

**Manchester City Council  
Report for Information**

**Report to:** Communities and Equalities Scrutiny Committee - 22 June 2021

**Subject:** The impact of climate change as it relates to the responsibilities for the Communities and Equalities Scrutiny Committee

**Report of:** City Solicitor

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### Summary

This report aims to provide a discussion point for the Committee as to the areas within their responsibility where the impact of climate change is of particular relevance. It is also for the committee to determine which areas within its remit it would like to receive more information on and debate further.

### Recommendations

That the Committee receive the report and consider what further information and reports they would propose to receive to undertake scrutiny relating to climate change and zero carbon as it relates to the responsibilities of the committee as part of the work program.

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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
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This report highlights areas of this committees' responsibilities where further scrutiny can take place in respect of climate change and issues around achieving zero carbon for the City.
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<b>Our 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.	In considering the areas of responsibility that may be impacted in respect of climate change supporting an inclusive City.
A highly skilled city: world class and home-grown talent sustaining the city's economic success.	Considering relevant areas to scrutinise, committee's will be looking at how to continue to ensure the City's economic success.
A progressive and equitable city: making a positive contribution by unlocking the potential of our communities.	How the committee's responsibilities are aligned in respect of climate change to work towards ensuring an equitable and progressive City.

A liveable and low carbon city: a destination of choice to live, visit, work.	Looking at the best areas of the committee's responsibilities to explore issues in relation to Zero Carbon and Climate change this will help to ensure that this agenda is being progressed and developed.
A connected city: world class infrastructure and connectivity to drive growth.	To ensure that in all areas climate change is being addressed and this Committee looking at its areas of responsibilities will work towards this achievement.

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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.

- Report to Council constitution changes including the remit of committee
- MCC Climate change action plan appendix
- Progress report

## **1.0 Introduction**

This report provides an overview of the areas where the remit of this Committee overlaps with the climate change agenda.

It highlights specific actions of relevance in the Council's climate change action plan (CCAP) for 2020-25, as well as providing a framework for considering climate change in the oversight of future activities.

It is intended as a starting point for discussion and may trigger new ideas or requests for further information to support delivery of the Council's commitment to be zero carbon by 2038, which in turn supports delivery of the citywide Manchester Climate Change Framework 2020-25.

## **2.0 Background**

This report follows the changes that were made in scrutiny remits on the 31 March 2021 when Council agreed the changes to the constitution which included the scope of responsibility for this committee and at the same time established the Climate Change and Environment committee. It also provides some options for reports this committee could look at over the course of the year to include a Climate change focus.

In response to the climate emergency declaration made in July 2019, the Council adopted a five-year climate change action plan (CCAP) in 2020, building on previous action plans covering the last decade.

The CCAP's headline objective is to reduce the Council's direct emissions by 50% by 2025, delivering a 13% reduction every year.

In addition, the CCAP includes actions for the Council that enable others (residents, businesses, visitors, etc) to play their full part in transitioning Manchester to a zero-carbon city. This report highlights the actions set out in the plan which have particular relevance for this committee, and invites Members to look at the actions highlighted to consider and discuss which ones in future meetings the committee would wish to have further information on.

## **3.0 CCAP Actions of Relevance**

Examples of specific actions that are included in the current CCAP that relate to the remit of the Communities and Equalities scrutiny committee include (but are not limited to):

### **Community engagement**

- Actions 1.7 and 1.8 focus on energy efficient housing, understanding the types and costs of interventions needed, and working with partners to develop retrofit programmes.

- Retrofitting to reduce carbon emissions can also deliver warmer, healthier homes with lower energy bills and can be targeted to vulnerable communities and those in fuel poverty.
- Action 5.4 focuses on working with partners to establish a citywide programme of community engagement activities, including:
  - Developing climate change actions in all 32 Ward Plans.
  - Using the Neighbourhood Investment Fund to support projects that will affect positive change.
  - Continuing to work with the Youth Council and schools.
  - Working with the Age-Friendly Manchester Board.

### **Culture sector and voluntary sector**

- Action 5.3 focuses on embedding zero carbon ambitions into the Council's decision-making.
  - Building action on climate change into the grants to voluntary and community sector organisations and cultural organisations.

### **Leisure and sport**

- Action 1.1 focuses on reducing carbon emissions in the Council's estate.
  - Past, current and future work programmes include energy efficiency improvements and renewable energy installations across several leisure and sports facilities.

It should be noted that partners across the city are also helping Manchester move towards zero carbon, examples include:

- Mcr Active and local sports clubs reducing their emissions
- Manchester Climate Change Agency and Hubbub working on community engagement programmes
- Manchester Arts and Sustainability Team (MAST) working to support the culture sector to reduce its carbon footprint
- Manchester Housing Providers Partnership (MHPP) retrofitting housing stock

## **4.0 A framework for considering climate change**

As the CCAP covers a five-year period, actions will come onstream at different times and new opportunities may be identified in future. A systematic approach to ensure climate change is considered in any new activities is therefore proposed as follows:

### **Climate Change Mitigation:**

- Design/deliver in such a way to reduce the Council's direct emissions

- Identify co-benefits such as reduced energy bills, reduced car mileage and fuel costs
- Design/deliver in a way that enables our target beneficiaries to reduce their carbon emissions
  - Identify co-benefits such as warmer homes, healthier active lifestyles, a reduction in fuel poor households

#### **Climate Change Adaptation:**

- Design/deliver in a way that builds resilience and adapts the Council's services to climate change
  - Identify co-benefits such as avoiding service disruption during extreme weather events
- Design/deliver in a way that enables our target beneficiaries to build their resilience and adapt to climate change
  - Identify co-benefits such as community cohesion and flood prevention via green space.

Options for reports to this Committee could include the following to consider how actions regarding Climate change related to the Committee areas of responsibility could be further considered.

- Age Friendly - a general report on Age Friendly Manchester could also be asked to include details of their engagement in climate change activity
- A report on grants to voluntary and community sector organisations and cultural organisations could include the work on building climate change activity into the grants process.
- A report on Family poverty could pick up particular issues around fuel, challenges around access to electric vehicles.
- Reports in respect of the work with the cultural sector and cultural partnership could include actions to support the cultural sector to reduce its carbon footprint.
- Leisure Strategy could include an update on the retrofit in the capital programme and the work being undertaken to action Climate change.
- A report updating on Culture could include an update on the work done in Libraries and our buildings on tackling issues around Climate change including engagement with the public.

## **5.0 Recommendations**

This committee can see from the above list of actions being undertaken that a variety fall within this committees responsibility and members are invited as in the Recommendation at the start of the report to discuss and determine what

areas of the action plan relating to the committee they would like to debate further and in particular to consider the proposed reports for the Committees area as part of the work program going forward. To assist members attached as Appendix one is a list of the Climate Change Action plan.