

**Manchester City Council  
Report for Information**

**Report to:** Climate Change Subgroup - 23 January 2020  
**Subject:** Climate Emergency and Community Engagement  
**Report of:** The Strategic Director (Neighbourhoods) and the Strategic Lead, Neighbourhoods

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**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. The declaration was explicit about the Council working with residents / other partners at a neighbourhood level, to ensure they are proactively involved in achieving this target.

This report provides a summary on progress to date, and building on this momentum, outlines further actions that communities, Officers, Members and other partners, want to work on together to help reduce carbon. Building capacity to accelerate action at a neighbourhood level is key, as well as embedding priority actions in neighbourhood based Ward Plans.

**Recommendations**

The Subgroup is asked to note and comment on the report.

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**Wards Affected:** All

<b>Environmental Impact Assessment</b> - the impact of the issues addressed in this report on achieving the zero-carbon target for the city
This report provides a summary of how communities are working together to tackle climate change and contribute towards a zero-carbon city.

<b>Manchester Strategy outcomes</b>	<b>Summary of how this report aligns to the OMS</b>
A thriving and sustainable city: supporting a diverse and distinctive economy that creates jobs and opportunities	Ideas from the community to transition to a zero carbon city, will help the city's economy become more sustainable, and generate jobs for residents within the low carbon energy & goods sector. Ideas will also 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	Supporting the community to share their ideas / skills / experiences in tackling change, will increase capacity and have a lasting impact in more neighbourhoods across the city.

A progressive and equitable city: making a positive contribution by unlocking the potential of our communities	Everyone has a role to play in tackling climate change, and progress can benefit everyone. Residents know their neighbourhoods best, and are ideally positioned / will be supported to lead community led solutions.
A liveable and low carbon city: a destination of choice to live, visit, work	Tackling climate change by embedding actions in to daily lifestyle choices, can help make the city a more attractive place to live & raise a family, work, invest, visit and study.
A connected city: world class infrastructure and connectivity to drive growth	Encouraging the use of more sustainable transport options for everyday life (leisure/work), would contribute to a world class city & business environment to drive more sustainable 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 The declaration of a Climate Change emergency by the City Council in July 2019, has not only provided a more intensive focus for collective action, but it has provided an even greater platform for communities and the Council, to take stock and showcase the wide range of activities that are already being delivered, as well as ideas for even more accelerated action (Our Manchester in action).
- 1.2 This report will bring this action to life, showcase how communities are already leading by example, and how this will be a key element of the overall approach / governance to tackling climate change across the City.

## **2.0 Background**

- 2.1 The Council has a strong track record of working with communities at a neighbourhood level. Specifically, the 3 Neighbourhood Teams (North, Central & South) in the Neighbourhood's Directorate, focus on delivering the citywide Manchester Strategy at a place level. Key outcomes relate to: clean & safe neighbourhoods where people want to live, people are healthy & in work, have access to high quality community facilities (parks, libraries, schools, shops, transport options, health+), and residents can get involved in "their" neighbourhood by volunteering, making decisions and taking forward "their" ideas to make a difference.
- 2.2 To deliver those outcomes, the Council (Officers & Members) work closely with communities in many different ways (neighbourhood forums, community groups, specific interest groups such as Climate Change). Work with these groups is linked in to the Council's Ward Co-ordination arrangements, where those priorities are included in an annual Ward Plan of action. This helps draw in the support of the wider Council, other Public Sector partners, businesses, residents Voluntary & Community Sector, and Charitable organisations. Tackling climate change is already being discussed and embedded in those Ward Plans, and the Council's small community grants offer (Neighbourhood Investment Fund (NIF)) has been targeted on ideas.
- 2.3 This is important context, as we are not starting from scratch. It is also very clear that residents, Officers & Members, have some experience and skills in delivering activity that is contributing to tackling climate change. There is a strong appetite to share ideas, learning & carbon literacy training, across the City to accelerate impact. Activities will continue, but going forward, there will be an even stronger emphasis on actions that help to reduce our carbon footprint as the key driver.

## **3.0 Progress to Date:**

- 3.1 Progress to date can be grouped into a number of themes that have been easily understood by communities and partners, as they were about making climate change actions "real" and "relevant" to their everyday life. They have all started from small steps leading to where they are now, and have had the

effect of bringing more and more people (residents, community groups, businesses to public agencies) along on the journey to become a carbon neutral City. As there is a lot of Ward activity underway across the North, Central & South parts of the City, which is supported by Council resources in some way (Officers / funding / Members), below provides a small snapshot of this on how communities are reducing carbon and tackling climate change.

### **3.2 Clean Air around Schools- Protecting our Future:**

- Funded by the City Council and Transport for Greater Manchester, and working with Groundwork and Lancaster University, a new pilot scheme “Protecting Playgrounds” is underway. This is aiming to boost air quality in school playgrounds located next to major roads (Abbott Community Primary (Collyhurst) - Rochdale Rd, Manchester Communication Academy Primary (Harpurhey) - Rochdale Rd, St Ambrose RC Primary (Chorlton) - Princess Parkway, and Medlock Primary (Ardwick)- A6). It involves greening to provide natural filters to absorb pollution from passing traffic, as well as training pupils to monitor air pollution and devise cleaner routes. The experience will be shared for other schools across the City;
- Campaign in North Manchester to encourage school walking buses, anti-car engine idling and air quality monitoring (all through school poster campaign and involved parents, MCC Parking / Greater Manchester Police);
- Junior PSCO (Police Community Support Officer) approach with schools, GMP & the City Council in Central, focusing on road safety, walking & clean air. This is being supplemented by an emerging curriculum module for Air Quality Officers in schools (pupils will learn about air quality issues, climate change & environmental issues, and identify the response for their school area);
- School Walking Bus pilot on Clean Air Day in Button Lane Primary School (Brooklands Ward), has now been mainstreamed in to school life with dedicated staff resources to help reduce the number of vehicles coming to the site.

### **3.3 Sustainable Transport and Active Travel:**

- Focusing on walking, not using coaches, for people visiting different venues in the area that celebrated the diversity of Cheetham (Cheetham Festival September 2019);
- Car Free Days in the City Centre Wards (Deansgate / Piccadilly) and throughout the City;
- Promotion of cycling and planned cycle lanes across South / Central (Beelines);
- Improving the confidence, and practical and road safety skills of young people, all year round, to encourage more walking and cycling to school (Bikeability, Living Streets);
- Across the City (e.g. Longsight, Northenden, Burnage, Chorlton Park+), building on Clean Air Day, Great Get Together and Active Streets (with MCRAActive), 29 temporary road closures (MCC waived the fee), to encourage car free days so communities could come together, play, do

clean-ups and discuss more ideas for making their neighbourhoods even better.

#### **3.4 Recycling & Composting- Avoiding Unnecessary Landfill:**

- Going in to schools with Biffa and the MCC Street Cleansing, Waste & Recycling Team, to deliver “how and what to recycle” presentations (e.g. St Clare’s Primary in Higher Blackley); and clean-ups of green spaces for recyclables (e.g. Tweedle Common);
- Commercial waste pilot in St Anne’s Square (Deangate), to reduce vehicle journeys, reduce emissions and increase recycling rates;
- Working with students all year round through the Universities, Student Unions, landlords, Purpose Built Student Accommodation, Manchester Student Homes, British Heart Foundation and locally based charity shops (Fallowfield, Withington, Old Moat, Rusholme & the City Centre), to recycle more & donate unwanted items (arrival, during and the end of the academic year);
- Wythenshawe Waste Warriors promoting clean neighbourhoods / green spaces / Brooks, and actively involved in regular clean ups and working with local schools to look after the environment;
- Working with the Tree of Life Centre in Wythenshawe to promote their re-use services (furniture, clothing, white goods), which is encouraging more people to re-use & recycle.

#### **3.5 Environment around Us- Improving, Enhancing & Enabling to flourish (Greening & Biodiversity):**

- Crumpsall & Cheetham Horticultural Society being mentored by Mirfield Gardens (Higher Blackley) to deliver a range of environmental projects in Crumpsall; and Cleaner Crumpsall Resident Groups mentoring Primary Schools to work on environmental projects / recycling;
- “Nature of” focus in Hulme, Ardwick & the City Centre- an engagement programme to bring all stakeholders together who have an interest in the environment (themed around sustainability, nature based solutions, and increasing walking/cycling);
- Resident led weeding project in Whalley Range (glyphosate chemical weed spraying suspended), with local residents carrying out hand weeding instead, in order to increase biodiversity and support pollinators;
- A focus on a “Greener Didsbury” (air quality, “Lets Talk Rubbish” initiative), and bringing young people together in Sharston through schools / youth facilities to look after green spaces, habitat, increase biodiversity in them and reduce litter / flytipping.

#### **3.6 Climate Change - What Can “I” do? - Information, Education & Action:**

- Resident led Whalley Rangers Climate Action Group auditing their neighbourhood (shops, green spaces, faith, schools) to look at ways to tackle climate change (low carbon lifestyles, organic food growing projects, transport+), creating a climate change action plan, which has been embedded in the Ward Plan;

- Councillor led Climate Change workshop (December 2019) in the Chorlton Park Ward, to identify key actions that everyone can work on. Ideas relate to energy use at home, reducing waste (re-using/recycling), idle-free zones around schools, protecting wildlife+. A Climate Change Action Plan is now being developed for the Ward linked to the Ward Plan;
- Youth Climate Change Summit (July 2019) with young people from schools across the City / in the hearts of neighbourhoods, to express their views / ideas to tackle climate change (Pledges linked to recycling, clean air, no single-use plastic, planting around schools, walking+);
- Harpurhey Information Market at North City Library with a focus on encouraging more recycling and what Climate Change is about (how to take action);
- Climate Change Summit held in Hulme in September- discuss ideas/actions such as clean air groups, developing a climate change project fund (Big Lottery bid)+;
- A focus on community based climate change / air quality actions at the “Through the Mill” Festival (September 2019), which celebrated all things music, art & food in Ancoats.

#### **4.0 Accelerating Our Impact- Actions Going Forward**

4.1 It is evident that there is already a proactive focus at a neighbourhood level (Our Manchester in action). What is very clear from those stakeholders is that they want to build on this momentum to ramp up delivery and have an even greater impact to reduce carbon. Keeping to those general themes above, as they are “real” to communities & partners, the following is a summary of the ideas that have been raised / being discussed across the City. However, this is not about doing everything in every Ward- the Ward context is already influencing where people are focusing their efforts.

#### **4.2 Clean Air around Schools- Protecting our Future:**

- Encouraging more walking (school walking buses / cycling, safer routes (dealing with pavement parking);
- More regular air quality monitoring / Protecting Playgrounds;
- More planting of emission reducing trees / plants.

#### **4.3 Sustainable Transport and Active Travel:**

- More car free days in neighbourhoods, not just the City Centre;
- Encouraging more walking for shorter journeys (neighbourhood centres, parks, Library, school+);
- Encouraging more public transport use (Metrolink, Eco-buses);
- Encouraging more cycling (existing cycle routes / new (Beelines);
- Opportunities for more neighbourhood based Electric Vehicle Charging bays/points;
- More Play / Active Streets (car free days) to bring communities together;
- Promotion of sustainable options to get to & from high profile / footfall areas (as an employee / customer) e.g. City Centre, Manchester Airport (clean air focus given they include / surrounded by residential neighbourhoods).

#### 4.4 **Recycling & Composting- Avoiding Unnecessary Landfill:**

- More promotion in schools (pupils / parents) on how easy it is / impact;
- Help communities lead their own clean ups / recycling projects;
- More sustainable food growing using suitable public green spaces / private residential gardens;
- Building on the St Anne's Square pilot for more opportunities for greener commercial waste approaches (considering business sites are located in/around residential neighbourhoods);
- Improvements to Alleyways to make more welcoming and encouraging recycling / composting / food growing+;
- More promotion / use of re-use facilities (furniture / clothing+) as a donator and buyer (Tree of Life, Mustard Tree, Charity Shops+).

#### 4.5 **Environment around Us- Improving, Enhancing, Enabling to flourish (Greening & Biodiversity):**

- Taking a more holistic approach to sustainability / nature based solutions to places / spaces- learn from the "Nature in Hulme" approach and "Friends of" parks/woodlands+ groups, which are active throughout the whole City;
- Opportunities for residents to do more in looking after green spaces in an environmentally friendly way- learn from the Whalley Range weeding project and the community led neighbourhood audit;
- Build on the successful In Bloom approach in the City for more community garden / planting projects (emission reducing plants / bee hives)- learn from neighbourhood based Horticultural Societies throughout the whole City.

#### 5.0 **Next Steps- Delivery:**

5.1 It is clear that everyone has a role to play in tackling climate change and residents know their neighbourhoods best. Building on this momentum, the following will be progressed to "build capacity" and "drive priority actions at a neighbourhood level" to reduce carbon. This will also be fluid given new ideas, opportunities & challenges will arise along the way:

#### 5.2 **Strategy & Governance:**

- All 32 Ward Plans will include actions that they can deliver to support tackling climate change and reducing carbon. These will be in place in all ward plans from April 2020 and will form part of whole place priorities. Similar to now, actions will remain ongoing, Ward Co-ordination meetings will continue to be a forum to drive local delivery by linking in to existing community meeting structures or other ideas the community have to bring people together, so the climate change agenda is more embedded. This will help draw in the support of all relevant partners;
- In order to support this work and focus it on actions that will bring tackling carbon emissions at the centre of attention, the Neighbourhoods Directorate and specifically Neighbourhood Team (NT) Officers, will be a

priority for the new carbon literacy training sessions. (The NT Officer focus is already underway and will be completed by March 2020);

- Building on work that is already taking place in communities, a strong focus on enabling, supporting and celebrating a bottom up approach to reduce carbon emissions, by harnessing the power, passion and energy of our communities;
- Embed the neighbourhood level focus in the overarching citywide Zero Carbon Co-ordination Group (Workstream 3- Catalyst for Change) to influence the approach and linking bottom up approaches to zero carbon and climate change with the action plan for the City;
- Fully engage communities in the development of the Manchester Climate Change Agency Framework by March 2020 (details tbc).

### **5.3 Communication:**

- Showcase to residents, businesses & other partners, what reducing carbon and tackling climate change actually looks like at a neighbourhood level, and how their contribution can easily form a part of their daily lifestyle / operation;
- Being clear on the actions coming out of all the different climate change focused meetings, events and summits, as they all link back to neighbourhoods (being clear how people of all ages can get involved / calls for action).

### **5.4 Sharing of Skills & Experience (Increasing Capacity & Confidence):**

- Facilitate more community groups throughout the City to share their approaches with each other (greater community ownership / leadership), and engage in Climate Change / Carbon Literacy training;
- Embed zero carbon and climate change discussions / ideas / actions in to existing neighbourhood events & meeting structures (where possible) so it is seen as core business, not an add-on;
- As stated in 5.2, all remaining Neighbourhood Team Officers (Neighbourhoods Directorate) will complete the City Council Climate Change / Carbon Literacy Training programme given their direct role with residents / Members. Prioritised sessions have already been held and will be completed by March 2020. It includes Officers sharing their own skills / experience (modelling behaviours), as well as focusing on the real scenarios in this paper. However, all Council Directorates / Officers have a role to play and is being progressed. The most recent Leadership Summit (October 2019- senior leaders in the Council), focused on Climate Change and taking responsibility. Members have also had training and can link in with future sessions;
- Continue to draw in the advice & experience from City Council Officers / Members (& those who have thematic responsibilities), and external organisations, to ensure we are focusing on priority actions to reduce carbon e.g. In Bloom, Wild in Manchester, Recycling, Vehicle Idling, Environment, Highways, Planning, Manchester Climate Change Agency, University of Manchester PhD research students who are active in Hulme on air quality, Registered Providers, Schools, Businesses.

## 5.5 Tools / Capacity:

- Work with the community / Officers / Members to develop toolkits of their approaches so others can learn from/adapt for their neighbourhoods;
- Through discussion with Members, look at more targeting of Neighbourhood Investment Funding (NIF) on projects to tackle climate change (& any other funding sources e.g. Big Lottery+);
- Channel “Calls for Action” through the Our Manchester branded [www.mcrvip.com](http://www.mcrvip.com) (Manchester Volunteer Inspire Programme)- already expanded across the Neighbourhoods Directorate offer and focused on people getting involved / volunteering in their neighbourhood;
- Promote City Council Officers working with communities to tackle climate change, as an option for their 3 days volunteering leave per year;
- Build on existing campaigns, toolkits, resources & media channels, to convert ideas in to action e.g. Keep Manchester Tidy, Biffa in to schools, Eco-Schools, Wild in Manchester, social media+;
- Continue to provide equipment to make things happen e.g. for clean-ups (each Neighbourhood Team has a container of tools); and review other emerging needs based on ideas, such as traffic cones/signage for temporary road closures (car free days/Active Streets), emission reducing plants for community garden projects, air quality monitors+;
- Using all the influence the Council has to support neighbourhood level action e.g. through direct Social Value activity (via procurement), Corporate Social Responsibility (via business relationships).

## 6.0 Recommendations

6.1 The Sub-Group is asked to note & comment on the report.