

**Manchester City Council
Report for Information**

Report to: Climate Change Sub Group – 22 October 2019

Subject: Climate Emergency Declaration Response

Report of: The Strategic Lead Policy and Partnerships

Summary

In November 2018, the Council’s Executive agreed to the establishment of science-based carbon reduction targets for Manchester which required the city to become net zero carbon by 2038. In July 2019 the Council declared a climate emergency. This report provides a brief update on the Council’s response to the climate emergency declaration. A separate report focusses on the specific neighbourhood level activity that has taken place or is planned.

Recommendations

The Sub Group are invited to discuss the progress that has been made since the 10 July climate emergency declaration.

The Sub Group are also asked to provide suggestions as to how more rapid progress could be made, especially in relation to the areas which will have the most positive impact on the Council and the city’s CO² emissions.

Wards Affected: All

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

This report sets out the Council’s initial response to the climate emergency declared in July 2019. The sole focus of the report is on progress towards a zero-carbon city.

Manchester Strategy outcomes	Summary of how this report aligns to the OMS
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 Manchester’s emerging Local Industrial Strategy.
A highly skilled city: world class and home grown talent sustaining the city’s economic success	Manchester is one 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 may 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 and improved air quality.
A liveable and low carbon city: a destination of choice to live, visit, work	Becoming a zero carbon city can 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.

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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 Climate Change Annual Report 2019
Playing Our Full Part: How Manchester's Residents and Businesses can benefit from Ambitious Action on Climate Change 2018
Manchester Climate Change Strategy 2017-50
Manchester Climate Change Strategy Implementation Plan 2017-22
Manchester: A Certain Future Annual Report 2018
Manchester City Council Climate Change Action Plan 2016-20
Manchester Zero Carbon 2038, Manchester City Council's Commitment, March 2019

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 This paper outlines the activity that has taken place since the declaration of a climate emergency by Manchester City Council on 10 July 2019. It includes an update on the establishment of a senior level officer group to oversee the Council's response to the climate emergency and an initial update on recent progress to implement the motion.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 In July 2019 the Council declared a climate emergency which recognised the need for the city to do more to reduce its carbon emissions and mitigate the negative impacts of climate change. Further details of progress against the actions included in the climate emergency motion can be found in Appendix 1.

3.0 Zero Carbon Coordination Group

- 3.1 Following the declaration of a climate emergency, the Council established a Zero Carbon Coordination Group (ZCCG) to drive forward the integrated activity required to ensure that the Council plays its full part in ensuring the city reaches its ambitious climate change commitments.
- 3.2 The ZCCG is a strategic group (predominantly Director level) which is chaired by the Deputy Chief Executive and will oversee the development of the next Council Climate Change Action Plan which will be approved by Executive in March 2020. The Group will ensure that zero carbon is fully embedded across the Council's day-to-day operations and decision making, and that there is sufficient leadership, resource and budget to deliver this agenda across directorates and services.
- 3.3 The Group have agreed draft terms of reference which set out the following key priorities:
1. Overseeing the strategic response to the 10 July Climate Emergency Motion;
 2. Ensuring that there is sufficient leadership on key projects and programmes that contribute to carbon reduction across the Council;
 3. Attracting the funding that will be required to deliver this ambitious agenda;
 4. Providing challenge to key Council projects and decisions;
 5. Maximising influence over external partners and stakeholders at a local, sub-regional and national level including government; and
 6. Overseeing the development, delivery and implementation of the Council's new Zero Carbon Action Plan which will be approved in March 2020.

4.0 Workstreams

- 4.1 The Group met for the first time on September 16 and will continue to meet monthly. Four key workstreams have been identified which respond directly to the climate emergency motion. An action log and tracker has also been created and additional programme management support is being put in place

to ensure that agreed actions are completed. A summary of these workstreams is provided below alongside a table in Appendix 1 which lists the specific elements of the climate emergency motion under the workstream headings with examples of how they are being progressed.

Workstream 1: Decision making, policies and standards

- 4.2 As per the motion, a review of all key decisions the Council makes will be undertaken including; grants and funding; procurement and commissioning; capital and revenue gateway process; new build and refurbishment standards; design standards; leases or developments on Council owned land; the Local Plan; as well as policies such as the staff and member travel policy.
- 4.3 Immediate progress will be made where possible and local partners with expertise in this area including the universities and the Fire and Rescue Service are being approached to understand best practice. External technical expertise will be considered where there is a gap in existing knowledge within services.
- 4.4 A key focus of this workstream is the development of a consistent approach for decision-making which clearly demonstrates how zero carbon ambitions have been considered alongside financial, social and economic factors.

Workstream 2: Investment and delivery

- 4.5 This workstream is critical to the delivery of programmes which will achieve quantifiable CO² savings and environmental improvements for the Council and the city. Internal and external funding will be required to deliver a number of programmes of work across the 2 key areas below. Investment in green and blue infrastructure will also be considered including developing nature based solutions to support climate adaptation.
- 4.6 Council Buildings and Operations:
- The Council is working with its waste and recycling contractor to review options to move to Electric/Hydrogen vehicles
 - Installing Solar PV, batteries and onshore wind (where appropriate and may be beyond the city's boundaries) to generate/access renewable electricity and allow storage
 - Developing Electric Vehicle charging infrastructure to support the Council's fleet and potentially the waste and recycling contractor fleet
 - Establishing a retrofit programme across the Council's operational estate to improve energy efficiency and investigate ways to decarbonise heat i.e. alternatives to gas
- 4.7 Citywide buildings:
- Large scale retrofit and energy generation programme for commercial properties, partners' buildings and domestic properties with a focus on

those households most likely to be in fuel poverty

- Consider how the Council can encourage and incentivise these approaches across the city

Workstream 3: Catalyst for change

- 4.8 An 'activation group' will be established to coordinate activity at a more operational level including: staff and member training; embedding into neighbourhood plans and neighbourhood teams; working with residents (including young people); behaviour change; engaging staff in positive action. The team would include a number of services and teams including: Neighbourhoods, Communications; HROD, Our Manchester and Estates.
- 4.9 A significant amount of work is also taking place at a Neighbourhood level and this is summarised in a separate report to the Sub Group.
- 4.10 Communications:
- Manchester City Council has commissioned insight among residents with a third party undertaking over 1,000 on street interviews with Manchester residents from a variety of demographics. In addition to this, three workshops with residents have also been commissioned to discuss key themes, behaviours and barriers. The results of these activities will be used to inform a communications strategy and develop a climate change campaign. The results of the research project will be available late October 2019.
 - Whilst this research project is being carried out, a series of messages, short stories and case studies will be shared with both staff and residents to communicate the work that is already being undertaken, the partnership approach the Council is adopting and the progress the Council is making.
 - In addition to this, Manchester Climate Change Agency is currently developing an engagement approach for groups of interested residents and community and faith groups.

Workstream 4: External influence

- 4.11 External influence is a key element of the climate emergency motion and is an area where a more consistency is required. A set of key messages are now being developed for staff and elected members to use in all their meetings with external partners.

5.0 Recommendations

- 5.1 The Sub Group are invited to discuss the progress that has been made since the 10 July climate emergency declaration.
- 5.2 They are also asked to provide suggestions as to how more rapid progress could be made, especially in relation to the areas which will have the most positive impact on the Council and the city's CO² emissions.