cleansing standards;
- How did activities associated with building works and construction impact on Biffa and service delivery;

- How could Members engage with, and seek to influence Keep Manchester Tidy campaigns; and
- The importance of maintaining cleaning standards in cycle lanes to ensure they remained safe for users.

The Contract Manager, Waste acknowledged the comments and requests from Members around the issue of standards and their application and monitoring; information on the steam cleaning trials in district centres; approach to cycle lane cleansing and suggested that he prepared a detailed briefing note to be circulated following the meeting. He further extended an invitation to Members to accompany officers when undertaking inspections.

The Strategic Lead, Waste, Recycling & Street Cleansing Team advised that the trials relating to litter bins waste storage containers, measures to target harden infrastructure and the additional bins were initially in the city centre, and consideration would be given as to other appropriate locations. Investment had been agreed to replace litter bin infrastructure citywide. She further commented that they worked closely with different landowners to influence improvements and that they worked with Biffa to reduce the escape of detritus when bins were emptied.

The Project Officer advised that Keep Manchester Tidy campaigns were fast paced projects and acknowledged that timely communications with Members on these activities needed to be strengthened. She discussed the campaign delivered on the issue of discarded chewing gum, commenting that this had been delivered in partnership with City Co and the Universities. She added that consideration was being given as to how this campaign could be rolled out wider across the city.

The Executive Member for Vibrant Neighbourhoods addressed comments made regarding comparative data across different wards and expressed caution as it was important to acknowledge that different wards and localities presented different opportunities and challenges. She informed Members that the autumn street cleansing programme would be communicated to all Members via the usual communication channels. She further commented that Members should liaise with their respective Neighbourhood Teams about local Keep Manchester Tidy projects. Noting a comment from the Chair regarding the importance of maintaining standards and leaf removal from cycle lanes she stated that if there were specific locations of concern that Members contact the relevant officers so these could be addressed.

The Chair concluded this item of business by acknowledging the work delivered by all the officers working in this area of activity.

## **Decision**

To note the report.

## **ECCNSC/23/47      Housing Retrofit**

The Committee considered the report of the Strategic Director, Growth and Development that provided an update on the Council's proposals to decarbonise the city's housing, incorporating an update on Green Skills.

Key points and themes in the report included:

- Providing an introduction and background to the subject area;
- Discussion of the approach to Social Housing, including Council owned properties;
- Consideration of Private Sector Housing;
- Consideration of the approach to cross tenure housing and area based schemes;
- Engagement activity;
- Skills, including the Greater Manchester approach;
- Funding considerations;
- The importance of partnership working;
- Discussion of internal staff resources;
- Information on developing a Retrofit Plan document; and
- Conclusion.

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

- Calling for continued lobbying of the government for the decarbonisation of the national grid;
- Calling for continued lobbying of the government for adequate financial resources to deliver the scale of retrofitting required across the city region, particularly to address the barriers experienced in the private rented sector;
- The need to regulate heat networks to protect residents from unreasonable price hikes in their energy;
- Were there any pilot schemes that individual tenants, keen to adopt new technologies and alternatives to address climate change could access;
- What work was being done with property managing agents and leaseholders to support and allow tenants / occupiers to install new technologies such as solar panels etc;

The Committee heard from Matt Roberts, Strategic Director, Property and Development, Southway Housing Trust who delivered a presentation that discussed the Arrowfield Low Carbon Communities Project. He informed the Committee that Southway had pledged to become a zero-carbon organisation by 2038, following Greater Manchester's climate emergency declaration. Switching from gas to electricity was one way to reduce carbon emissions and tackle climate change. The Low Carbon Living Project was helping Southway's tenants on the Arrowfield estate switch to cleaner, greener, and cheaper energy to heat their homes.

Mr Roberts explained that many of the heating systems in the homes on the Arrowfield estate were old and needed replacing. The government will be banning gas boilers in new properties in 2025, so replacing like for like would not be appropriate. Therefore, Southway had decided to invest in heating and hot water systems that did not use gas. The old gas systems would be replaced with new 'air source heat pump' technology that only used electricity. In addition, other energy saving projects would be carried out at the same time, such as improved loft and cavity wall insulation. These improvements could reduce households' carbon footprint by as much as 50%.

There were nearly 400 properties on the Arrowfield estate, making it one of Southway's biggest neighbourhoods. Therefore, the Low Carbon Living Project would make a significant impact on Southway achieving its zero-carbon ambitions.

He advised the committee of the challenges experienced when delivering this project and the lessons learnt. He said that it was important to engage with the District Network Operator at the earliest opportunity and emphasised the importance of meaningful, ongoing resident engagement. He also stated that issues and delays had arisen when seeking relevant planning permissions that had not been anticipated. The Chair thanked Mr Roberts for attending the meeting and sharing the experience of Southway Housing Trust. She commented that the learning from delivering this project should be shared across all housing providers at an appropriate time. In response to a question from the Chair, the Executive Member for Housing and Development confirmed that he would facilitate meetings and dialogue between the planning department and Southway Housing Trust.

The Executive Member for Employment, Skills and Leisure provided an update on the developments across the education and training sector, referenced at sections 7 and 8 of the report. The Committee noted the importance of green skills and training and welcomed the update. The Chair advised the Committee that Skills Development sat within the remit of the Economy and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee.

The Zero Carbon Programme Manager addressed the issue of the private rented sector and commented that this was a very challenging sector to engage with. She stated that all opportunities and levers were used to engage with private landlords on this subject.

In response to the specific questions relating to individual tenants and pilot schemes and the issue of managing agents, officers advised that they would follow this up outside of the meeting and contact the Member directly.

The Head of Strategic Housing acknowledged the comment and concern regarding the Heat Network and advised that the Council managed and controlled this system.

The Executive Member for Environment and Transport advised that the Climate Change Partnership continued to lobby the government for appropriate levels of funding to deliver the scale of work required across the city region, adding that historically funding had been piecemeal that had to be bid for.

## **Decision**

To note the report.

## **ECCNSC/23/48      Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy**

The Committee considered the report of the Strategic Director, Growth and Development that provided an update on progress following the adoption of the Manchester Electric Vehicle Charging (EV) Strategy.

Key points and themes in the report included:

- Providing an introduction and background to the topic,
- Discussion of the main challenges;
- Information in relation to Public Charging Network;
- The Public EV Procurement Process;
- The approach to support the move towards a cleaner taxi fleet;
- Consideration of the requirements for the installation of EV charge points as part of both new build developments and change of use developments;
- Consideration of the council's own vehicle fleet; and
- Consideration of on-street charging, noting that this presented particular challenges, especially in residential areas with informal parking arrangements such as terraced streets.

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

- Articulating the request from residents for additional on-street EV charging points, especially in high density areas such as the city centre, and reflecting the proportion of areas in the city there is no or little off-street parking
- Additional information was requested on the data and information that had been used to inform the report;
- Suggesting increased access for the public to charging points by working with employers who provide EVs on their sites and owned land;
- The need to consider all viable options and opportunities to deliver on-street EV charging to give residents confidence to change to an electric vehicle; and
- Need and demand for EV charging across the whole of the city needed to be considered.

The Principal Policy Officer informed the Committee that a draft list of locations (over 40 in total) had been developed and internal agreement was currently being sought for these locations to supply, install, manage and operate a scheme of up to 200 connectors (100 dual headed chargepoints) to be installed over a two year period. The locations were geographically spread across the city to ensure that chargepoints would be accessible to as many residents as possible. She said that the Members would have sight of these locations prior to a go-live date, however at this time it was not possible to share more widely as these were subject to change and not finalised. She advised that consideration was given to maximising all opportunities using Council owned land and appropriate consideration was given to developments in battery technology.

The Principal Policy Officer discussed the issue of the use of lamp posts to deliver EV charging on- street. She stated this was not considered as a viable option due to a number of factors, including the position of lampposts at the rear of pavements; capacity within the existing grid, adding that lampposts would only offer a very slow charge time; costs associated with additional necessary highways works to deliver that type of EV charging facility.

The Interim Head of Infrastructure and Environment commented that Manchester continued to discuss and learn from other authorities on this issue.

The Executive Member for Environment and Transport commented that Manchester was constrained due to the inadequate funding from government to progress this work. She said that despite this all opportunities were explored to support residents transition to electric vehicles. She proposed to review the strategy as it was clear that members felt that it needed to demonstrate more ambition. She further stated that this programme of work needed to be considered in the wider strategic context of citywide travel including via public transport and active travel.

### **Decision**

The Committee recommend that a review of the Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy be undertaken in due course to more rapidly increase the proportion of residents able to change to an electric vehicle with confidence.

### **ECCNSC/23/49      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.

The Committee requested an update report on Housing Retrofit and an update on the delivery of the Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy be included on the Committee's Work Programme for consideration at an appropriate time.

### **Decision**

The Committee notes the report and agrees the work programme, subject to the above comments.

## Manchester City Council Report for Information

**Report to:** Environment, Climate Change and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Committee – 12 October 2023

**Subject:** CCAP Quarterly Progress Report, Q2 July – September 2023

**Report of:** Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer

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### 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 three years (2020/21, 2021/22 and 2022/23) of the CCAP are available online at [www.manchester.gov.uk/zerocarbon](http://www.manchester.gov.uk/zerocarbon).

This report provides an update and overview of progress made in delivering the Council's refreshed CCAP during Quarter 2 2023-24 (July – September 2023) (Appendix 1 – CCAP Q2 Quarterly Progress Report, July – September 2023).

### Recommendations

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

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### Wards Affected: All

<p><b>Environmental Impact Assessment</b> - 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><b>Equality, Diversity and Inclusion</b> - the impact of the issues addressed in this report in meeting our Public Sector Equality Duty and broader equality commitments</p>
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<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</p>
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community engagement, accessible transport, access to green spaces and tackling fuel poverty.

<b>Manchester Strategy outcomes</b>	<b>Summary of how this report aligns to the OMS/Contribution to the Strategy</b>
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. It is not expected that there will be any capital budget consequences arising from the content of this report.

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

### Contact Officers:

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Name: Sarah Henshall  
Position: Zero Carbon Manager  
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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 2 2023-24 (July – September 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 July to September 2023. Emissions data relates to the previous quarter due to billing and data monitoring being quarterly in arrears i.e. April to June 2023.
- 1.5 This report highlights the positive action the Council is taking to embed zero carbon into Council operations, highlighting the progress made with retrofitting the Council's housing stock, adding capacity to the Zero Carbon Housing Team and promoting this work through additional communications and resident engagement. It also highlights the Council's city-wide leadership role by sharing best practise to reduce avoidable single use plastics and encouraging partners to do the same such as signing up to the Refill campaign.
- 1.6 The Quarter 2 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 CO<sub>2</sub> (tCO<sub>2</sub>) 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 latest Annual Report 2022-23 was presented to the Council's Environment, Climate Change and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Committee and Executive Committee in September 2023. 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 CO<sub>2</sub> 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 tCO<sub>2</sub> - this carbon budget is what we measure our direct emissions against – which are made up of:
- MCC buildings
  - Streetlights
  - Refuse collection vehicles
  - MCC Operational fleet
  - 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 2 Progress Report**

- 3.1 Manchester City Council's maximum permitted CO<sub>2</sub> emissions for 2023-24 is 21,562 tonnes (tCO<sub>2</sub>) – this is referred to as our Carbon Budget. Provisional data shows that the Council has used 22% of the 2023-24 budget during Q1 (April – June 2023). This means the Council emitted 4,765 tCO<sub>2</sub> between April and June 2023, which is 6% lower than the same period last year.
- 3.2 Since 2020, the Council has remained within its carbon budget each year and the Quarter 2 report (Appendix 1) shows continued progress is being made with the Council being on track to meet its 2025 target.

3.3 Key achievements in this quarter includes the completion of the first tranche of new low carbon social housing in Newton Heath, the promotion of Plastic Free July, and the Council co-hosting a Youth Sustainability Conference.

#### **4.0 CO<sub>2</sub> Emissions**

4.1 Emissions reported as part of the Quarter 2 report cover the previous quarter (Q1), in this case April to June 2023 due to energy billing being quarterly in arrears.

4.2 The report shows the Council has used 22% of its 2023-24 carbon budget during this quarter (April – June 2023). 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 Q1 2023-24 have fallen by 6% compared to Q1 the previous year. Whilst this is positive, we have seen a slight increase in emissions across the following areas (which is also as a result of changes to emissions conversion factors at national level – see 4.5 for further detail):

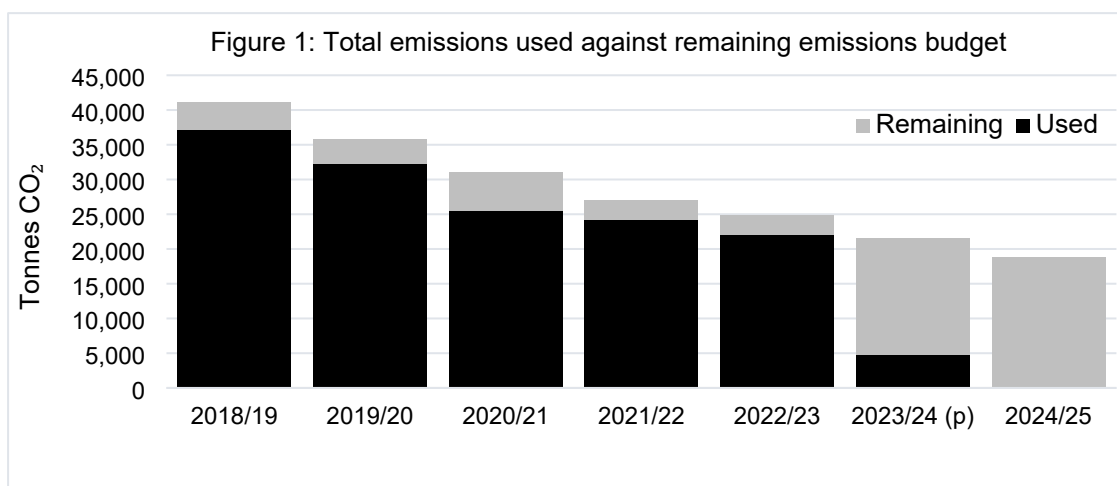
- Emissions from Streetlights has risen by 5% during Q1 2023-24 due to a change in National Government’s emission conversion factors. Whilst the level of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions has increased, the amount of electricity used to power the streetlights has continued to reduce during this period (1,599,830 kWh of electricity used in Q1 2023-24 from 1,603,518 kWh of electricity used in Q1 2022-23).
- Staff business travel emissions increased by 16%, when compared to Q1 2022-23. However, when comparing staff business travel to the previous quarter (which is more meaningful), there was only a 7% increase compared to Q4 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.
- Emissions from the Council’s Operational Fleet increased by 8% during Q1 2023-24 – in part due to a rise in usage during the summer period to cover the increase in grounds maintenance and hosting the city’s events.

4.4 The Council has made good progress in meeting its science-based targets to reduce its direct CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. However, we are starting to see lower CO<sub>2</sub> 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. This means achieving future CO<sub>2</sub> 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 The Council is also reliant on UK Government leadership through national policies and funding programmes to unlock further support and wider commitment to achieving major CO<sub>2</sub> reductions. Challenges arising from policy uncertainty and what appears to be reduced ambition from UK Government

means it is vital the Council continues to engage and influence UK Government on the importance of climate change and the net zero agenda.

- 4.6 To calculate the Council's CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from energy and fuel usage, we apply National Government's emission conversion factors, which were updated in June 2023. These emission conversion factors are based on the decarbonisation of the national electricity system. Due to the increase in the use of natural gas in the production of electricity, this has increased the carbon intensity of the national electricity system by 7%. By continuing to progress our actions to reduce the Council's energy consumption and renewable energy generation, this will minimise the impact of the emission conversion factor changes to our own emission reduction efforts.
- 4.7 Figure 1 (below) shows the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from the baseline year, 2018-19, and highlights the year-on-year reductions in CO<sub>2</sub> 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.<sup>1</sup>



- 4.1 Communicating and engaging on our journey to zero carbon remains a priority. Therefore, we will continue to engage with staff, Members and stakeholders sharing positive messages about the actions the Council is taking and what action others can take. The Council is leading the development of a citywide climate change communications campaign, which will be delivered in partnership with the Manchester Climate Change Partnership early 2024.

## 5.0 Key Achievements

- 5.1 The Council has successfully completed housing retrofit improvements on 629 properties (exceeding the original target of 500), with a total estimated carbon

<sup>1</sup>Invoicing 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. As such, the emissions recorded in our [CCAP 2022-23 Annual Report](#) for that year have been revised (from 22,072 tCO<sub>2</sub> to 22,033 tCO<sub>2</sub>) following a recent review of our energy data.

saving of 1,879 tCO<sub>2</sub>e. This was partly funded by the European Regional Development Fund.

- 5.2 Eleven (first tranche of 69) new low carbon homes on Silk Street in Newton Heath are complete and have been handed over to the Council for social housing. These houses have been fitted with solar panels, electric charging points and will be heated through ground source heat pumps.
- 5.3 A communications campaign delivered by the Council throughout July, to support the global [Plastic Free July](#) movement, continuing to advance and promote the Council's ambitious commitments to eradicating avoidable single-use plastics.
- 5.4 The Council was a highly commended finalist in the Climate and Nature Action 2030 category at this year's national [Chartered Institute for Ecology and Environmental Management Awards \(CIEEM\)](#), which recognises the targeted work to combat Climate Change and support biodiversity.
- 5.5 The Council delivered a Youth Sustainability Conference at Connell College in partnership with Manchester Environmental Education Network (MEEN), which was attended by 70 pupils. The conference included workshops and an opportunity for the students to showcase the environmental work they have completed in the last year.

## **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 (July – September 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 Q2 Quarterly Progress Report July – September 2023

# ZERO CARBON

MANCHESTER

**Manchester City Council**  
Progress Update Q2 July - September 2023



## Introduction

This report provides an overview of the progress made in delivering the Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP) 2020-25 during July - September 2023 (Q2 2023-24) and highlights some of the work delivered during this period to reduce the Council's direct carbon (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions, as well as examples of leading by example and 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 highlights the progress made in delivering housing retrofit and low carbon homes across the Council's housing stock and our citywide leadership action focuses on Manchester becoming a 'Refill Destination' to support a reduction in avoidable single use plastics across the city. An overall progress update and RAG rating of the CCAP actions is included in Appendix 1.

## Key Messages

- Our 2020-25 CCAP has a carbon budget of **126,336 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> (tCO<sub>2</sub>)**. We have used 60.1% of our budget so far, which means the Council has made good progress to date and is on track to remain within the five year carbon budget.
- The Council has used **22%** of its 2023-24 carbon budget during the year (April 2023 – June 2023) and is therefore on track to remain within its budget for this year.
- During Q1 (April – June 2023), MCC emitted 4,765 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>, which is **6% lower** than the same period last year.
- Key achievements include the completion of the first tranche of new low carbon social housing in Newton Heath; the promotion of Plastic Free July; and the Council co-hosting a Youth Sustainability Conference.

## CO<sub>2</sub> Emissions

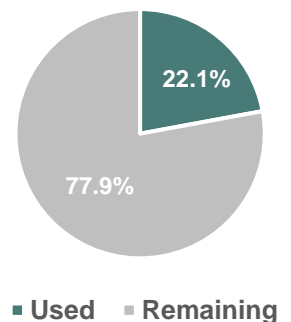
To achieve zero carbon by 2038, the Council has a target to reduce its direct carbon emissions by 13% each year. This ambition is underpinned by a carbon budget<sup>1</sup> of 126,336 tCO<sub>2</sub> for 2020-25, which the Council aims to remain within.

The annual carbon budget for the current year (2023-24) is **21,562 tCO<sub>2</sub>**. During the first quarter (April – June 2023), the Council is on target to remain within the carbon budget, emitting **4,765 tCO<sub>2</sub>** – or 22.1% of the annual allocated carbon budget. As shown in Figure 1.

The emissions data relates to the previous quarter, April – June 2023 and includes some estimates for the period due to billing being in arrears.

**21,562 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub> –  
Emissions Budget 2023-24**  
**4,765 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub> –  
Emissions produced 2023-24\***

Figure 1: Carbon Budget 2023/24 - Used Budget v Remaining Budget



<sup>1</sup>A Carbon Budget is the cumulative amount of carbon (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions permitted within a specified timeframe



Figure 2 shows the level of CO<sub>2</sub> 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.<sup>2</sup>

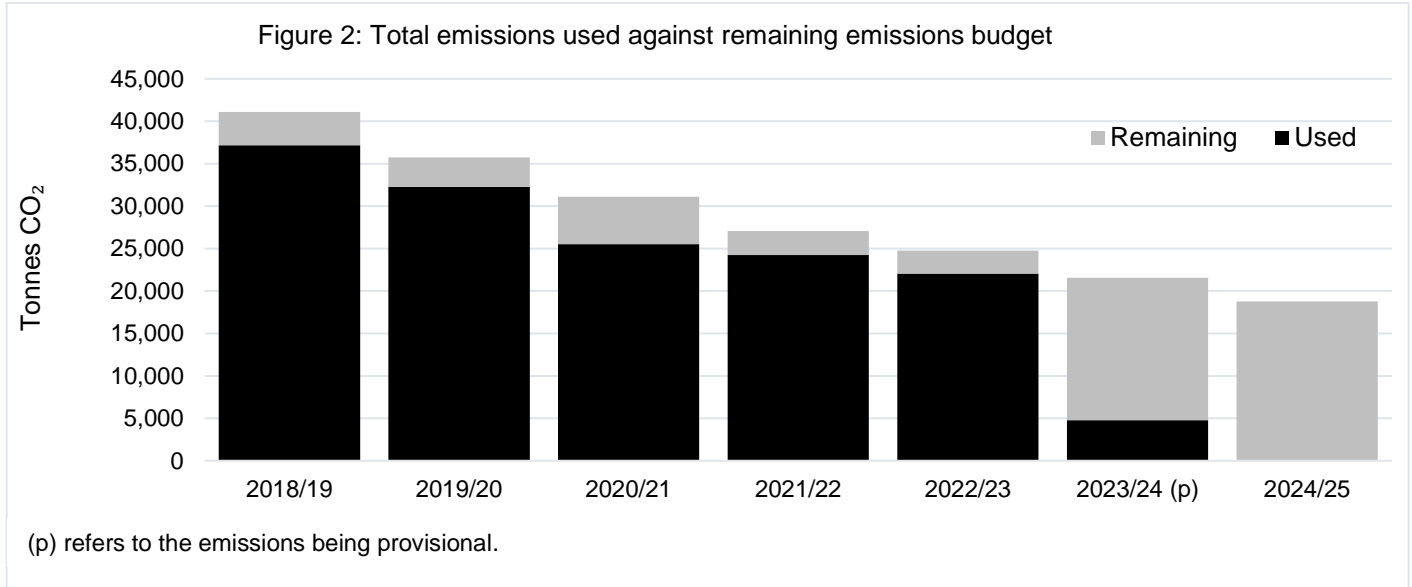
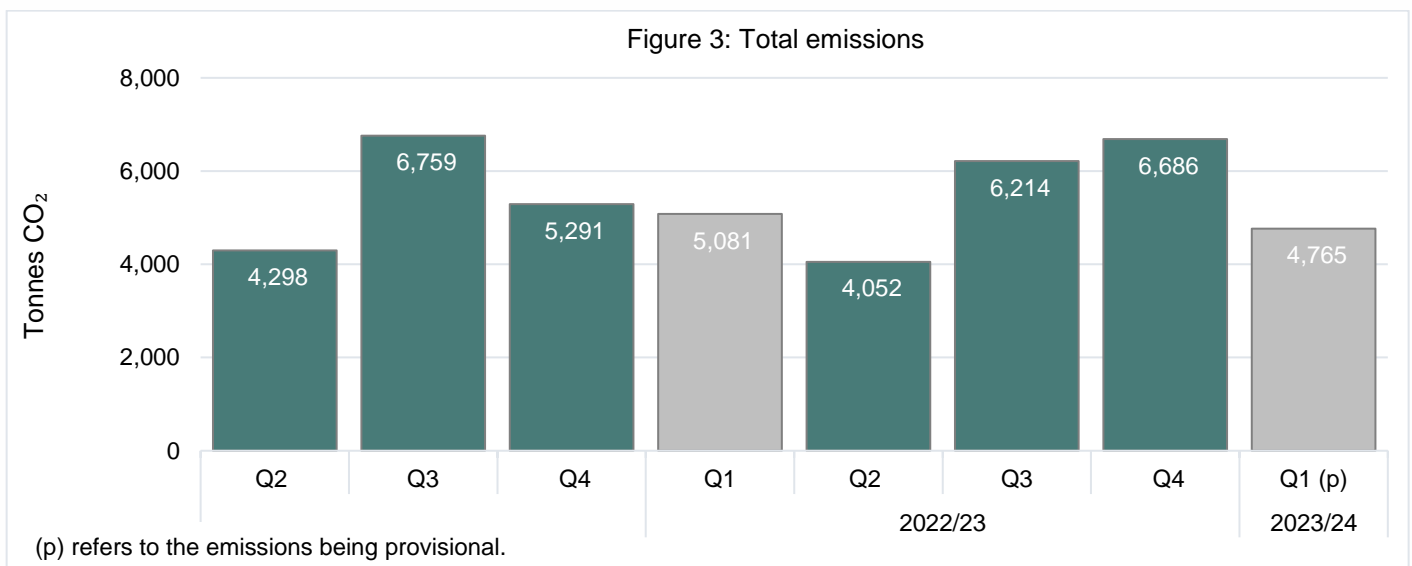


Figure 3 shows a quarter-by-quarter view of the Council’s total emissions from July 2021, enabling comparisons from one quarter to the same quarter in the previous year.



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.

<sup>2</sup>Invoicing 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. As such, the emissions recorded in our [CCAP 2022-23 Annual Report](#) for that year have been revised (from 22,072 tCO<sub>2</sub> to 22,033 tCO<sub>2</sub>) following a recent review of our energy data.

In general, we are starting to see lower rates of CO<sub>2</sub> 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 CO<sub>2</sub> 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 1 (Q1) 2023-24 is 4,765 tCO<sub>2</sub>, which is 6% lower than Q1 the previous year.

The information below shows the changes in emissions for each Council area for Q1 2023-24 compared to Q1 2022-23, highlighting where the Council's direct emissions have increased and decreased:

#### **Increases**

- Streetlights 5% increase (1)
- Staff business travel 16% increase (2)
- Council Operational Fleet 8% increase (3)



#### **Decreases**

- Council buildings down 8%
- Waste Collection Fleet down 11%



### **How we calculate our CO<sub>2</sub> emissions**

To calculate the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from energy and fuel usage, we apply national Government's emission conversion factors, which were updated in June 2023. These emission conversion factors are based on the decarbonisation of the national electricity system. As a result of the National Grid increasing the amount of natural gas in the production of electricity over the last year, this has increased the carbon intensity of the national electricity system by 7%, which in turn impact our own emissions.

Therefore, when comparing the Council's latest quarterly emissions to previous years, the national emission conversion factor has played a part in some increases. Examples include:

1. The 5% increase in the emissions from Streetlights in Q1 2023-24 is due to a change in national Governments emission conversion factors.
  - a. Whilst the level of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions has increased, the quantity of electricity used to power our streetlights has reduced during this period (1,599,830 kilowatt hours (kWH) of electricity used in Q1 2023-24 from 1,603,518 kWH of electricity used in Q1 2022-23).
2. The increase in emissions from staff business travel by 16%, when compared to Q1 2022-23.
  - a. Another contributing factor is business activity changing as we moved out of the pandemic recovery period.
  - b. However, it is important to note that when comparing staff business travel, it is more meaningful to compare to the previous quarter. In this instance, there has been a 7% increase compared to Q4 2022-23.
  - c. 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.
3. The 8% increase in emissions from the Council's Operational Fleet
  - a. Another factor is there has been a rise in usage during the summer period to cover the increase in grounds maintenance and hosting the city's events.

By continuing to progress actions to reduce the Council's energy consumption and renewable energy generation, this will minimise the impact of the emission conversion factor changes to our own emissions efforts.

## Key Achievements



Housing retrofit improvements complete on 629 properties (exceeding the original target of 500), with a total estimated carbon saving of 1,879 tCO<sub>2</sub>e, part funded by European Regional Development Fund.

Eleven (first tranche of 69) low carbon homes on Silk Street, Newton Heath are complete and have been handed over to the Council for social housing. All houses in the development have been fitted with solar panels, electric charging points and will be heated through ground source heat pumps.



A communications campaign delivered by the Council throughout July, to support the global Plastic Free July movement, continuing to advance and promote our ambitious commitments to eradicating avoidable single-use plastics.

The Council was a Highly Commended Finalist in the Climate and Nature Action 2030 category at this year's national Chartered Institute for Ecology and Environmental Management Awards - recognising targeted work to combat Climate Change and support biodiversity.



70 pupils attended a Youth Sustainability Conference at Connell College in partnership with Manchester Environmental Education Network (MEEN). The conference included workshops and an opportunity for the students to showcase the environmental work they have completed in the last year.



**MEEN**  
 Manchester Environmental Education Network

## 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 tCO<sub>2</sub> reduction achieved.
- 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 and as such, potentially impact the Council's carbon reduction targets. We will continue to monitor and take mitigating actions where possible, such as continuing to decarbonise our estate and procure renewable energy.
- The Council is reliant on UK Government leadership through national policies and funding programmes to unlock further support and wider commitment to achieving major CO<sub>2</sub> reductions. The Council will continue to engage and influence UK Government on the importance of climate change and the net zero agenda.
- 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.
- Delivering the scale of the Council's housing retrofit programme for its housing stock is proving extremely challenging due to technical complexity, funding pressures, competing priorities within housing policy, an industry-wide green skills gap and delivering effective resident engagement. This is not unique to Manchester and is impacting other Councils and Housing Providers across the country. With strong, effective leadership, the Council is continuing to work closely with partners on this agenda and has increased capacity across the service, bringing in expertise to support the development of a resident engagement plan and robust programme management processes. (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)

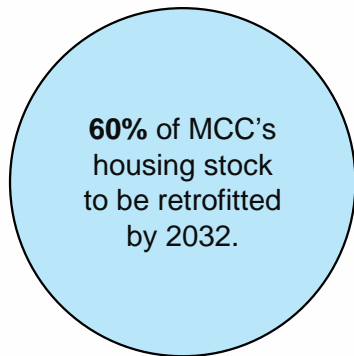
## Under the Spotlight – Housing Retrofit within the Council

This section features the Council's housing retrofit programme including the recently successful funding bids and highlights some of the challenges (Action 1.6: Developing and delivering retrofit and decarbonisation of MCC domestic properties).

### Background

With over a quarter of Manchester's carbon emissions coming from domestic buildings, the City Council as a social landlord needs to take urgent action to improve the energy efficiency of its homes and move away from relying on fossil fuel energy such as gas heating.

To achieve a 50% reduction in Manchester's emissions by 2025, it is estimated that over **84,000** domestic properties will require retrofit, of which **67,300** properties are managed by Housing Providers across the city.



### Scale of the task

The Council owns the largest proportion (23% or 15,700 properties) of the **67,300** social rented properties in the city. Of these, 12,800 are managed internally by the Council's Housing Services team and the remaining managed through three Private Finance Initiative (PFI) contracts.

Outlined in the new Manchester Housing Strategy is a commitment for the Housing Providers to retrofit a third of their total housing stock by 2023. The Council is expected to lead the way with this and retrofit 60% of its housing stock within the same period, requiring significant investment. With the average cost of home retrofit estimated at between £25,000 – £30,000 per

property, the total cost will be a minimum of £236m. To fund the scale of activity, a mix of public funding and private finance is required.

Here are some examples of recent projects:

### Homes As Energy Systems (HAES) project

The HAES project, part-funded by European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), has been completed during this quarter. With an original target of retrofitting 500 properties, 629 properties have received improvements as additional funding became available. The improvements made to the 629 homes are estimated to achieve a carbon saving of **1,879 tCO<sub>2</sub>**.

#### HAES retrofit work includes:

- Installing air source heat pumps (ASHPs) to 160 properties
- Deep retrofit of 2 properties bringing EPC levels from D/C to A+
- Installing ground source heat pumps (GSHPs) to 334 properties
- Installing solar photovoltaics (PV) and battery systems to 133 properties

## Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund (SHDF) programme

The Council has been successful in securing **£11.6m** from UK Government's Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund (SHDF), to deliver retrofit works across **1,603 Council properties** over the next 2 years. This, along with the Council's contribution of **£38m** brings the total investment in these properties to **£49.7m**.

The SHDF programme will focus on a variety of housing types, across different areas including:

- High-rise tower blocks
- Individual properties with ageing gas boilers
- Technically challenging properties within a conservation area

During this quarter, the focus has been on expanding the delivery team and planning the delivery of the SHDF programme, which includes setting out plans for communicating and engaging with residents and recruiting staff.



*Newton Heath: Avro Hollows Tower Block 2 to be included in SHDF programme.*

## Staff Resources

A crucial part of developing and delivering a Retrofit Plan and managing multiple retrofit programmes (including SHDF), is the availability of Council internal resource. This activity is led by the Zero Carbon Housing Team, who have since recruited three new fixed term posts:

- 1 Senior Project Manager (in post from July 2023)
- 1 Project Manager (in post from September 2023)
- 1 Assistant Project Manager (in post from August 2023)

Along with the existing permanent Senior Project Manager and Programme Manager, these posts make up the Zero Carbon Housing Team. The team also draws on a range of other officers and teams across the Council and external partners to support the development and delivery of a Retrofit Plan, providing the Council with a strong foundation for delivering this ambitious but important action.

## Communication and Engagement

In addition to securing investment, another key component to the successful delivery of a retrofit plan is resident engagement – it is vital that Council customers understand the reasons for the retrofit works and how they will benefit, to bring these residents along on the zero carbon journey. Therefore, to support the delivery of SHDF, a customer engagement strategy and communications plan is in development, which includes delivering on the ground resident engagement services.

## Next steps

Significant progress has been made in delivering activity towards achieving the Council's ambitious housing retrofit targets, however there is still much more to do with the delivery of the SHDF programme over the next 2 years.

The Council will continue to deliver and support housing retrofit at a broader scale through its involvement in the Manchester Housing Providers Partnership and providing support to private landlords and homeowners.

For more details on the Council's Housing Strategy and the work the Council is doing to support Registered Providers, see the recent [report](#) to the Environment, Climate Change and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Committee on 7<sup>th</sup> September 2023.

## Seeing is believing – Reducing Single Use Plastic and the Refill Campaign

Manchester City Council is committed to helping eradicate the use of avoidable single use plastics (SUP) in the products we use, and the way we deliver our services by the end of 2024. As well as having our own organisational goal, we are also committed to helping the city to reduce the use of single use plastics. Influence and engagement, both within the Council and externally with suppliers, partners, residents and businesses is vital to ensuring the Council and the City's use of SUPs continues to decline.

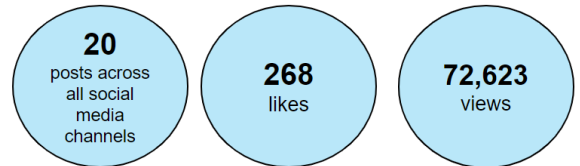
Over the past few months, the Council has taken part in initiatives to advance and promote its ambitious commitment to help Manchester eradicate avoidable single-use plastics. A number of these are outlined below.

### Plastic Free July

This year, the Council participated in Plastic Free July - a global campaign, run by the Plastic Free Foundation, which encourages people to reduce their SUPs and wider plastics use. This involved encouraging Manchester residents and businesses to prevent, reduce, replace and recycle, to reduce avoidable plastic waste from throwaway items .



#### Plastic Free July Engagement:



The Council also used Plastic Free July to kick off a six-month campaign to help residents and businesses prepare for the upcoming law change on single-use plastic. From 01 October 2023, plastic cutlery, plates, trays, bowls, balloon sticks and some cups and food containers will all be banned in England.

The Council is working with [Plastic Free GM](#) to ensure that the city is prepared for the upcoming changes – Plastic Free GM used the July awareness campaign to launch new resources showing what products are best to switch to.

### Refill

During this quarter, the Council signed up to the [Refill](#) Scheme - a 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. This scheme is run by City to Sea, who the Council has been working in partnership with, and the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) on promoting this scheme across Manchester and Greater Manchester. Now both the Council and GMCA are increasing the use of their buildings as 'Refill Stations' where residents and visitors can fill up re-usable bottles for free. The Council and GMCA have also been encouraging others to do the same to expand Refill Station locations across the city-region.

Some of the locations where people can now fill up include Manchester Central Library, the newly refurbished Abraham Moss Library, Gorton Hub, as well as 10 other sites across in the city's parks and cafes. This is as well as numerous cafes and other businesses who already offer free refills.

City to Sea have an app - '[Refill](#)', which is a helpful tool for people to find locations that are part of the scheme, to promote the move away from SUPs as well as spreading the message around the Refill Destination project.



## Manchester Task and Finish Group

A Task and Finish Group has been established, which includes representatives from the City Council, FoodSync and the Manchester Climate Change Agency to collaborate on potential new initiatives to reduce the use of avoidable single-use plastics and increase recycling and re-use across the city. The group has agreed objectives to be delivered by June 2024 which include:

- Increasing the number of businesses offering Refill points by a minimum 20% (baseline of 320)
- Increasing the number of resident sign ups to Refill app by a minimum 20% (baseline of 522)

## 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:

- MCC's Neighbourhood Climate Change Officers having a stall at the Sustainability Show in partnership with Manchester Climate Change Agency and In Our Nature.
- 'Our Green and Pleasant Land' community pageant event was delivered through the ongoing Creative Climate Resilience project and supported by MCC's North Neighbourhoods team.
- Active Street Events across the city held throughout August.
- The Youth Sustainability Conference that MCC supported in organising provided a chance for pupils to showcase the sustainability work they'd done during the year and further their learning about climate change.
- All three Neighbourhood Climate Change Officers qualified as Climate Fresk trainers– which is an initiative to teach climate science in an accessible way.
- Climate Change engagement took place at the Wythenshawe Games.
- Multiple events and activities including 'Reduce, Reuse, Recycle' themed activities took place at the Ancoats and Beswick Week of Culture.





- Road Closure events with Play Streets took place across the city, such as in Didsbury and Whalley Range.
- Outreach for the Refill campaign took place to reduce plastic waste, including the North launch at Moston Lane.
- Clean-up of parks and community gardening sessions, such as at Brookdale Park.
- Sewing Machine workshops were held to help encourage reuse of clothes, in partnership with In Our Nature project.
- The Blossom Climate Exchange Exhibition was launched at Wythenshawe Park.
- Filming in three Alleyway Gardens to promote MCC's support to community groups who have transformed alleyways into thriving shared gardens.



## Communications Highlights

Activity to promote our zero carbon ambition through campaigns, ongoing social media activity and regular press releases continued throughout the quarter. This includes Cycle September, Organic September, Zero Waste Week, Clean Air Blue Skies Day, World EV Day, World Clean Up Day, and World Car Free Day.

## Social Media

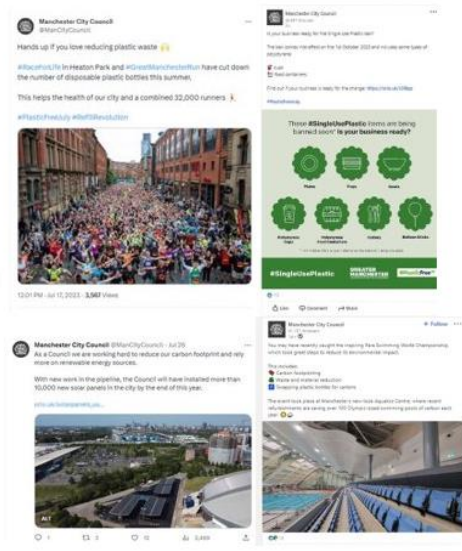
### Social Media Stats July & August 2023:

**145**  
posts across  
all social  
media  
channels

**2,175**  
likes

**600,569**  
views

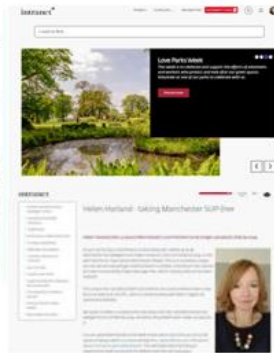
- Topics covered this quarter:
- Plastic Free July
  - Sustainable Events
  - Active Travel
  - Love Parks Week
  - European Capital of Cycling Bid
  - Low Carbon and Energy Efficient Housing
  - Parks and Biodiversity
  - Net Zero Week
  - Cycle to Work Day
  - Electric Vehicle Charging Points
  - Preparation for October SUP ban
  - 10,000 Solar Panels milestone
  - Cycle September



Internal Communications

**Topics Covered:**

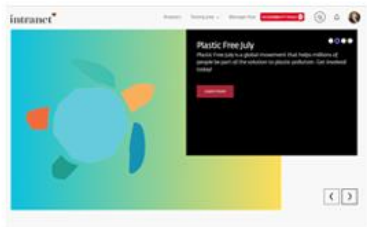
- Plastic-Free July
- Love Parks Week
- Carbon Literacy
- Cycle September
- Recycle Week.
- World Vegetarian Day
- Zero Carbon Case Studies.
- Recycling Hubs across Manchester.
- Second Hand September



7k+ staff reached



71 visitors to ZC hub



221 visitors to our Cycle September page

Behaviour Change Campaign

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



Some of this messaging was also shared via social media e.g in this post for Net Zero 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

**4 July**

Start on site for Rodney Street (This City) scheme, which features low carbon housing as well as 30% affordable homes.

- Place North West
- About Manchester
- The Manc
- World Construction Network



Work starts on Manchester's 128 homes in Ancoats  
 4 July 2023 11:40 • Julie Haindler • Comments (3)

**27 July**

First council-built low carbon homes at Silk Street welcome first residents.

- Manchesternews.com
- About Manchester



**22nd August**

Green Flag awards for Manchester parks and cemeteries.

- Manchester Evening News
- Manchester World
- I Love Manchester



**26 July**

Council to reach landmark of 10K solar panels installed on its buildings by end of 2023.

- The Manc
- The Mill
- About Manchester
- Inside Housing
- Smart Cities World
- Housing Digital
- Air Quality News
- Yahoo News UK



Manchester 'on track' to install 10,000 solar panels by end of 2023  
 26 July 2023

**5th September**

Plan to boost electric vehicle infrastructure.

- MEN
- LocalGov
- About Manchester



**1st September**

NCC reopening & MCC bid for the city of Manchester to become the European Capital of Cycling for 2024.

- BBC News
- MEN
- About Manchester
- The Manc
- Manchester World
- Intelligent Transport
- Secret Manchester
- Manchester Confidential

British Cycling velodrome reopens after £27m refurbishment



Manchester is bidding to become Europe's first capital of cycling  
 By Rosemarie Johnson & PM Cardillo  
 BBC News

Manchester wants to be the first-ever European Capital of Cycling next year



## 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)
<b>Workstream 1 – Buildings and Energy</b>				
Action	Action Summary	Action Update		
1.1 - Green	MCC Estates carbon reduction programme	Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS) funded work continues on six buildings, scheduled for completion in January 2024, estimated carbon savings up to 470 tCO <sub>2</sub> per annum. Funding approved for the installation of solar PV to Hammerstone Road Depot, which will provide 50% of the site's electricity needs. This will be delivered in 2024. Finalising a bid with GMCA to submit for the next phase of PSDS.		
1.2 - Amber	Manchester Build Standard	A full review of the Manchester Build Standard is planned for 2023/24. An internal session held in August 2023 to inform the scope of the work. Once the review is complete, plans to disseminate the Manchester Build Standard to partners will be developed in line with the Local Plan.		
1.3 - Amber	Large scale renewable energy generation	Procurement is underway to secure a provider. The 'Invitation to Tender' closed for submissions on the 11 September, this was advertised on the Chest Portal to interested bidders who had expressed a 'Request to Participate'. A decision on the preferred partner will be made later in the year.		
1.4 - Green	LED street lighting	Design work for the small number of remaining non-LED streetlights is complete, plans for the installation of LED streetlight replacements is underway once access is permitted.		
1.5 - Amber	Civic Quarter Heat Network	Connection of the Town Hall to the Manchester Energy Network is scheduled for late 2024/25 due to the revised completion programme for the Town Hall refurbishment. Updated forecasting for future energy demands of the Manchester Energy Network have been revised to account for the delayed Town Hall connection. A decarbonisation action plan for the Manchester Energy Network is in the early stages of development, once complete this will support the Board to focus on new customer engagement. The business plan and commercial model for 2024/25 is currently being drafted and is planned for Resources and Governance Scrutiny Committee and Executive Committee in January 2024.		
1.6 - Amber	MCC Housing Carbon Reduction	Procurement for a condition survey across MCC's housing stock is underway, which will provide a more accurate assessment of housing energy ratings to enable planning of future retrofit works. PFI managed stock - Contractors are progressing well on developing Sustainability Strategies for the Council's PFI managed stock, which will be complete by March 2024. The part funded ERDF HAES scheme is complete, delivering energy efficiency improvements to 629 properties in total. Two deep retrofit properties are also complete, bringing them to 'Net Zero Carbon or		

		beyond' standards, which will allow us to better understand realistic running costs once occupied. Service providers and contractors have been engaged to deliver SHDF programme and pre-development work including 300 property assessments and other surveys has commenced.
1.7 - Amber	Citywide Housing Carbon Reduction	The Greater Manchester wide housing data collection is complete, this will be used to inform GM-wide housing retrofit strategies and assist with identifying properties eligible for funded schemes such as ECO4 and Homes Upgrade Grant. Work continues with other local authorities and registered providers to share knowledge and learnings.
1.8 - Amber	Commercial and non-domestic building carbon reduction	To date support provided by the Greater Manchester Growth Company to the Commercial Sector and claimed under the ERDF Carbon Reduction contract was: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Three 'Enterprise Company's' supported, one of these being a 'Journey to Net Zero' delegate</li> <li>• Savings of 24.46 tCO<sub>2</sub> across the businesses supported</li> <li>• Financial savings of £23,981 resulted from carbon reduction measures</li> <li>• Two companies investing in Green technology</li> </ul>
1.9 - Green	Local Area Energy Plan (LAEP)	Work has continued on the procurement of public electric vehicle charge points and updating the Energy policies within the Local Plan. The Council's response to the Government consultation on District Heating Networks: Consumer Protection is being drafted to be submitted before the consultation period closes. A report on the delivery of the LAEP was considered by <a href="#">Environment, Climate Change and Neighbourhoods Committee</a> on 20 July 2023.
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 and feature as part of the 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	The Greater Manchester Joint Local Plan, Places for Everyone is expected to be out for the first phase of consultation late 2023. The evidence base for Manchester's Local Plan continues to the end of 2023, with the development of new and updated policies.
1.12 - Amber	Partnerships e.g., Green Building Council	Engagement continues to understand national best practice, which will inform the review of the Manchester Build Standard (see Action 1.2).

### Workstream 2 – Transport and Travel

Action	Action Summary	Action Update
2.1 - Green	Electric refuse collection vehicles (eRCVs)	Options are being explored for the decarbonisation of the remaining 50% of the fleet, which will feature in a full Options Appraisal before a decision is made. Considerations include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lifespan of remaining fleet</li> <li>• Feasibility - vehicle size and range suitability for collections</li> <li>• Outcomes of the UK Government's National Waste Strategy</li> </ul>
2.2 - Green	Replace operational fleet with EVs	Currently 42 electric and 5 hybrid vehicles in the fleet. Further 10 vehicles can be replaced with electric vehicles as leases end. Electric

		vehicle charge points have been installed within Cemeteries, at Northern School of Music and Manchester Art Gallery to support charging of the operational fleet.
2.3 - Green	Business Travel Policy	Staff travel policy engagement workshops are progressing well. Services with higher levels of business mileage (grey fleet) have been identified along with key contacts to engage. A “Staff Travel digital guide” is in development, to make the policy more accessible. Beryl Bike hire has been added to the staff expenses form so officers can claim for using this mode of transport for work.
2.4 - Amber	Environmental actions within Highways	Highways have developed a Short-term Environmental Action Plan, which is currently being implemented. Trialling of the National Highways Carbon Tool continues on the A34 Corridor project. The timescales for this project has been extended as the project will now be delivered in phases. The initial start-up meeting for the production of a sustainable materials palette took place in August 2023, work will continue on the development of the materials palette.
2.5 - Green	Greater Manchester Transport Strategy 2040	A Strategic Outline Business Case was approved by GMCA Bee Network Committee for the <u>City Centre Bus and Streets for All Connectivity programme</u> to unlock £3.28m of City Regional Sustainable Transport Settlement funding to develop five major corridor routes into the city centre. This work is ongoing with TfGM, district partners and consultants commissioned to support the development of the business cases for these schemes.
2.6 - Green	City Centre Transport Strategy	A study assessing walkability across the city centre has been carried out, which sets out an evidence base and suggests schemes for small scale improvements to support walking in the city centre. Outcomes of the study will inform a pipeline of schemes for consideration for delivery when feasible.
2.7 - Amber	EV Charging Infrastructure Strategy	Following the soft market testing, procurement documents are being prepared to carry out a full tender process later this year to secure a supplier of the charging infrastructure. A progress update report was presented to <a href="#">Environment, Climate Change &amp; Neighbourhood Scrutiny Committee</a> in September 2023.
2.8 - Amber	Active Travel	Funding secured from MCC and the Mayor's Challenge Fund for the completion of Levenshulme and Burnage Active Neighbourhood scheme. The ‘Safer Streets’ trial has begun on Parsonage Road.
2.9 - Amber	Sustainable Travel Incentives for MCC Staff	Sustainable travel related communications have been shared with staff through internal communications on national action days/weeks to highlight the various schemes in place to promote sustainable commuting. Cycle September has been promoted to encourage staff cycling, mileage data is being logged to show progress.
2.10 - Amber	Aviation Emissions	The Manchester Airport Group continue to engage with the Manchester Climate Change Partnership and feed into the Government’s policies on aviation.
2.11 - Amber	Air Quality	A follow-up action plan to Manchester’s Air Quality Action Plan 2016-21 is on hold whilst awaiting the outcome of the GM Clean Air Plan. Officers are currently exploring opportunities for potential bids to DEFRA’s air quality grants programme.

<b>Workstream 3 – Sustainable Consumption</b>		
<b>Action</b>	<b>Action Summary</b>	<b>Action Update</b>
3.1 - Amber	Sustainable Procurement	The Council has successfully recruited a new Procurement Project Manager within the Integrated Commissioning and Procurement team. This role along with the Procurement Programme Manager will help drive forward the procurement framework, which aims to monitor the environmental outputs of Council contracts. Collating data to calculate a baseline measurement of the Council's Scope 3 emissions continues to be a challenge, which is not unique to MCC. We are currently working with experts in this field to further investigate how we measure these emissions across MCC.
3.2 - Amber	Reducing Single Use Plastics (SUPs) in the Council	A Plastic Free communications campaign ran throughout July, in line with the global campaign, Plastic Free July. The aim is to encourage people to reduce their single-use plastic and wider plastic usage. Further communications are scheduled on the national single use plastics ban coming into effect from 01 October 2023.
3.3 - Green	Sustainable Events	Surveys are being carried out to understand the sustainability of ongoing Council events (both internal and external events held on Council land). The surveys align with the sustainable events guides focusing on five key areas (energy, travel, waste, food and drink, water, and carbon emissions). The results from these surveys will help create a baseline to understand how well events currently meet the principles of sustainable events and identify where further work is required.
3.4 - Amber	Waste Services	In July 2023, DEFRA announced further delays to elements of the national Resource and Waste Strategy. We are working with colleagues as part of the GMCA Waste Officers Group to understand what this means for businesses and residents, and our current waste provision.
3.5 - Amber	Supplier Toolkit	Work is underway to identify key outcomes that are expected to be delivered by our suppliers. Toolkits are also being developed to assist MCC Commissioners when procuring and monitoring environmental commitments through their contracts.
3.6 - Green	Influencing Single Use Plastics reduction in the city	The Parks team are working to ensure all onsite cafés are compliant with the Council's SUP free commitments as outlined in the Parks CCAP.
3.7 - Amber	Manchester Food Board	A scoping meeting is being planned to engage relevant MCC services and Manchester Climate Change Agency to inform the content of a Manchester Sustainable Food Policy.

<b>Workstream 4 – Adaptation and Sequestration</b>		
<b>Action</b>	<b>Action Summary</b>	<b>Action Update</b>
4.1 - Green	Tree Action Planning	A draft outline of the tree action plan is currently in development. Information exchange meetings have now been undertaken with key leaders in the field of tree and woodland management, including: the Tree Council, and Trees and Design Action Group. The Tree Action Plan will be shared with the Environment, Climate Change and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Committee in November 2023.

4.2 - Green	Nature Based Solutions	The Highways Developer Design Guide - Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) has been produced and uploaded to the Council's website. The guide is a technical document that provides guidance, advice and typical detail drawings of the type of SuDS MCC Highways are willing to adopt.
4.3 - Green	Parks CCAP	Since the launch of the Parks CCAP in April, links with other Council stakeholders on a number of the actions are being coordinated to avoid duplication and streamline delivery.
4.4 - Green	Green and Blue (G&BI) Strategy	Further consideration is needed on 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. It is important to align and manage expectations of these strategies to ensure buy in from external partners and departments across the Council.
4.5 - Green	Biodiversity Strategy	Work is ongoing with consultants to prepare for the introduction of the national Biodiversity Net Gain statutory obligations of planning policies from November 2023. A Members briefing session is being planned for October 2023 to share more on the changes coming into place.
4.6 - Green	Tree Planting	The Urban Tree Challenge Fund is now complete with 359 trees planted during the last planting. Further funding has been applied for via the Northern Forest Offer for a further 390 trees to be planted around the city in line with the updated tree action plan.

### Workstream 5 – Catalysing Change

Action	Action Summary	Action Update
5.1 - Amber	Carbon literacy training	2,252 members of staff are Carbon Literacy Certified including elected members and partner organisations. 10 Members are yet to complete training, 7 of these were newly elected in May 2023. A new Carbon Literacy Lead is now in post and will help with the roll-out of the training. A recent audit has taken place of those who have undertaken training but not progressed through to full certification. The audit found a number of pledge forms are outstanding, these are now being chased. Pledge forms will now be completed as part of the training session to avoid this issue reoccurring in the future.
5.2 - Amber	Embedding zero carbon within Council decision making	Two engagement sessions have been held with OMVCS and Supporting Communities fund organisations to help with the challenges currently being faced by smaller organisations who are not able to prioritise climate change issues alongside their other priorities. These sessions provided an opportunity to share knowledge and learnings and identify a peer support network.
5.3 - Green	Finance & Investment	The Innovate UK Net Zero Living Pathfinder Phase 1 project, which included the development of a high-level pipeline of projects with a variety of funding sources has now been completed. A bid for a Phase 2 to further this work, in collaboration with GMCA and Oldham Council, has recently been submitted, with the outcome due in late 2023.



5.4 - Green	Community Engagement	<p>Ward Level CCAP plans will be published on the Council's website by the end of October 2023.</p> <p>The "In Our Nature" Year 1 report is currently being written and plans for Year 2 are underway.</p> <p>Manchester Climate Change Youth Board continues to evolve into a new structure that will allow a wider range of young people to participate and take action.</p>
5.5 - Green	Citywide Communications Strategy	<p>Zero Carbon communications continue to promote initiatives such as Clean Air Day, Manchester's Wildest Festival, Food Waste Action, Keep Britain Tidy GB Spring Clean. The Council and Manchester Climate Change Agency are working with the Manchester Climate Change Partnership's virtual communications team to develop a new citywide climate campaign.</p>
5.6 - Green	Fund Manchester Climate Change Agency (MCCA)	<p>MCC has committed to funding the Manchester Climate Change Agency for 2023/24, covering four core posts and a small operational budget.</p>
5.7 - Amber	Support Manchester Climate Change Partnership (MCCP)	<p>Southway Housing Trust has recently highlighted the impact the Council's leadership has had on their climate change strategy prompting them to replace gas boilers with heat pumps in almost 400 properties.</p> <p>The Council is working with MCCA, GMCA and the NHS to develop shared approaches for the production of Climate Adaptation Plans. The objective is to ensure plans are joined up and developed at pace.</p>
5.8 - Amber	Support Education Providers to reduce carbon	<p>A Green School Network chaired by Councillor Bridges held its first meeting. The Networks fed back on progress to date and the purpose of the board.</p> <p>The second Climate Change Champions session was held, focusing on Waste, Clean Air and UNICEF Child Friendly City.</p> <p>Four Schools completed the BEE GREEN relay. The winning school - All Saints Primary in Gorton will receive £3500 funding to deliver a climate related project in partnership with Manchester Environmental Education Network.</p> <p>Colleagues from Finance, Procurement and Capital Estates are currently discussing the feasibility of a Council loan scheme to allow Manchester schools to join a GM collective purchase of solar PV.</p>
5.9 - Amber	Influence GM stakeholders to decarbonise	<p>The Council, in partnership with the GMCA and Oldham Council, have submitted a bid to Innovate UK's Net Zero Living Pathfinder Programme (Phase 2), targeted at unlocking non-technical barriers to delivering Net Zero at scale across the UK.</p>
5.10 - Amber	Government Lobbying	<p>In August 2023, Manchester City Council joined <a href="#">UK100</a>, a network of local leaders who have pledged to lead a rapid transition to Net Zero, to support with knowledge exchange and lobbying Government.</p>
5.11 - Green	International networks and projects	<p>Manchester signed the Eurocities 'Call to Action' on sustainability and inclusion within culture during Cllr Bev Craig's visit to the Brussels Urban Summit. This work builds on the work already underway within the city's culture sector and will enable learning from other cities.</p> <p>The Council's Estates team hosted a delegation from Nigeria in July 2023, who were interested in the Council's zero carbon ambitions. The visit consisted of a range of presentations and discussions, plus a tour of the National Cycling Centre, Manchester Aquatics Centre and West Gorton Park.</p>

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5.12 - Amber	Green Skills Plan	<p>The Work and Skills team together with Strategic Housing team have created a Social Value Working Group to support and monitor employment and skills opportunities from the housing retrofit programmes. The first meeting was held in September.</p> <p>GMCA have regionally commissioned the 2023/24 skills bootcamps (worth £7m). MCC have engaged with each Bootcamp provider to help raise the profile and uptake of their offer, including a presence at Job Fairs, community events and being embedded into Work and Skills marketing channels.</p>
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**Manchester City Council  
Report for Information**

**Report to:** Environment, Climate Change and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Committee – 12 October 2023

**Subject:** Waste and Recycling Update

**Report of:** Strategic Director (Neighbourhoods)

### Summary

This report provides an update on progress in delivering waste, recycling, and fly-tip removal. Describing how the activity contributes to the climate change agenda and key priorities for future. Updates are also included for commercial waste, flats above shops and Christmas collection arrangements.

### Recommendations

The Committee is recommended to consider and make comments on the content of 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 Manchester Climate Change Framework 2020-25 is the city's high-level strategy for tackling climate change. It sets out how Manchester will 'play its full part in limiting the impacts of climate change', a commitment in the Our Manchester Strategy 2016-25. The Framework's key aims are to be: 'a cleaner, litter-free city, which recycles more' and '...play its full part in limiting the impacts of climate change and create a healthy, green, socially just city where everyone can thrive.'

In 2021/22, 27 end-of-life diesel refuse collection vehicles collection vehicles were replaced with electric alternatives. This represents just under half the fleet and will reduce greenhouse emissions by 900 tonnes and NOx by 2,836 kg per annum.

The approach to communications and engagement aims to promote the waste hierarchy by encouraging Manchester residents to reduce their own carbon impact by reducing the waste they produce, re-using what they can and recycling the right items in the right bin.

**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 report recognise the need for just and equal delivery of waste and recycling collections and street cleansing services across the city, focusing on areas such as communications, engagement, education, access to recycling facilities and cleaner neighbourhoods.

<b>Manchester Strategy outcomes</b>	<b>Summary of how this report aligns to the OMS/Contribution to the Strategy</b>
A thriving and sustainable city: supporting a diverse and distinctive economy that creates jobs and opportunities	Supporting residents and businesses to dispose of their waste responsibly and compliantly will support the progress towards becoming a sustainable city.
A highly skilled city: world class and home-grown talent sustaining the city's economic success	The Eco Schools programme inspires young people supported development of green skills for the future.
A progressive and equitable city: making a positive contribution by unlocking the potential of our communities	Working closely with both residents and businesses to support them in improving the neighbourhoods in which they live, work, and socialise.
A liveable and low carbon city: a destination of choice to live, visit, work	Increasing recycling rates across the city will reduce Manchester's carbon footprint. Reducing litter will make the city cleaner.
A connected city: world class infrastructure and connectivity to drive growth	Increasing recycling rates across the city will reduce Manchester's carbon footprint. Reducing litter will make the city cleaner.

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

- Equal Opportunities Policy
- Risk Management
- Legal Considerations

### **Financial Consequences – Revenue**

Not applicable

### **Financial Consequences – Capital**

Not applicable

### **Contact Officers:**

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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.

*Our Waste, Our Resources: A Strategy for England' (2018), Defra  
Policy paper, Office for Local Government: Understanding and supporting local  
government performance, Published 4 July 2023*

*The Waste Prevention Plan for England: Maximising Resources, Minimising Waste  
(2023), Defra*

## **1.0 Introduction**

- 1.1 This report provides an update on delivering waste and recycling removal services including engagement work to reduce fly-tipping; describing how the activity contributes to the climate change agenda, protecting the environment and key priorities for the future. The report also includes requested updates in relation to the management and disposal of commercial waste and management of alleyways behind commercial properties where there are domestic dwellings above. Detail is also included regarding the planning for additional waste generated over the Christmas period (including information on Christmas trees and household waste recycling centres).
- 1.2 Further reports are scheduled to be brought to the Environment, Climate Change & Neighbourhood Scrutiny committee in 2023/24 to discuss weed control and the annual update on compliance and enforcement which includes activity associated with litter and fly-tipping enforcement. These areas are not covered within this report.
- 1.3 A report was provided to the Environment, Climate Change & Neighbourhood Scrutiny committee in September 2023 on street cleansing services, progress on implementing the £1.2m investment and the annual update on the Keep Manchester Tidy programme; describing how the activity contributes to the climate change agenda, protecting the environment and key priorities for the future.
- 1.4 A report was provided to the Environment, Climate Change & Neighbourhood Scrutiny committee in February 2023 on the approach to communications and engagement with Manchester residents to reduce their own carbon impact by reducing the waste they produced, re-using what they could and disposing of or recycling items using legitimate routes.

## **2.0 Background**

- 2.1 Becoming a cleaner, litter-free city, which recycles more is a key objective for the City and forms a fundamental part of several of our major strategies, policies, and action plans for the city. This includes Our Manchester; the Climate Change Action Plan; and the Recycle for Greater Manchester Communications & Engagement Behavioural Change Delivery Plan amongst others.
- 2.2 The waste disposal and recycling arrangements for Manchester and other Greater Manchester Authorities (except. Wigan) are managed by the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA). The operating contract for the disposal and recycling facilities, together with Household Waste Recycling Centre's (HWRCs) is delivered by Suez.
- 2.3 The Councils service provider Biffa are responsible for providing scheduled domestic waste and recycling bin collections; and reactive / pro-active (passageways and known hotspots) fly-tip removal services for defined land types.

- 2.4 The Neighbourhoods Directorate has an important role in ensuring that the city is clean, well-maintained, safe and a vibrant place to live, work and visit. The Directorate deploys staff to fulfil several statutory functions and where appropriate services come together to jointly plan and address areas in need of greater attention and or improvement. Since the Our Manchester strategy was adopted in 2015, there have been some adjustments to working models in the Neighbourhoods Directorate to bring greater focus to tackle persistent issues like fly-tipping. This includes investment in the pro-active Biffa fly-tipping crews, the Neighbourhood Project Team (who work alongside this dedicated resource to manage the enforcement actions) and additional compliance officers (2) focused on Commercial Waste. In 2018 the city embarked on a partnership with Keep Britain Tidy to develop an overarching campaign: 'Keep Manchester Tidy'. Additional funding was mainstreamed from 2019 which has funded additional enforcement cameras and enabled fly-tip target hardening measures to be implemented in locations persistently affected by fly-tipping.
- 2.5 As the city continues to see considerable and sustained growth, the ability of services to adapt is vitally important to manage increasing demand pressures and costs for the future. Equally important, is the need for cross service planning and for teams to work collaboratively to ensure the sum of the various parts is greater than the whole. Partners and other key landowners in the city also have a key role to play. It is recognised that more can be done and that our collective efforts need to be strengthened particularly in hotspot areas where currently the standards are below what Manchester are striving for. Pilot schemes are currently being developed to tackle fly-tip hotspots during this financial year. A wider piece of work is also underway to develop an action plan to set out how Manchester will become cleaner city by 2025 as set out in the aims of the Manchester Strategy.

### **3.0 National strategy landscape**

#### **3.1 Waste Strategy (2018)**

- 3.1.1 The Waste Strategy (2018) has been subject to several delays. The original aim of the strategy was to drive up the country's recycling rate which has stagnated. It recognised that policy change, investment in recycling infrastructure and the development of recycling markets is required to deliver an increase. In July 2023, Defra wrote to Local Authorities to advise that Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) would be delayed until October 2025 and that Deposit Return Scheme would be launched in October 2025, as originally intended.
- 3.1.2 Extended Producer Responsibility represents a major reform in how packaging waste is managed and funded in the UK. Extended Producer Responsibility is an environmental policy that requires producers to pay the full costs of dealing with the waste they produce from when it is placed onto the market, through to the end of its life. This will support the polluter pays principle. The full cost of collection, sorting, recycling, and disposal of household packaging waste is to be covered by producers rather than the

taxpayer. Packaging payments to Local Authorities will now be delayed from October 2024 to October 2025. The reasons outlined are largely in relation to concerns about the programme contributing to inflation, and to allow more time for the industry, Local Authorities, and waste providers to prepare for the changes.

- 3.1.3 The Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) relates to small cash deposits placed on single-use drinks containers, to encourage people to recycle their drinks bottles and cans, reducing litter and plastic pollution. The scheme would include reverse vending machines, and designated sites where people can return their bottles and receive their cash deposit back.
- 3.1.4 In September 2023 the Prime Minister announced, as part of the new approach to Net Zero, that the requirement for 'consistent recycling' would be replaced with a more pragmatic approach: 'simpler recycling'. Consultations on 'consistent recycling' were undertaken in 2019 and 2021. To date no clarifications on the system has been provided by Defra.
- 3.1.5 The GMCA on behalf of the GM Authorities have contacted Defra to request clarification on the full implications of this latest announcement. It is unclear if there are planned to be any further changes to EPR and DRS since the communication from Defra in July 2023. The implementation of the Waste Strategy (2018), particularly to increase the scope of material to be collected at the kerbside, is a key focus for the GMCA and all GM Authorities. Increasing the capture and quality of recycling remains a key priority.

## 3.2 Waste Prevention Programme (2023)

- 3.2.1 Defra published the government's 'waste prevention programme for England: Maximising Resources, Minimising Waste (the Plan)' at the end of July 2023 following a public consultation in 2021. The Plan is the government's response to statements in the Environmental Improvement Plan and the Waste Strategy (2018) which sets out long-term commitments and ambitions to eliminate avoidable waste by 2050. The Plan sets out how the government intends to achieve strategic principle 2 of the Waste Strategy – to prevent waste from occurring in the first place and manage it better when it does.
- 3.2.2 The Plan sets out the government's priorities for action to manage resources and waste in accordance with the top layers of the waste hierarchy - prevention and reuse. It will take a policy approach encompassing three cross-cutting themes:
- **Designing out waste:** Including eco-design and consumer information requirements, and Extended Producer Responsibility schemes.
  - **Systems and services:** Including collection and take-back services, encouraging reuse, repair, leasing businesses and facilities; and
  - **Data and information:** including materials databases, product passports (sets of data, unique to the specific product that can be accessed online and give detailed information on, for example, contained materials,



components and history, to support improved outcomes such as higher quality recycling) and voluntary corporate reporting.

- 3.2.3 These cross-cutting themes will be applied to seven key sectors selected on the amount of waste arisings from each sector or known carbon emissions from production: Construction (61.4 million tonnes per annum (mtpa)); Textiles (1.04 mtpa); Furniture (0.86 mtpa); Electronics (1.5 mtpa); Vehicles (1.8mtpa); Plastic and packaging (2.5 mtpa); and Food (9.5 mtpa).
- 3.2.4 The Plan contains a significant number of proposals, and the government has pledged that the new policy will be subject to public consultation. This will consider individual and cumulative impacts on public expenditure, the cost to business including small and medium-sized enterprises, and consumer choice and affordability. The Waste Prevention Plan aligns with the GM waste and recycling disposal contract with Suez including the Renew network and the Re-Use Hub. Over time and once the direction of travel is clarified, it may be appropriate to review the Councils bulky waste removal service to ensure the methodology is still appropriate. This is in the context that more manufacturers are likely to be required to provide free take back schemes for end-of-life products and reuse, repair facilities and services will increasingly be available for consumers.

### 3.4 Office for Local Government (Oflog)

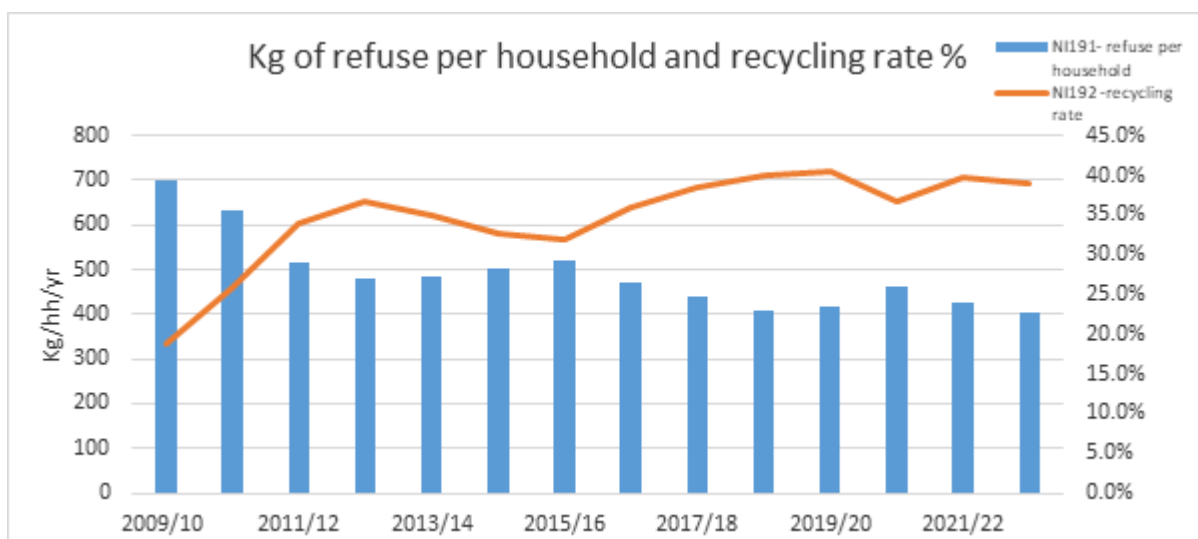
- 3.4.1 At the beginning of July 2023, the government established a new office (Oflog), a new performance body for local government. Initially this office will form part of the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities. The strategic basis for this new organisation is to provide 'authoritative and accessible data and analysis about the performance of local government and support its improvement'. Initially Oflog will present selected performance data through the 'Data Explorer' online tool and develop indicators which show areas at risk of failure and convene early warning dialogue between such areas and experts in the sector. Performance indicators for household waste and recycling will be included in the first suite of metrics.

## 4.0 Performance

### 4.1 Domestic Refuse & Recycling Performance

- 4.1.1 The refuse and recycling data for 2022/23 is yet to be approved by Defra. The data submitted shows that during this period kg of refuse per household fell to 403 kg, Manchester's lowest figure to date. Garden waste fell by 2661 tonnes, this is thought to be due to the hot weather in summer 2022 and affected authorities across Greater Manchester and the UK. Consequently, due to lower-than-expected garden waste tonnages, the recycling rate decreased by 0.6% to 39.1%.

#### 4.1.2 Graph showing kg of refuse per household and recycling % (2022/23)



#### 4.2 Oflog Waste Metrics

4.2.1 As discussed in 3.4.1, Oflog will report on key waste and recycling metrics which are summarised in the table below. As previously discussed at this scrutiny committee, it is not appropriate to compare Manchester's performance with its nearest geographic neighbours. The governments 'Data Explorer' online tool allows comparisons to be drawn between the selected Local Authority and the CIPFA (Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy) nearest neighbours. This includes 15 Councils with the most similar statistical characteristics in terms of social and economic features. The table below shows that in this context, Manchester's performance in 2021/22 was acceptable.

#### 4.2.2 Table showing Oflog waste metrics compared to CIPFA neighbour's median and England media for the period 2021/22

Metric	Manchester 2021/22	RAG*	CIPFA neighbours median 2021/22	England median 2021/22
Household waste recycling rate	39.7%	Green	34.1%	41.9%
Residual Household waste, kg per household	425.6kg	Green	568.9kg	502.4kg
Recycling contamination rate	5.9%	Green	7.3%	5.6%

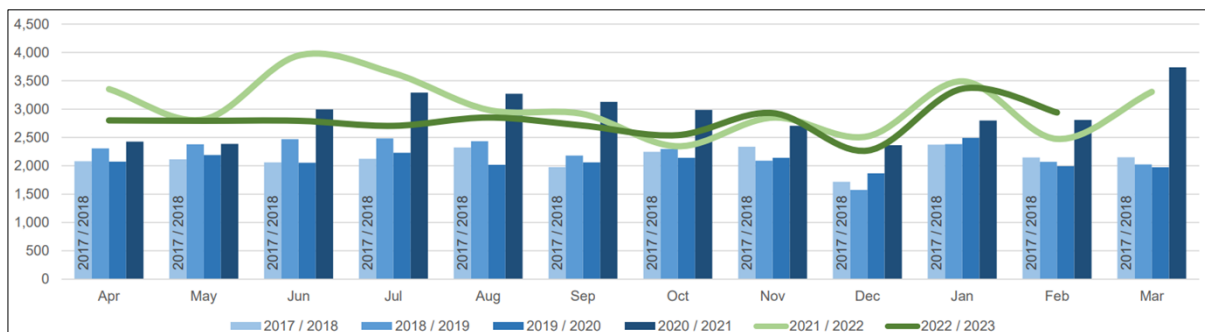
\*RAG (Red, Amber, Green) is Manchester performance compared to CIPFA near neighbours.

#### 4.3 Fly-tipping

4.3.1 Overall, the number of fly-tipping incidents in Manchester has remained consistent over the last couple of years as shown in the graph 4.3.2.

According to the Defra published fly-tipping data (2021/22), Manchester experienced less incidents than some of the other core cities including Liverpool, Nottingham, and Newcastle.

**4.3.2 Graph showing the number of fly-tips reported up to 2022/23**



4.3.3 In the latest fly-tipping data release (2021/22) from Defra a new metric has been used of incidents per 1000 residents. Below is a table of incidents per 1000 residents in 2021/22. As previously discussed at this committee districts report fly-tipping differently so like-for-like comparisons can be misleading. CRM systems work differently at different authorities, side waste and fly tipping may be separately reported in some districts and not in others. Housing type and waste collection services offered may also contribute to different levels of fly tipping being reported. Higher density housing is more likely to have communal waste collection points where side waste and bulky waste may be presented for collection by residents but reported as fly tipping.

**4.3.4 Table showing incidents of fly-tipping per 1,000 people for Greater Manchester (exc. Wigan)**

<b>2021/22</b>	<b>Incidents per 1,000 people</b>
Rochdale	27.85
Manchester	25.46
Oldham	24.39
Salford	22.23
Tameside	17.74
Bury	17.14
Trafford	10.70
Stockport	10.69
Bolton	4.00

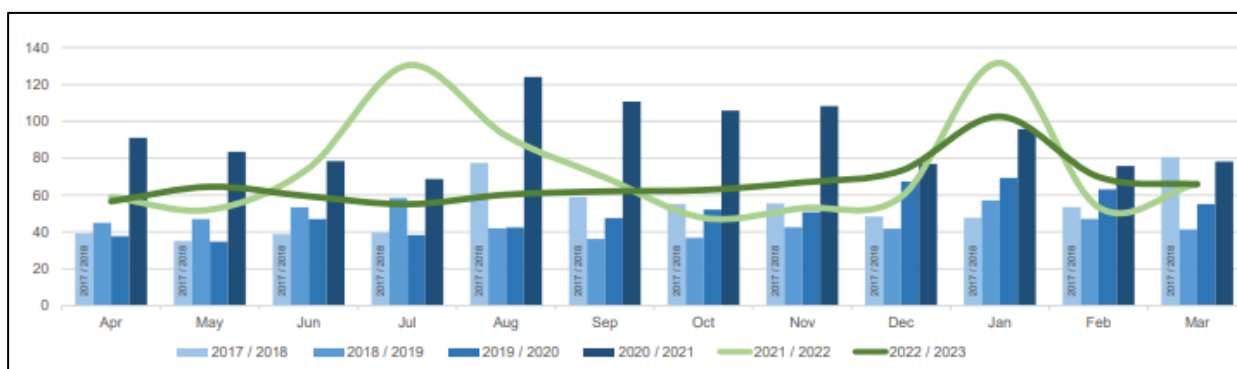
**5.0 Waste Collection Contract**

**5.1 Missed Bin Collections (4-bin properties)**

5.1.1 Biffa empty in the region of 2.5 million bins every month. Outside of periods of service change or inclement weather, less than 0.07% (2022/23) of these collections result in a resident contacting the city because their bin was not

emptied on the scheduled day of collection. If Biffa missed 0.01% of their collections, then this would represent up to 250 households of their monthly collections. To measure performance the number of reported missed bins per 100,000 potential collections is calculated. This ensures that patterns can be tracked irrespective of changes in collection regimes or increases in household numbers. Biffa are required to ensure missed streets are returned to by the end of the next working day (following the expected day of collection).

### 5.1.2 Graph showing number of missed collections up to 2022/23 (4-bin properties)



5.1.3 Missed collections are at elevated levels compared to pre-pandemic. The spike in December 2022 and January 2023 was discussed at the Climate Change and Environmental Scrutiny Committee in January 2023. Biffa report this is due to a combination of round growth, driver availability, vehicle availability and on a smaller scale barrier to collection such as inconsiderately parked vehicles. Biffa are addressing staff issues through improvements to their operating system (Whitespace) and through utilisation of in cab technology which should provide more accurate information to crews and management information that can be used to improve performance. There are also joint working groups in place to drive improvements to vehicle availability through improvements to charging infrastructure. It is also expected that through works at the depots where Biffa are based, additional space will be provided to Biffa which will improve the overall operation and availability of vehicles. A mechanism is being developed with finance to reflect the growth required in the waste collection fleet as the number of properties and population continues to grow. A working group has been established with Neighbourhood Teams and Highways to consider some of the place-based highway and parking issues affecting access.

## 5.2 Passageway Collections

5.2.1 Passageway collections are provided via shared waste and recycling containers. As shown in the figures above, performance is slightly below expected standards (100%) but has been on an upward trajectory in 2023. In 2022 the Council requested Biffa to look at this operation in its entirety and put forward suggested changes that can bring about sustainable operational improvement. The sheer volume of waste and challenging conditions mean

that crews need close supervision. Biffa have responded by further investment in their in-cab technology which is giving their management team tools to manage performance more effectively and has been instrumental in recent improvements. It should be noted that the pass rate recorded for July and August was 97% and 100% respectively which is evidence that the new technology is having a positive impact. Sweeping around containers and bin returns continues to need further improvement and something Biffa are reviewing as part of ongoing service improvement.

### 5.2.2 Graph showing results of MCC monitoring of passageway container emptied (on day of collection)

Year	2021	2022	2023
Pass Rate	84%	74%	92%

### 5.3 Passageway Cleanse

5.3.1 The contract requires that all publicly adopted passageways should be cleansed by Biffa on a quarterly basis. This is in addition to bin emptying and sweeping (once per week) around containers in those passages that are containerised. Biffa have been successfully maintaining the programme in line with the agreed schedule for over 3 years. Biffa maintain a schedule and provide evidence of service completion to the Council. This information is shared via quarterly updates to ward members providing images of completed work. The Neighbourhood's Directorate is working collaboratively with partners to develop projects to improve passageways, more detail provided in section 6 of this report.

### 5.4 Fly-tipping

5.4.1 Biffa are responsible for responding to reports of fly-tipped waste on public land (as defined in the contract specification). Reports of incidents are logged via the City's website or by telephone / email to the Contact Centre. Requests are made by members of the public, businesses, other public bodies, Registered Providers and by Officers. These requests are logged onto the CRM system and routed depending on the information provided. Some requests are passed for investigation to the Neighbourhood Compliance Team (NCT) if evidence is provided which may lead to the identification of the perpetrator, or if waste has been deposited on private land – in which case the relevant landowner is contacted.

5.4.2 Most reports have insufficient information to pursue enforcement options and are passed to Biffa for removal – they are required to remove non-hazardous fly-tipped waste within 5 working days. The service standard requires Biffa to remove reported fly tipping within 5 working days – unless the material is of a hazardous nature which requires a quicker response rate. The contractual KPI target for fly-tipping requires Biffa to achieve the SLA at a minimum rate of 95%. The average rate achieved in 2022/23 was 98%. It should be noted that within this performance it is acknowledged that the number of fly-tips closed as 'unable to locate' is higher than both the Council and Biffa would like. It is



expected that through the Resident Business Digital Experience Programme (RBDxP) and the Biffa upgrade of their operating system (Whitespace) that this number should reduce through increasing accuracy of job logging and job detail available to the crew.

## 6.0 Tackling Fly-tipping

### 6.1 Education, Awareness and Engaging Local Communities

6.1.1 Keep Manchester Tidy, the Neighbourhood Team, and the Neighbourhood Compliance Team work together to identify hotspots where intervention is required and draw on service strengths to develop community projects that aim to reduce fly-tipping. The table below provides an overview of some of the projects which have been delivered over the last 12 months.

6.1.2 Table provides an overview of some of the fly-tip reduction projects which have been delivered over the last 12 months.

<p><b>Case Study 1: Community Project - Narbuth Drive in Cheetham</b></p> <p>This project started with the introduction of Keep Britain Tidy’s Crime not to Care campaign and was followed up with weekly visits for a period of 12 months. KMT also hosted quarterly litter picking and games events for children and families, advertised through the local school and via direct mail drops to local properties. Through our partnership with READ Manchester, aimed at promoting literacy alongside litter picking, children were rewarded with free books. Incidences of fly-tipping have reduced on the estate.</p> <p><b>Next steps:</b> Prepare a campaign for Bonfire night to tackle the large quantities of household waste being burnt on Narbuth Drive.</p>	
	
<p><i>Narbuth Drive in Cheetham</i></p>	<p><i>Henderson Street Area in Longsight</i></p>
<p><b>Case Study 2: Community Project - Henderson Street</b></p> <p>The Central Neighbourhood Team requested support with a resident-led project to beautify the end of the street and boost environmental work in the area. KMT helped to clear pathways, refreshed the planters, created fencing baskets and installed a campaign to highlight the work of volunteers. Alongside this, KMT are working with the local primary school to support them to become an eco-school and have delivered several workshops and events. KMT introduced residents to</p>	

one of our social value contractors and between them, they have installed solar lighting in the area.

**Next steps:** Continue to work with MCC Neighbourhood Team, residents, and Stanley Grove Primary School. Activities for this month include winter planting to design out fly-tipping and anti-social behaviour.

### **Case Study 3: Community Project - Carrill Grove in Levenshulme**

Local residents highlighted how littering, and fly-tipping was impacting on their street and wellbeing. Keep Manchester Tidy responded by undertaking weekly visits to the street to try and understand more about the sources of the litter. Several businesses were identified as contributing to the problem and were visited by both KMT and MCC Compliance Team. Evidence was found on several occasions linking waste to residents, and this was referred through to the fly-tip investigation team. KMT provided gardening supplies for the alleyway and was in regular dialogue with residents. Keep Britain Tidy's #Still Littering Campaign was also used to deter street litter.

**Next steps:** Continue to liaise with residents and the Central Neighbourhood Team to sustain improvements.

### **Case Study 4: Community Project - Damien Street in Levenshulme**

Keep Manchester Tidy trialled a value-based fly-tipping campaign with Keep Britain Tidy in the Mathews Lane area of Levenshulme. The campaign, which highlighted the amount of money that is wasted clearing up fly-tipping did not result in sustained improvements in the alleyways. Keep Britain Tidy are undertaking further work to explore the use of value-based messaging in behaviour change. In the meantime, Keep Manchester Tidy has undertaken work in one of the streets, Damien Street, to build relationships with residents. This has involved planting hanging baskets and hosting coffee evenings. KMT has asked Biffa to lead on a programme of engagement with the central neighbourhood team and further activities are planned to include an Active Streets event in October. By building relationships, it is anticipated that more residents will take part in activities designed to tackle fly-tipping in the area.

**Next steps:** Continue relationship building with residents and develop a plan of action with them to tackle fly-tipping.



*Damien Street in Levenshulme*



*KMT High Street Week*

### **Case Study 5: Keep Manchester Tidy High Street Week**

Following the success of the Great British Spring Clean, Keep Manchester Tidy developed the High Street Week campaign with the aim of focusing on littering and

fly-tipping at district centres. Weeklong events were held at Levenshulme, Fallowfield and Newton Heath and activities included visits to shops and businesses to talk about waste, hosting an on-street stall to promote recycling and the correct disposal of waste. High Street Week proved to be an effective way to engage with communities as residents enjoyed discussing the local area and learning more about the recycling, the bulky waste service and HWRCs.

**Next Steps:** KMT High Street Week to become an annual fixture following the GB Spring Clean each year, with one event in North, South and Central Manchester.

### **Case Study 6: Rethinking Spaces**

Keep Manchester Tidy often approaches tackling fly-tipping by working with residents to green an area; thus, designing out the problem. In collaboration with a wide range of greening experts, KMT compiled the top 10 tips for alleyway greening. These remain the blueprint for all our greening work. However, experience tells us that although greening is a very successful approach it isn't an approach for everyone. KMT is therefore starting a range of work that will focus on changing the perceptions of alleyway space. The aim is to help people view these spaces as being valuable and worth looking after because of the amenity they provide. Our first project, which is in collaboration with MSV, MCC Neighbourhood and Compliance teams, will see fly-tipping removed from 2 nearby alleyways: one in Moss side and one in Whalley Range. Over the course of 4 weeks the alleyways will take on new purposes for example becoming an outdoor café, a bowling alley, an outdoor arts and crafts space and a back-alley cinema. Residents will design their own alleyway toolkit containing resources to enable them to keep using the space in exciting ways without having pots and plants to look after (unless of course they want to).

**Next steps:** The project team has been established and meeting schedule set. Resident communications commence in December with activities scheduled to launch as part of the GB Spring Clean 2024.

## **6.2 Target Hardening Fly-tipping Hotspots**

- 6.2.1 In 2019-20 an extra £0.5m was committed by the city to tackle fly-tipping through additional compliance officers, CCTV and 'target hardening' projects. Regular updates have previously been provided to Members about this investment. This update focuses on 'target hardening', which is the process of installing physical deterrents that make a fly-tipping target harder to access or less desirable (such as bollards, barriers, and beautification). So far, 84 fly tip intervention projects have been completed and 11 further projects are in progress. These projects are developed as a collaboration between Neighbourhood Compliance, Neighbourhood Teams, Waste & Recycling Team, Highways and Parks.
- 6.2.2 In 2023, interventions have been installed including bollards and kick rails in Ancoats & Beswick, Ardwick, Cheetham, Clayton & Openshaw, Gorton & Abbey Hey, Longsight and Miles Platting & Newton Heath. Barriers have been funded in Burnage, Harpurhey and Moss Side and we have match-funded a pocket park in Fallowfield.
- 6.2.3 A review has recently been undertaken to measure how effective interventions from previous years have been. We have noted an average 95% drop in fly-



tipping incidents reported where interventions have been installed. We also revisited a derelict piece of land in Whalley Range, that was formerly used as a makeshift car park. Cars were removed and the land was protected, greened and given back to the local community where it is now a successful community gardening and growing project.

**6.2.4 Table below shows some images of intervention projects delivered in 2023.**

	
<p>A barrier in Moss Side, protecting a fly-tipping hotspot</p>	<p>A bollard protecting an allotment in Gorton &amp; Abbey Hey</p>
	
<p>A barrier protecting a school and nursery in Harpurhey</p>	<p>A pocket park in Fallowfield before (left) and during construction (right)</p>

**6.3 Commercial Waste**

6.3.1 The primary legislation for the management of commercial waste is embedded in the Environmental Protection Act 1990. In essence all businesses irrespective of their size or nature have a Duty of Care to ensure that the waste they produce is contained to prevent it escaping and causing a nuisance. Failure to comply with their legal duty could result in them being issued with a Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN) or in the worst case, a prison sentence.

6.3.2 The businesses' Duty of Care also extends to them being legally required to ensure that the waste they produce is disposed of appropriately using a registered 'waste carrier'. The waste carrier will in turn provide the business

with a waste transfer note detailing the waste type and its destination. Upon request a business is legally required to produce copies of waste collection and disposal details – failure to do so could result in them being issued with a FPN.

- 6.3.3 Collection of commercial waste in Manchester is undertaken by several different private operators: Biffa (commercial arm of their organisation), Veolia, Lavelle, Premier, B&M and Fresh to name a few. The Council does not provide a commercial waste collection service via its contractor Biffa.
- 6.3.4 As noted in this report, in 2019 dedicated Commercial Waste Officers (2) were funded to focus on ensuring businesses are legitimately managing their waste. As this resource is relatively small in comparison to the number of businesses across the city, this resource is prioritised to known hotspot areas. The Commercial Waste Officers work collaboratively with various officers within the Compliance, Enforcement and Community Safety service area to support actions and monitor actions. The table below, provides some examples of commercial waste case studies.

#### 6.3.5 Table showing recent commercial waste case studies.

<b>Case Study 1: Partnership Example Fallowfield Triangle</b>
<p>A joint project with partners took place at the Fallowfield Triangle in the Fallowfield ward following reports of various fly-tipping, domestic waste and ASB issues in that area. From a an NCT perspective each of the businesses was visited and their waste contract was checked. Also, occupants at each of the flats were contacted to discuss their waste arrangements. The ASBAT team were involved because of previous reports of rough sleeping &amp; aggressive begging in the area. The Waste &amp; Recycling Team took part in the project to look at the type of waste provision in that area, to ensure it is correct for the flats above the shops. All waste was cleared and an abandoned commercial waste container that was attracting fly-tipping from residents were removed. A CCTV camera was deployed in the area to monitoring for fly-tipping.</p> <p><b>Actions Taken</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Joint site meeting took place with all relevant sections along with the local Councilors.</li> <li>• W&amp;R Officers surveyed the location and reported back to Biffa actions required inc. deep cleanse of the alley way, frontage of shops cleansed, and replacement broken waste bins replaced.</li> <li>• Neighbourhood Compliance Officers carried out full inspections of all Commercial Business checking waste contracts. Enforcement required on 2 Businesses regarding contracts.</li> <li>• Neighbourhood Compliance Officers carried out additional enforcement, 2 legal notices served on business owners for escape of waste from containers, 2 further notices for fly-tipping, and 1 PDPA for waste &amp; miscellaneous items on private land.</li> <li>• CCTV camera deployed at the rear alleyway.</li> </ul>

- ASBAT and GMP attend site regarding aggressive beggars and rough sleeping, no aggressive begging witnessed at time. Rough sleeper given assistance for accommodation. Location now being monitored.
- Neighbourhood Officer liaising with services for area improvements, regarding tree pits, graffiti removal and greening of the area in agreement with members.
- Neighbourhood Officer's and Waste & Recycling Officers liaise with occupiers in flats above shops, regarding education and behavioral change regarding, fly-tipping, disposing of their waste correctly by using of the correct receptacles.

### **Case Study 2: Prosecution Case 1 (Moldova Magazin Limited)**

This case was investigated by Officers from the Commercial Waste Project. Officers visited Rochdale Road during previous projects back in June 2021. The company did not have a commercial waste contract to dispose of their commercial waste. The business ignored all legal notices, fines, and correspondence by officers, which was then referred to the Environmental Crimes Team.

The business was consistent in that they also ignored ECT, which resulted in the case being referred to legal services for prosecution. After intensive investigation the case was referred to City Solicitors, which was later prosecuted in Manchester Magistrates There's a lot of work, effort and resources required to escalate as case to this stage, which began with a simple proactive visit by the Commercial Waste Project. Prosecutions are always a last resort, but sometimes necessary.

Notes from hearing - The matter was heard before Manchester Magistrates Court on 11 August 2022. The Defendant did not attend. An application to prove in absence was granted. The Defendant was found guilty. The court applied the totality principle to both charges. The company was given 28 days to pay the prosecution of £5,750.00.

#### **Court Result sent by the Regulatory & Enforcement team.**

Name of Case - Moldova Magazin Limited

Date Concluded in Magistrates Court – Thursday 11th August 2022

Sentence - £5,000.00

Costs - £500.00

Victim Surcharge - £250.00

**Total - £5,750.00**

### **Case Study 3: Prosecution Case 2 (Drumstick Takeaway Limited)**

The case was initially investigated by Officers from the Commercial Waste Project. Officers visited Drumstick Takeaway located at 331, Palatine Road, Wythenshawe, during previous projects back in August 2021. The company did not have a commercial waste contract to dispose of their commercial waste. The business ignored all legal notices, fines and correspondence by officers, which was then referred to the Environmental Crimes Team.

The business was consistent in that they also ignored Environmental Crimes Team, which resulted in the case being referred to legal services for prosecution. After intensive investigation the case was referred to City Solicitors, which was

later prosecuted in Manchester Magistrates There's a lot of work, effort and resources required to escalate as case to this stage, which began with a simple proactive visit by the Commercial Waste Project. Prosecutions are always a last resort, but sometimes necessary.

The matter was heard before three lay Magistrates and the legal advisor to the Court. The Defending company did not attend the court hearing and had not informed the court or the Council of its non-attendance. City Solicitors took the Court through the Sentencing Guidelines and offences committed.

**Court Result sent by the Regulatory & Enforcement team.**

Name of Case – Drumstick Takeaway Limited, Wythenshawe  
 Date Concluded in Magistrates Court – Thursday 12th January 2023  
 Sentence - £9,000.00  
 Costs - £500.00  
 Victim Surcharge - £190.00  
**Total - £9,690.00**

**6.3.6 Table below shows some images from commercial waste case studies.**

	
<p>Passages in Fallowfield Triangle</p>	<p>Passages in Fallowfield Triangle</p>
	
<p>Moldova Magazin Limited (Prosecution case 1)</p>	<p>Drumstick Takeaway Limited (Prosecution case 2)</p>

## **6.4 Flats Above Shops**

- 6.4.1 As the city's population has intensified, more space above shops has been brought back into use for residential accommodation. Increases in fly-tipping of domestic waste in these areas has been observed. As discussed previously at this committee, some properties do not have sufficient space for waste storage. A project was undertaken in 2022 to identify where these properties are. Work is underway with Biffa to determine how a service offer can be adapted to meet the needs of these properties. It had been hoped that progress would have been made sooner. This is a key priority for 2023/24.

## **6.5 Cleaner by 2025: Next Steps**

- 6.5.1 In some parts of the city some streets and passageways are significantly impacted by fly-tipping and poor waste management behaviours. This issue impacts negatively on residents' wellbeing and how they feel about their neighbourhood. As discussed previously at this committee, there are factors which are consistent in these areas, which it is believed are increasing the risk and likelihood of this occurring, this includes: high levels of deprivation, transience, property type and tenure; population density and English is often not the first spoken language.
- 6.5.2 It was identified as part of the budget process that the basic service offer is not always sufficient to tackle the complexities, which arise from these factors. Over the last few months Officers from across the Neighbourhoods Directorate have been reviewing our approach to addressing this in the known hotspot areas. As an outcome of this work a targeted approach will be trialled this financial year to provide an enhanced level of cleanse in priority areas. This will be supported in several locations by an intensive focus on education, engagement, and compliance. The aim being to get these streets and passageways back to an acceptable standard, which can be sustained and over time empower stronger communities. As stated in 2.5 a wider piece of work is also underway to develop an action plan to set out how Manchester will become a cleaner city by 2025 as set out in the aims of the Manchester Strategy.

## **7.0 Christmas Arrangements**

- 7.1 At the Environment, Climate Change & Neighbourhood Scrutiny committee in January 2023, a verbal update was provided on services delivered during the Christmas 2022 period. During that time several factors impacted vehicle and staff availability for Biffa the main issues including staff illness, issues at depots and charging which were largely linked to a very cold weather period. The Waste, Recycling and Street Cleansing service were asked to provide an update to this scrutiny committee in Autumn 2023 to advise what measures are being undertaken to plan for this period and to consider if additional cardboard collection capacity can be provided.

- 7.2 A lessons learnt exercise was completed earlier this year which identified key areas for focus in 2023/24:

- Communications and promotion of all routes available for residents to manage excess waste, recycling, and christmas tree recycling.
  - Consider options to reduce the impact of Christmas tree recycling which has grown year-on-year in number of trees presented.
  - Work with Biffa to increase resilience arrangements for their work plan during the Christmas period.
  - Impact of seasonal cleansing activities such as the leaf removal programme, gully cleansing.
  - At Members request review whether additional collections can be offered for cardboard and paper.
- 7.3 Christmas is a busy time of year for lots of families in Manchester, and lots of extra waste is generated during this time. All properties responsible for presenting waste for collection, received a collection calendar and leaflet during July and August 2023 covering the weeks around Christmas 2023. This collection calendar and leaflet directs customers to the Christmas waste webpage, where advice is provided on handling excess waste and recycling, Christmas trees and other items like batteries.  
[https://www.manchester.gov.uk/info/200084/bins\\_rubbish\\_and\\_recycling/7094/bins\\_and\\_recycling\\_at\\_christmas](https://www.manchester.gov.uk/info/200084/bins_rubbish_and_recycling/7094/bins_and_recycling_at_christmas)
- 7.4 The calendar also covers changes in collection days that are necessary due to bank holidays on 25 December, 26 December, and 1 January. Residents are encouraged to sign up for free email bin collection day alerts at this time of year, to avoid being surprised by the change of collection days. There are currently over 10,000 subscribers to this service, which increases annually by 500-1000 extra subscriptions at Christmas time. All this information is also available 365 days a year 24/7 through the bin collection day checker. This is the most visited page on the Councils website, with over half a million views per year. <https://www.manchester.gov.uk/bincollections>.
- 7.5 The Communications Team will support the Waste, Recycling and Street Cleansing team to develop a Christmas communication plan to share key updates through the Christmas period about managing waste and recycling. This will include localised and city-wide social media messaging, communication packs for registered providers and housing officers to amplify messages with residents, annual printed in the local press (by GMCA), briefing note for Members and wider colleagues within the Neighbourhoods Directorate, and messaging to staff within the Council, many of whom are also Manchester residents.
- 7.6 There are 20 Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs) located across the conurbation which can all be accessed by residents living in Greater Manchester. In Manchester there are three HWRCs. During the Christmas period these facilities are open every day, 8am – 6 pm, except for Christmas Day and New Years Day. Residents can use these facilities to recycle and dispose of a wide range of materials including excess black bags, extra recycling, and most household items including batteries, bulky and electrical waste. These facilities are free for residents to use, more information can be found at [recycleforgreatermanchester.com](http://recycleforgreatermanchester.com).

- 7.7 The number of real Christmas trees presented for recycling every year continues to grow in number, with more larger trees also being presented. These can present some manual handling challenges for operatives. Manchester is one of few Local Authorities which still allows residents to present christmas trees for collection in January after the festive period. This year all christmas tree recycling options will be promoted to residents. Residents will be asked, where possible, to cut down their trees and place in their green bin collection, this approach is encouraged by many other Local Authorities and is found to reduce collection issues. Residents are also able to donate their Christmas tree with national charity JustHelping, together with a small donation for the collection, residents can help local hospices who are supported by this charity. Officers are working with Parks and JustHelping to increase the number of drop off locations available this year in Manchester. Christmas trees (real and artificial) can also be taken to the HWRC.
- 7.8 Collection data has been reviewed, together with vehicle and staff availability to consider whether additional collections for cardboard and paper could be provided during the Christmas period. Waste collection crews work throughout the festive period to ensure bin collections take place, this year there will be some adjustment to collection days due to when Christmas Day and Boxing Day fall. After reviewing previous years waste collection data and considering vehicle and staff availability, it is not possible to schedule additional collections at this time of year. Officers have also considered whether it would be appropriate to alter the sequence of recycling collections to ensure the paper and card would be collected in the Christmas week. Whilst it is acknowledged there is more cardboard and paper during this period, there are also increases in presentation of cans, glass, and plastic bottles. The impact of changing this has been considered and it is believed it would be confusing for residents who are used to the current cycle of presenting their blue bin one week and their brown bin the next. Officers will work with the Communications Team to promote information to residents about how they can get the most out of their bin capacity by squashing and compressing recyclable items, and to promote alternative routes to dispose of extra recycling materials.
- 7.9 Biffa are currently finalising christmas operational plans and reviewing business continuity arrangements. Officers will review these in coming weeks.

**7.10 Table showing images of this year’s recycling leaflet and christmas recycling with JustHelping at Wythenshawe Park**

<p>Front page of the leaflet, delivered to nearly 190,000 properties</p>	<p>Volunteers at Wythenshawe Park sort through collected Christmas trees.</p>

**8.0 Priorities for 2023/24**

8.1 The priorities are detailed through the report.

**9.0 Recommendations**

9.1 The Environment, Climate Change & Neighbourhood Scrutiny Committee is recommended to note, comment upon, and support the content of the report.



## Manchester City Council Report for Information

**Report to:** Environment, Climate Change and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Committee – 12 October 2023

**Subject:** Single Use Plastics

**Report of:** Head of Integrated Commissioning and Procurement  
Strategic Lead – Resources and Programmes  
Sustainability Project Manager, Zero Carbon

### Summary

This report provides an update on work being undertaken across the Council on Single Use Plastics (SUPs) as part of the action under Workstream 3 of the Council's Climate Change Action Plan 2020-25.

The report provides background to this work: updates on actions taken by the Council to deliver its pledge to eradicate the use of avoidable Single Use Plastics by the end of 2024; a national ban on SUPs introduced by Government and; communications and engagement work undertaken to reduce SUPs use within the Council and with businesses and residents across the city.

### Recommendations

The Committee is recommended to note 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 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

**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 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.

<b>Manchester Strategy outcomes</b>	<b>Summary of how this report aligns to the OMS/Contribution to the Strategy</b>
A thriving and sustainable city: supporting a diverse and distinctive economy that creates jobs and opportunities	The transition to a zero carbon city will help the city's economy become more sustainable and will generate jobs within the low carbon energy and goods sector. This will support the implementation of the Our Manchester Industrial Strategy and Manchester Economic Recovery and Investment Plan
A highly skilled city: world class and home grown talent sustaining the city's economic success	Manchester is one of a small number of UK cities that have agreed a science-based target and is leading the way in transitioning to a zero carbon city. It is envisaged that this will give the city opportunities in the green technology and services sector.
A progressive and equitable city: making a positive contribution by unlocking the potential of our communities	Transitioning to a zero-carbon city can help to tackle fuel poverty by reducing energy bills. Health outcomes will also be improved through the promotion of more sustainable 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	Becoming a zero carbon city will help to make the city a more attractive place for people to live, work, visit and study.
A connected city: world class infrastructure and connectivity to drive growth	A zero carbon transport system would 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**

It is not expected that there will be any financial consequences to the Revenue budget that should arise from the content of this report.

### **Financial Consequences – Capital**

It is not expected that there will be any financial consequences to the Capital budget that should arise from the content of this report.

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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*  
*Manchester City Council Climate Emergency Declaration July 2019*  
*Manchester Climate Change Framework 2020-25 Updated 2022*  
*Manchester City Council: Progress to date on the Council's commitments on Single Use Plastics (SUPs) December 2022*

## 1. Introduction

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update the Committee on progress to date on the Council's commitments on Single Use Plastics (SUPs) since the last report to this Committee in December 2022. Next steps and actions are outlined within the report.
- 1.2 In 2019, Manchester City Council pledged to eradicate avoidable Single Use Plastics by 2024. This was following the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) launching the first city-region wide plan to drive down avoidable SUPs as part of the #PlasticFreeGM campaign, in which all ten GM Local Authorities signed up to the Local Authorities Plastic Pact.
- 1.3 All ten GM local authorities, plus the GMCA, have committed to actions related to reducing SUPs including aiming to eradicate avoidable single use plastic on the public estate; sharing data, knowledge and best-practice on avoidable SUPs; embedding environmental sustainability criteria in social value procurement mechanisms; support new initiatives to increase recycling and re-use; and raising awareness amongst staff, suppliers and the wider community to influence and change behaviour.
- 1.4 Our commitment has been reflected in the MCC Climate Change Action Plan 2020-25 (CCAP) under Workstream 3: Reducing Consumption Based Emissions and Influencing Suppliers:
- Action 3.2:** Ensuring the Council reduces avoidable SUPs by 2024 by reducing single use plastics from across the Council's operational estates (ie. cafes), markets (including pop-up markets), Council run events and other events held on Council owned land and procurement (including packaging on goods).
- Action 3.6:** Ensure all MCC Markets and Parks meet the Council's Single Use Plastic Free Pledge and UK Government legislation by embedding and enforcing requirements to be single use plastic free within Market trader licences and Park trader licences.
- 1.5 The previous report to Scrutiny in December 2022 was prepared following the creation of a dedicated Council post to focus on this issue, along with other actions in Workstream 3. The 2022 report set out the following next steps:
- Development of baseline for SUPs use
  - Development of an action plan for eliminating avoidable SUPs by 2024, along with next steps from 2025
  - Development of organisational understanding of avoidable SUPs and environmental impacts of SUPs
  - Continued engagement of key external stakeholders

## 2. Wider Context on Single Use Plastics

2.1 Single Use Plastic items are designed to be used once before being thrown away.

2.2 Plastic waste is problematic because:

- It contributes significantly to global pollution, as well as climate change (as plastics are made using fossil fuel).
- Items such as plastic bags can block waterways and sewers, leading to an increased risk of local flooding.
- It causes a major risk, sometimes fatal, to many marine species who mistake plastic objects for food and/or can become entangled in plastic waste.
- SUP items are often difficult to recycle, so often end up as landfill or burnable waste.
- Plastic waste as litter isn't biodegradable so will take hundreds of years to decompose into tiny pieces known as microplastics, potentially releasing embedded chemicals also. Microplastics have been found in our food and waterways.

2.3 The picture on single-use plastics is complex. It is not as straight forward as removing or replacing all SUPs, as for some there is no viable alternative. This may be for health and safety reasons, financial motivations, lack of suitable products in the marketplace, or avoiding food waste (of perishable products) for example. Consideration for the environmental impacts of alternative materials is also needed, including weight, transportation (especially important for packaging), how much of the material is recycled and how it is disposed of.

2.4 Our pledge is to eradicate avoidable SUPs. Our definition of avoidable is where an item is non-essential or where there is a viable alternative, such as a reusable item. At this time, not all SUPs in use will be avoidable.

## 3. Change in National Legislation and Policy

3.1 The Department for Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA) have taken action to tackle the most problematic littered SUPs. According to DEFRA it is estimated that, on average, each person uses 18 single-use plastic plates and 37 single-use plastic items of cutlery each year in England. For Manchester's population of 588,250, this could equate to nearly 10.5 million plastic plates and almost 22 million plastic cutlery items annually.

3.2 Plastic stirrers were banned by DEFRA, along with restrictions being placed on plastic straws and plastic-stemmed cotton buds in October 2020. In January 2023, DEFRA announced a further ban on Single Use Plastic would come into place in October 2023 on plates, bowls, trays, containers, cutlery and balloon sticks (with some exemptions). Brief guidance was published by DEFRA in May 2023, whilst the legislation was still subject to parliamentary approval. Further detailed guidance for businesses was published by

Government in September, which the Council is now working to distribute as quickly as possible through a variety of channels.

- 3.3 In August 2023, DEFRA published an updated Waste Prevention Programme, now titled The Maximising Resources, Minimising Waste for England. This sets out priorities for action to manage resources and waste in accordance with the top layers of the waste hierarchy – prevention and reuse, detailing actions for plastics (as well as construction, textiles, furniture, electronics, food and road vehicles).

DEFRA estimate that the UK produces 2.5 million tonnes of plastic packaging waste (commercial and household) each year<sup>1</sup>. The key points to highlight in relation to the planned plastics actions by the UK Government are:

- the intention to explore the potential for technological innovation in the production of coffee cups, and behavioural science in how they are used. (timescale TBC)
- Extended Producer Responsibility for packaging payments has been delayed to October 2025.
- Consideration of measures through packaging Extended Producer Responsibility or other means, to encourage use of reusable and refillable packaging (from 2025)

It also references work to be undertaken by the WRAP (a climate action NGO) to launch a Reusable Packaging Roadmap for the UK and a series of category-focused reusable packaging blueprints by Summer 2024.

- 3.4 As the full detail on the Government's plastics policies emerge from DEFRA, this will need to be embedded into the Council approach on SUPs.

#### **4. MCC Progress Update**

- 4.1 The previous SUP report in December 2022 updated this Committee on the initial scoping work carried out to identify SUPs purchased by the Council, along with categorisation as avoidable or not avoidable by 2024. This involved working with 13 teams and 93 individuals across the Council. Since the start of 2023, further development work has been undertaken to shape the findings into an action plan to ensure we remove SUPs where possible, then reduce and/or recycle where the SUPs are still a necessary part of service provision.

- 4.2 The progress over the last ten months has been:

- Establishment of a cross-Council working group
- Development of an Action Plan for eliminating avoidable SUPs by 2024, along with next steps from 2025
- Identification of quick wins, including Neighbourhoods engaging cafes on the public estate to further reduce SUPs in use and Facilities Management continuing to work with a key supplier to replace products

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<sup>1</sup> [Defra \(2022\) UK Statistics on Waste](#)

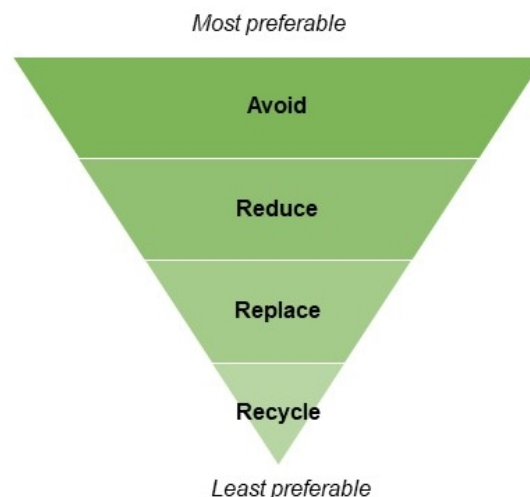
- Identification of opportunities to influence beyond the Council on SUP reductions
- Development of the communications and engagement approach, aligned to wider Zero Carbon Communications plans.

4.3 In April 2023, a working group was established to oversee delivery of the Council's commitment to eradicate avoidable SUPs on the Council estate; share knowledge and data; and use the Council's position to influence stakeholders. The group is chaired by the Council's Head of Integrated Commissioning and Procurement with 20 members drawn from across all Directorates, the Manchester Climate Change Agency (MCCA) and Mcr Active, demonstrating the strength and breadth of engagement. The core purpose of the working group is to develop and implement a Council-wide Single Use Plastic Reduction Action Plan (the Action Plan).

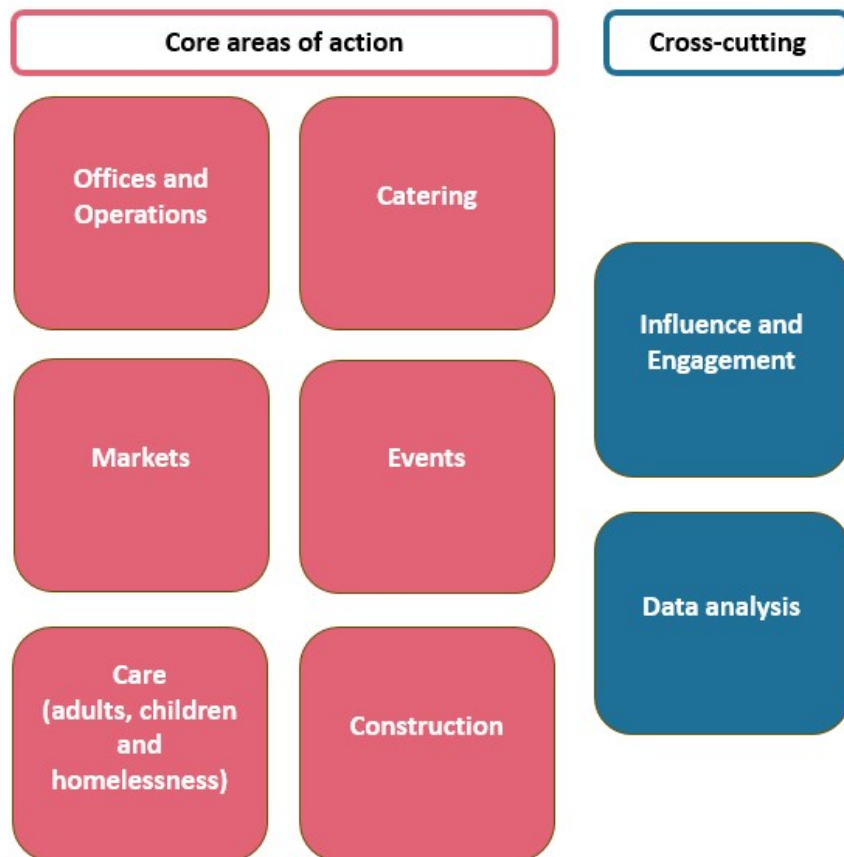
4.4 The overarching approach agreed by the working group, which underpins the Action Plan, is to ensure that we fully embed SUP reduction practices in decision making across Council services, as well as fulfil our influencing and leadership role outside of the Council. The following graphic sets out the approach to SUP reduction:



4.5 Influence and engagement is fundamental to successful implementation of this action plan. Given that reduction in single use plastics needs to be driven by behaviour change, the Action Plan addresses the need to communicate with a range of stakeholders including residents, businesses, partners, schools, staff and suppliers.



- 4.6 The waste hierarchy provides the underlining principle for how SUPs usage should be minimised:
- Avoid: stop using
  - Reduce: introduce reusables (where they will be used enough times to be less harmful than single use)
  - Replace: with sustainable disposable alternatives, such as wooden, bamboo
  - Recycle: investigate viable options for unavoidable SUPs)
- 4.7 The Working Group has developed a working draft of the Action Plan that will be passed for wider approval this year. This covers progress made along with ongoing action needed to continue to eradicate avoidable SUPs by December 2024. As some SUPs are unavoidable for a range of reasons including: health and safety reasons; financial motivations; lack of suitable alternative products available; or avoiding food waste; the Action Plan also sets out how we continue to review usage of these items beyond 2024. The action plan document also serves to communicate across the organisation on the progress to date along with the continued action needed.
- 4.8 The Action Plan sets out objectives across six areas, which allows a focus on the overarching aim of ‘eliminating avoidable SUPs by 2024’, helps with target setting and facilitates good practice sharing between teams (who are trying to reduce the same type of SUP items):





4.9 Some examples of action taken since December 2022 are:

- Office and Operations: engagement with the Council's main supplier of cleaning products to set a target to switch more products to bulk containers (rather than individual bottles), along with review of recycled content of other plastic products
- Catering: Cafés in our Parks have embedded SUP reduction into catering concession agreements, and requirements to eradicate avoidable SUPs will be included in the tender for ice cream concessions in 2024.
- Licensing: a SUP free expectations will now be included in the Council's Licensing Policy (due for implementation this year). Whilst this will primarily affect specifying requirements/conditions for new applications, it will also set the reference point for existing premises licence holders in terms of what is expected by the Local Authority.

## 5. Communications and Engagement

- 5.1 Progress has been made with multiple stakeholder groups in communicating the need to reduce avoidable single use plastics to influence use of SUPs within the Council and the wider city.
- 5.2 This year, the Council participated in Plastic Free July – a global campaign, run by the Plastic Free Foundation, which encourages people to reduce their Single-use Plastics (SUPs) and wider plastics use. This involved encouraging Manchester residents and businesses to avoid, reduce, replace and recycle, to decrease avoidable plastic waste from throwaway items.
- 5.3 The Council also used Plastic Free July to kick off a six-month campaign to help residents and businesses prepare for the upcoming law change on SUPs. The Council aligned with GMCA and their Plastic Free GM campaign, which had also used the July awareness campaign to launch new resources showing residents and businesses the best products to switch to.
- 5.4 The Council signed up to the Refill campaign in June 2023, working in partnership with City to Sea (not-for-profit that delivers campaign) and GMCA on a 12-month pilot. This is as part of our commitment to support new initiatives to increase re-use. A task and finish group including Council officers, FoodSync and MCCA is overseeing a work programme, including a target to increase Refill points by minimum 20% (where residents and visitors can fill up re-useable water bottles for free). The Council is using its own buildings and encouraging others to do the same.
- 5.5 SUP content is being included in refreshed Carbon Literacy Training content along with work to further embed SUP reduction awareness among Council staff so that it becomes business as usual to reduce SUPs use.



- 5.6 A briefing note for suppliers to raise awareness and share good practice on SUP reduction has been created and shared to supplier networks. In March 2021, the Council added an additional 10% evaluation weighting specifically in relation to climate change and the environment as part of the Social Value element of contracts. The Council's SUP reduction commitment will be strengthened in the updated guidance for suppliers and KPIs for SUP reduction will be added into the tendering and commissioning processes from early 2024.
- 5.7 The Council takes an active role in the GM Single Use Plastics Working Group, chaired by GMCA and including all ten GM Local Authorities, established in January 2023. A key role for the group is to share information and good practice on SUP reduction covered by legislation, but also on wider SUP reduction.

## 6. Challenges

- 6.1 The complexity and breadth of this area of work presents a challenge in that those responsible for procuring goods and services need to understand and engage with suppliers on the options available when considering how to reduce SUPs or items with SUP packaging.
- 6.2 The communication from the UK Government on SUP legislation and delays in receiving this have made communication with businesses and external stakeholders challenging over the last 10 months.
- 6.3 Analysis of spend data to quantify SUPs in use and monitor reductions is complex, given that this includes consideration of direct purchase of single use plastic products, products packaged in SUPs and indirect use of SUPs by suppliers and providers. The Working Group are in the process of identifying the level of data analysis possible to identify KPIs for inclusion in the Action Plan.

## 7. Next steps

The focus over the next 14 months to December 2024 will be as follows:

- a. [The MCC] SUP Action Plan (referred to in this report will) be agreed by the SUP Working Group (and passed for wider approval later) this year. The Zero Carbon Team will continue to support colleagues to embed their own SUP reduction actions aligned to the action plan.
- b. Continued communications on recently banned SUP items.
- c. Continued actions to develop cross-organisational understanding of SUP reduction by working with the Zero Carbon Workforce Development Manager. Along with targeted workforce engagement as identified by the SUP Working Group.
- d. Further guidance to be included within the Sustainable Procurement Toolkit for staff that manage contracts and in guidance for suppliers – due to be available by start of 2024. This will also be a feature of the training available to Procurement staff, Commissioners and Contracts Managers.

- e. Continued engagement of key external stakeholders and sharing of good practice and data with partners through GM networks and nationally as appropriate.

**8. Recommendations**

To note and comment upon the contents of this report.

**9. Appendices**

None

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**Manchester City Council  
Report for Information**

**Report to:** Environment, Climate Change and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny  
Committee – 12 October 2023

**Subject:** Overview Report

**Report of:** Governance and Scrutiny Support Unit

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### **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.

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**Wards Affected:** All

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### **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 **2 October 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 – October 2023**

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

Item	Purpose	Lead Executive Member	Lead Officer	Comments
Manchester Climate Change Partnership and Agency - Impact Report 2022/23	To receive and comment upon the report from Manchester Climate Change Partnership and Agency outlining their activities in 2022/23.	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 and recycling services.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-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.</li> <li>- Planning for the additional waste generated over the Christmas period (including information on Christmas trees and household waste recycling centres).</li> <li>- An update on the engagement work to reduce fly tipping.</li> </ul>	Cllr Igbon	Heather Coates	

Single Use Plastics	To receive and comment upon progress made on the Single Use Plastics work programme.	Cllr Rawlins	Peter 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
2024/25 Budget Proposals	To receive a report on the Council's anticipated budget position for 2024/25, the budget process and draft proposals for any services in the remit of this committee.	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 on 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,	Cllr Rawlins	James Tate	



	healthy, equitable mobility for all.			
Planning Policy, Construction and Climate Change	To receive a report that considers how planning policy 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.	Cllr White	Julie Roscoe	
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	To receive an update report on the Council's	Cllr	Alun Ireland	

Communications	Communications Campaign.	Rawlins		
Embedding Carbon Literacy within the Council	To receive a progress report on the progress being made towards embedding a zero-carbon culture within the Council.	Cllr Rawlins	Suzanne 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	To provide members with an update on demand for and performance of the Compliance and Enforcement service during 2022/23. The report also provides a forward look at challenges and future workload pressures as a result of changes to legislation, policy and areas of growth that will have an impact on the work carried out by Compliance and Enforcement teams.	Cllr Igbon	Neil Fairlamb	Invitations to be sent to the Chair of Licensing, Chair of Communities and Equalities Scrutiny Committee, Chair of Health Scrutiny Committee and the Chair of Planning Committee.

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 information.	-	Lee Walker	

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

Item	Purpose	Lead Executive Member	Lead Officer	Comments
2024/25 Budget Proposals	Consideration of the final 2024/25 budget proposals within the remit of this Committee that will go onto February Budget Executive and Scrutiny and March Council.	Cllr Rawlins Cllr Igbon	Neil Fairlamb Carol Culley Paul Hindle	
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 refresh and delivery of the Parks Strategy, including 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	To receive an update on Bereavement Services and the approach to environmental sustainability.	Cllr Igbon	Heather Coates	

Environmental Sustainability				
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 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 Houlston	
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 / management, 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

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
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	
Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy - Update	Further to the report considered September 2023 to receive an update report on the implementation of the Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy.	Cllr Rawlins	Rebecca Heron James Tate	

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