

**Manchester City Council  
Report for Information**

**Report to:** Climate Change Subgroup – 18 March 2020

**Subject:** Reducing Carbon Emissions from the MCC Operational Estate

**Report of:** Head of Estate and Facilities

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**Summary**

This paper and the attached presentation set out an update on the actions being taken to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from the Council's operational estate.

**Recommendations**

The Subgroup are asked to comment on the approach outlined in this report and the accompanying presentation.

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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
The Council's property and land assets are a significant area of focus in efforts to achieve the zero-carbon target for the city. In terms of the Council's direct carbon emissions, in 2018/19 the Council's buildings accounted for around 69% of the total emissions. This report includes an update on the Carbon Reduction Programme, a specific investment programme focussing on building retrofit and energy generation to increase the scale and pace of carbon reduction activity on the estate.

<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	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.
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 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	Transitioning to a zero carbon city can help to tackle fuel poverty by reducing energy bills. Health outcomes will also be improved through the

communities	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 City Council Climate Change Action Plan 2020-25, Neighbourhoods and Environment Scrutiny Committee, 4 March 2020.

## **1.0 Introduction**

- 1.1 This paper and the attached presentation set out an update on the actions being taken to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from the Council's operational estate. The Operational Estate includes c350 buildings that are used to provide Council services. It excludes the investment estate, schools and housing stock. In 2018/19 the Council's buildings accounted for around 69% of the organisation's total emissions, at around 25,789 tCO<sub>2</sub>.

## **2.0 Approach to Reducing Carbon Emissions**

- 2.1 Slide 4 and 5 on the attached presentation introduce the approach to reducing emissions for the operational estate. Broadly the approach is three-fold, aiming to 'reduce, produce and connect' by: reducing the energy demand of buildings by investing in active or passive design measures that make them more energy efficient, including retrofit of existing properties; generating cleaner energy on or in buildings primarily through use of solar panels and decarbonising heat; and making better use of data to drive down energy use and maximise the benefit of locally produced energy.
- 2.2 Slide 4 summarises the specific activities that are currently part of the Carbon Reduction Programme, and further detail on these is set out in Table 1 in Appendix 1.
- 2.3 In addition to the projects described above, the programme includes a Decision Making, Policies and Standards Workstream. Work has begun to review and update the decision making processes, policies and standards associated with the design, construction and maintenance of the Authorities buildings to ensure we are well placed to respond to the climate emergency.
- 2.4 Practical steps have already been taken to prioritise carbon reduction within decision making processes. In recognition of the role capital expenditure will need to play in achieving the Council's carbon strategy the template used for compiling capital business cases has been amended. When seeking to get approval for a capital project, officers must now detail how the proposed project will contribute to the Council's objective to be zero carbon by 2038, and further must detail the carbon reducing benefits for the project in both the construction phase and the operational phase of the building.
- 2.5 The larger figure on slide 5 shows the various decision points involved in a typical building lifecycle, along with the stakeholders involved in making those decisions. Sustainability must be considered at each step to maximise the efficiency of a building, and this diagram highlights the different groups that need to be engaged. As part of the Carbon Reduction Programme, a Buildings and Energy Group has been set up to further develop our approach to decision making, policies and standards for the built environment.
- 2.6 The group work plan includes activities across '4 steps' - the smaller diagram on slide 5. Further detail on these areas of work are shown in Table 2 in Appendix 1.

- 2.7 Slides 6 and 7 list out some specific examples where operational estate projects are ongoing, and highlight measures that are being included to reduce carbon emissions. Slides 8 to 11 provide further detail on Phase 1 of the Carbon Reduction Programme, including the buildings in scope, the works being delivered, how the programme was developed and some of the key areas of learning. Slides 12 - 14 summarise priority next steps, while slides 15 and 16 summarise the key areas from the Manchester City Council Climate Change Action Plan 2020-25 that directly link to the operational estate.
- 2.8 A high level project plan is also attached to this report (Appendix 2) showing the key milestones of the Carbon Reduction Programme.

### **3.0 Recommendations**

- 3.1 The Subgroup are asked to comment on the approach outlined in this report and the accompanying presentation.