

Appendix 4: Summary of Policy and Funding Asks

The successful delivery of the Council's Climate Change Action Plan 2020-25 requires partnership working with Greater Manchester agencies and with UK Government. The Council also needs to influence the development of new policies and secure additional funding for infrastructure to support the city's zero carbon ambition.

A brief summary of these asks is provided below but the detailed proposals will be developed through Workstream 4 of the Zero Carbon Coordination Group.

1. Greater Manchester

Work with the Greater Manchester Combined Authority on the following areas:

- Decarbonisation of the public estate
- Decarbonisation of domestic and commercial buildings
- Develop a Local Energy Plan for Manchester via the Greater Manchester Local Energy Market project which is funded by UK Research and Innovation
- Developing joint funding bids to UK Government and other funding bodies
- Work together to lobby UK Government to provide a devolved fund for commercial and domestic retrofit programme
- Seek further devolution of powers from Whitehall to Greater Manchester to enable the city region to address the climate emergency
- Support the Greater Manchester submission to the Comprehensive Spending Review and ensure that zero carbon is central to the submission
- Continue to focus on brownfield development at the core of the conurbation
- Consistent approach to considering climate change in procurements

Work with Transport for Greater Manchester on the following areas:

- Further expansion of Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure
- Delivery of Bus Reform including a fully Electric or Hydrogen Bus Fleet
- Implementation of a Clean Air Zone
- Implementation of the new City Centre Transport Strategy
- Further expansion of Metrolink and 'tram-trains'
- Promotion of active travel through implementation of Beelines walking and cycling network

Work with the Greater Manchester Pension Fund to ensure that they:

- Fully divest from investments in fossil fuels
- Increase investment in local zero carbon schemes which benefit Manchester and the city region
- Adopt the Manchester and Greater Manchester zero carbon 2038 target

2. UK Government

As the host country for COP26 in November 2020, the UK now needs to become a global leader in tackling climate change and transitioning to a green economy. Government needs to set a much clearer national policy direction to deliver this level of change. This means Government driving changes to the energy we use to shift much more quickly away from fossil fuels and towards renewable energy sources, in particular rapidly increase the pace and scale of solar, onshore wind, offshore wind, electric and other non-gas boilers, electric vehicles, national planning and building standards, and a credible aviation reductions plan nationally and internationally.

The pace of change in Manchester could be significantly accelerated if we could work with Government to jointly develop and jointly invest in a green investment fund of significant scale, covering investments in energy, retrofit of domestic and commercial buildings, green infrastructure and biodiversity. Greater Manchester and Manchester have the expertise of successfully running housing and infrastructure investment pots to generate an ongoing return on investment for reinvestment, and the same principles could be applied here

In relation to the important role for Local Government on climate change improved national cooperation and leadership and planning is required on issues such as clean air and clean air zones. The right economic incentives are not in place to enable Combined Authorities and Local Authorities to effectively rapidly drive this agenda.

Government need to focus on developing national policies to accelerate progress towards zero carbon which support businesses and protect more vulnerable households. This should include removing subsidies for fossil fuels and shifting policy to favour renewable energy sources and de-risking the transition to zero carbon heating and energy.

Some examples of the support we will be requesting from UK Government include:

a) Funding and infrastructure

- A UK Shared Prosperity Fund which can support delivery of Manchester's zero carbon ambition
- Continued access to European Funding such as Horizon Europe after the end of the UK's transition period on 31 December 2020
- A new national infrastructure approach and programme for domestic and commercial retrofit which also delivers on green jobs
- Significant Government funding to kick-start a Greater Manchester / Manchester infrastructure investment fund in the actions identified in climate change action plans
- A significantly funded scrappage or vehicle retrofit funding scheme to support the implementation of the Greater Manchester Clean Air Zone
- Increased investment and support for research to accelerate the decarbonisation of the aviation industry
- An enhanced Clean Air Fund of £1.5 billion to support 60 local authorities including Manchester

- Lobby for further investment in new transport and cycling infrastructure.

b) Policies and standards

- A national plan with targets which will ensure that the UK meets its obligations under COP21
- A significantly funded incentivisation scheme to promote Solar PV investment across public, commercial and domestic buildings
- Consistency of government policy across all departments e.g. Department for Education funding and school building standards and tensions with Section 106 agreements and Community Infrastructure Levy
- To ask that the planned fundamental review of Business Rates addresses the current disincentives to investing in solar PVs and other carbon reducing measures which then increase the Rateable Value and hence Business Rates liability of the asset
- National planning policy to actively encourage onshore wind electricity generation rather than seek to restrict it
- A coherent policy which promotes renewable energy with financial incentives for domestic and commercial premises such as grants alongside free insulation and other energy efficiency measures
- National legislation on Single Use Plastics and other waste packaging
- New legislation to reduce consumption based emissions and embedded carbon
- Continue to lobby for local planning authorities such as Manchester to be able to set more ambitious energy efficiency standards for new buildings. This is in response to the Future Homes Standard consultation on Part L of the Building Regulations which proposes to “restrict local planning authorities from setting higher energy efficiency standards for dwellings”. Government should actively encourage cities and others to set their own more ambitious standards rather than seek to restrict this power.
- More powers for local government on selective licencing to include energy efficiency alongside funding to effectively enforce
- A national focus on Nature Based Solutions as a way of supporting climate adaptation and improving biodiversity, including significant funding to invest in natural infrastructure