

## **Manchester City Council Report for Information**

**Report to:** Environment and Climate Change Scrutiny Committee – 9 September 2021

**Subject:** Manchester Climate Change Agency Progress Report 2021/22

**Report of:** The Interim Director - Manchester Climate Change Agency and  
The Interim Policy and Strategy Advisor - Manchester Climate Change Agency

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### **Summary**

This report provides a progress update to the Committee on the Climate Change Agency's achievements to date during the year and reviews work in progress. Traditionally the Manchester Climate Change Partnership's Annual Report has been published in July and launched at the Annual Conference. This year, under recommendation from the Partnerships' Independent Advisory Groups, the publication of the report has been pushed back until September, to better align with the release of Government CO2 data published by the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS). It is anticipated that the Annual Report will be signed off at the Partnership meeting on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of September.

### **Recommendations**

The Environment and Climate Change Scrutiny Committee is requested to:-

1. Note the Manchester Climate Change Partnership and Agency's progress during 2021/22 (Section 2).
  2. Note Citywide progress during 2020/21 (Section 3 and Appendix 1).
  3. Note the expansion underway of Manchester Climate Change Partnership and the increase in capacity of the Manchester Climate Change Agency (Section 2).
  4. Note the progress on developing the updated city wide Manchester Climate Change Framework 2020-25 (Framework 2.0), the planned work to involve local communities and businesses in its development and development of the Implementation Plan for 2022-25 (Section 4).
  5. Agree that the Partnership's priorities for 2021/22 and the draft Implementation Plan for Framework 2.0 be brought to the November meeting of the Committee for consideration.
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**Wards Affected:** All

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

This report is based on the Manchester Climate Change Framework 2020-25 and progress towards its implementation. The Framework’s aim is that ‘Manchester will play its full part in limiting the impacts of climate change and create a healthy, green, socially just city where everyone can thrive.’ And includes the carbon reduction objective: ‘To ensure that Manchester plays its full part in helping to meet the Paris Agreement objectives by keeping our direct CO<sub>2</sub> emissions within a limited carbon budget, taking commensurate action on aviation CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and addressing our indirect / consumption-based carbon emissions.’

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 Framework includes the objective: ‘To ensure that Manchester establishes an inclusive, zero carbon and climate resilient economy where everyone can benefit from playing an active role in decarbonising and adapting the city to the changing climate.’
A highly skilled city: world class and home-grown talent sustaining the city’s economic success	The Framework includes the objective: ‘To ensure that Manchester establishes an inclusive, zero carbon and climate resilient economy where everyone can benefit from playing an active role in decarbonising and adapting the city to the changing climate.’
A progressive and equitable city: making a positive contribution by unlocking the potential of our communities	The Framework includes the objective: ‘To improve the health and wellbeing of everyone in Manchester through actions that also contribute to our objectives for CO <sub>2</sub> reduction and adaption and resilience, with particular focus on those most in need.’
A liveable and low carbon city: a destination of choice to live, visit, work	The Framework includes the objective: ‘To improve the health and wellbeing of everyone in Manchester through actions that also contribute to our objectives for CO <sub>2</sub> reduction and adaption and resilience, with particular focus on those most in need.’
A connected city: world class infrastructure and connectivity to drive growth	The Framework’s ‘Transport and Flying’ section sets out five headline actions: ‘Increase walking and cycling; Increase public transport use; Private vehicles; Rail connections to other cities within the UK and Europe (and beyond); work with UK Government to ensure that flights from Manchester Airport and all UK airports are fully in line with the Paris Agreement.’

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**Background documents (available for public inspection):**

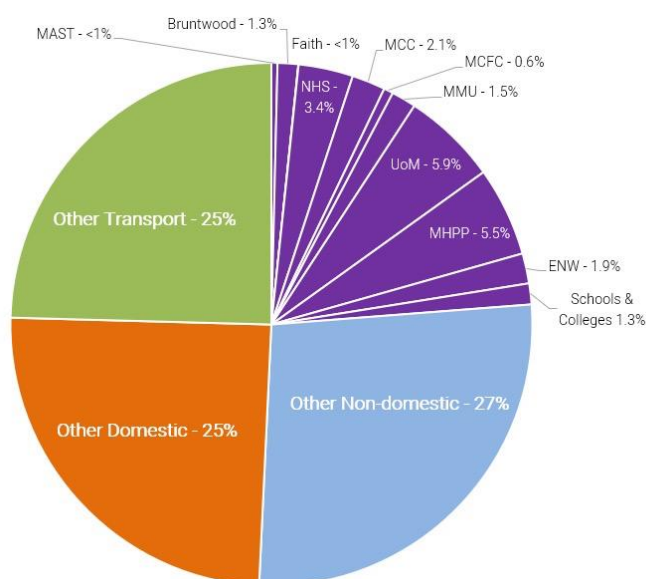
The following documents disclose important facts on which the report is based and have been relied upon in preparing the report. Copies of the background documents are available up to 4 years after the date of the meeting. If you would like a copy please contact one of the contact officers above.

Manchester Climate Change Framework 2020-25  
<https://www.manchesterclimate.com/framework-2020-25>

Manchester Climate Change Annual Report 2020  
<https://www.manchesterclimate.com/progress>

## 1.0 Introduction and Background

- 1.1 The Our Manchester Strategy sets out the commitment that *'Manchester will play its full part in limiting the impacts of climate change.'*
- 1.2 The responsibility for developing and facilitating the delivery of the citywide strategy to fulfil this commitment is devolved to the Manchester Climate Change Partnership (the Partnership, MCCP) and Manchester Climate Change Agency (the Agency, MCCA).
- 1.3 The Partnership brings together organisations from the city's public, private, community, faith, education and academic sectors that share the common goal to achieve the ambitious objectives and targets in the Manchester Climate Change Framework 2020-25. The members of the Climate Change Partnership are held to account for the progress that they are making in delivering reductions in emissions within their own organisations. Later in the report we describe the efforts being made to expand the Partnership's membership base further to cover a larger slice of the city's emissions. The Partnership seeks to provide leadership and influence for the city by emphasising that addressing climate change is the responsibility of all organisations and individuals in the city and should not be seen as only the responsibility of the Council and the wider public sector.
- 1.4 As part of the work to produce Framework 1.0, the Partnership members' impact on the City's emissions was quantified by Anthesis. Based on direct ownership and control, these stakeholders account for approximately 20% of the city's footprint (predominantly relating to the direct emissions disclosed by each of the individual organisations). Note that the below does not include organisation's consumption-based emissions (e.g. 3rd party supplier transport or employee commuting). These wider emissions impacts will be explored for certain sectors and organisations as part of Framework 2.0.



## Manchester Climate Change Partnership

1. Arts & culture
2. Bruntwood (property)
3. Faith
4. Health
5. City Council
6. Manchester City Football Club
7. Manchester Met University
8. University of Manchester
9. Mcr Housing Providers
10. Electricity Northwest
11. Schools & colleges

- 1.5 The Partnership therefore works with the Manchester Climate Change Agency, Manchester communities and businesses, and other relevant partners to ensure that Manchester develops and successfully implements a city climate change strategy aligned with the latest science and built on the views of city stakeholders. It aims to ensure this is consistent with:
- a) The commitment in the Our Manchester Strategy 2016-25 and the Manchester Climate Change Framework that the city will ‘play its full part in limiting the impacts of climate change... and create a healthy, green, socially just city where everyone can thrive’
  - b) The declaration of a climate emergency by Manchester City Council in July 2019,
  - c) The Paris Agreement, and any subsequent global agreement signed by the UK Government to limit global climate change,
  - d) The critical importance, as noted in the Our Manchester Strategy, to create a fair and equitable city where everyone can contribute to and share in success.

1.6 In February 2020, the Partnership and Agency published Version 1.0 of the Manchester Climate Change Framework 2020-25 as the city’s high-level strategy for achieving the commitment to ‘play our full part’.

1.7 Framework 1.0 was endorsed by Manchester City Council’s Executive in March 2020, formally establishing it as the city’s climate change strategy.

1.8 The Framework’s aim is that:

*‘Manchester will play its full part in limiting the impacts of climate change and create a healthy, green, socially just city where everyone can thrive.’*

1.9 The Framework sets out four headline objectives:

1) Staying within our carbon budgets:

‘To ensure that Manchester plays its full part in helping to meet the Paris Agreement objectives by:

- keeping our direct CO<sub>2</sub> emissions within a limited carbon budget,
- taking commensurate action on aviation CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and
- addressing our indirect / consumption-based carbon emissions.’

2) Climate adaptation and resilience:

‘To adapt the city’s buildings, infrastructure and natural environment to the changing climate and to increase the climate resilience of our residents and organisations.’

3) Health and Wellbeing:

'To improve the health and wellbeing of everyone in Manchester through actions that also contribute to our objectives for CO2 reduction and adaptation and resilience, with particular focus on those most in need.'

#### 4) Inclusive, Zero Carbon and Climate Resilient Economy:

'To ensure that Manchester establishes an inclusive, zero carbon and climate resilient economy where everyone can benefit from playing an active role in decarbonising and adapting the city to the changing climate.'

#### 1.10 And six priority areas for action:

##### 1) Buildings (existing and new)

- Increasing the pace of retrofitting properties with insulation and new heating systems
- Introducing energy saving measures
- Reducing the carbon impact of new buildings

##### 2) Renewable energy

- Switching to renewable energy suppliers
- Increasing the pace of solar panel installation

##### 3) Transport and flying

- Using cars less and making more journeys by public transport, on foot and by bike.
- Taking less flights
- Encouraging the use of electric vehicles

##### 4) Food

- Cutting food waste
- Encouraging plant based diets
- Eating more seasonal produce

##### 5) The things we buy and throw away

- Repairing, re-using and re-cycling more.
- Wearing clothes to last
- Reducing the use of single use plastics

##### 6) Green infrastructure and nature-based solutions

- Planting more trees
- Investing in green infrastructure

#### 1.11 Approach to implementation – bottom-up and top-down:

#### 1.12 The Framework sets out that the approach to making progress in these six areas will be through a combination of 'bottom-up' and 'top-down' actions:

## **Bottom-up – engaging and mobilising residents and businesses**

- 1.13 Every individual and organisation in the city needs to play their part in helping the city to meet its targets, and, at the same time, realising the wider financial, health and wellbeing benefits that will also come as a result. The Agency has developed a list of 15 suggested Actions for every individual and organisation in the city to take: <https://www.manchesterclimate.com/15-actions>.

## **Top-down – removing barriers**

- 1.14 There will be occasions when structural or systemic barriers prevent or limit the city's residents and businesses from fully delivering the 15 Actions. In these instances, new 'top-down' or strategic interventions are needed to remove the barriers. For example, the delivery of new cycling infrastructure to enable residents to cycle safely, changes in school or council policy to enable school children to follow a plant-based diet, changes in national policy and legislation to incentivise business investments in energy efficiency improvements.

## **Facilitating the implementation of the Framework**

- 1.15 The Framework's implementation is championed and facilitated by the Agency and Partnership. The preferred approach is to work with existing structures and organisations, as far as possible. However, whenever required, the Partnership and Agency work with partners to create new structures and partnerships to ensure the successful delivery of the Framework.

## **2.0 Partnership and Agency Progress 2021/22**

- 2.1 A key focus in the past year has been to strengthen the capacity of the organisation at all levels - Partnership, the Agency CIC (Community Interest Company) Board and the Agency Team. A new Chair of the Partnership was appointed in November 2020 - Mike Wilton, Manchester Office Lead for Arup. Interviews have recently been held to consider applications for the CIC Board and four new Directors have been invited to join. An enhanced staffing structure was approved in May 2021, designed to double the Agency's capacity, and appointments have now been made to the Director role, Sam Nicholson, currently Zero Carbon Manager for the Council, and the Policy & Strategy Lead role, Sean Morris, currently Principal Policy Officer / UK & Ireland NFLA & Mayors for Peace Chapter Secretary. A recruitment process has been commenced to appoint to the Deputy Director role.
- 2.2 In September 2020 the Agency responded to the Our Manchester Strategy Consultation, the response set out twelve proposals that will help the city to both recover from COVID and take action in line with the commitments in the Manchester Climate Change Framework 2020-25. The refreshed strategy, The Our Manchester Strategy Reset: Forward to 2025, was published in March 2021. It includes the commitment from the original strategy that 'Manchester will play its full part in limiting the impacts of climate change', as one of the six strategic priorities. Following the representation made by the

Partnership and Agency, it commits the city to reduce its direct CO2 emissions by 50% during 2021-25, towards Manchester becoming a zero carbon city by 2038, at the latest.

- 2.3 Steps have been taken to further develop the membership of the Partnership, including through Manchester's participation in the 'City-Business Climate Alliance' (CBCA) project with seven other global cities, the C40, CDP (formally, Carbon Disclosure Project) and World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD). Throughout 2020 and 2021 work has been ongoing through the CBCA project and the Zero Carbon Business Working Group to understand the barriers against taking action on climate change faced by Manchester's Business. In March 2021, MCCA in partnership with C40, CDP and WBCSD, held a Zero Carbon Business Workshop as a first step towards launching our Zero Carbon Business Programme in early 2022. 25 key Manchester Businesses came together to discuss what they are already doing to tackle climate change and the support they need to take more comprehensive action.
- 2.4 The Zero Carbon Business Working Group has now been established, led by the CEO of GM Chamber of Commerce and including representatives from the Growth Hub, Manchester City Council, the City Business Climate Alliance and the World Business Council for Sustainable Development. With the inclusion of external expertise on inclusive growth it is anticipated that the Working Group will evolve into an Advisory Group once the Zero Carbon Business Programme is launched in early 2022.
- 2.5 A call has been published to expand the membership of the Partnership so that it captures around 50% of the city's direct emissions with influence over the remaining 50%<sup>1</sup>. The first application has been received and business engagement criteria are being developed in conjunction with CBCA.
- 2.6 Partners progress on Climate Change action plans continues to be monitored by the Partnership with presentations in 2020/21 from Manchester Metropolitan University and MAST (Manchester Arts Sustainability Team). In expanding the Partnership, rigorous engagement criteria have been adopted to ensure a commitment to climate action as well as collaborating across the city. A bid has been made to the Community Renewal Fund, in conjunction with the Growth Company and GM Chamber of Commerce, to kick-start the Zero Carbon business Programme. It is anticipated that a Zero Carbon Business Lead based at GM Chamber will be appointed in the very near future.
- 2.7 In May 2021 the Agency, in partnership with environmental charity Hubbub and The National Lottery's Climate Action Fund launched the largest community climate change campaign in Manchester called "# In Our Nature". The programme delivery is led by a strategic partnership between Manchester Climate Agency and Partnership, Hubbub, The Tyndall Centre for Climate

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.manchesterclimate.com/join\\_partnership](https://www.manchesterclimate.com/join_partnership)



Change Research at the University of Manchester, Amity CIC, Commonplace and Southway Homes<sup>2</sup>. This year-long innovative programme will support several communities across the city to develop community climate action plans and support communities and residents across the city to understand and act on climate change. Through supportive and shared local campaigns, partnership working and developing projects that mobilise community strengths, experiences, and energy, we hope that together we can ignite a community led network of climate active neighbourhoods that will involve Local ward councillors.

- 2.8 The Agency has appointed a Youth Champion to drive forward the priorities of the Climate Change Youth Board and ensure the voices and aspirations of young people are represented at every level. The Agency has supported the development of the Youth Board's manifesto which will be launched in September 21 – this will be a nationwide first and cements Manchester's commitment to an inclusive and people driven approach to meeting net zero by 2038.
- 2.9 Following an unprecedented year, due to relevant partners' focus on COVID-19 during 2020, the Partnership has re-engaged with Health & Social Care Partners during 2021. The intention is to liaise with the GM Health & Social Care Operational Group to involve them in the development of Framework 2.0, see below. Also, to engage with the Manchester Health & Well Being Board to ascertain whether they would prefer to act as a direct sounding board or create a Health, Wellbeing and Climate Change Advisory Group as originally envisaged.
- 2.10 The Partnership has recently adopted a policy document, "*A Roadmap to Net Zero Carbon New Buildings*"<sup>3</sup>. A Task Group of private, public and third sector representatives was brought together to develop the policy, supported by the UK Green Building Council and involved representatives from the City Council.

The policy document has been well received and a good deal of expertise, experience and professional rigour has been applied in producing a ground-breaking piece of work that will continue to enhance Manchester's leadership in addressing the pressing issue of climate change. Over the autumn of 2021 we will continue the dialogue with all those involved in commissioning new buildings in the city to further refine the proposed Manchester Standard, and to work with those who could be involved in its implementation.

The policy document has received a warm welcome from the City Council as indicated by the statement from the Council's Deputy Leader, Cllr Luthfur Rahman OBE, Deputy Leader of Manchester City Council, who said:

*"Manchester is committed to becoming a zero carbon city. The Partnership's Roadmap, including the proposed Manchester New Build Standard, is a welcome contribution to the important discussion about how we will achieve this goal."*

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<sup>2</sup> <https://zerocarbonmanchester.commonplace.is/project-team>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.manchesterclimate.com/news/2021/08/ZCNB>

*The issue of climate change will be at the heart of the forthcoming refresh of Manchester's Local Plan. We will look at how our planning and development system can support zero carbon objectives, and we will consider the Partnership's proposals as part of this process."*

- 2.11 One of the key tasks for the Agency in 2021/22 is to develop a plan for refreshing the current Framework 1.0. The objective is the production of a draft Framework 2.0 for consultation by September 2021 and a final Framework 2.0 by March 2022, at the latest, as part of the EU-funded Zero Carbon *Cities* project<sup>4</sup>. The City Council, working with MCCA, has procured Anthesis, an environmental consultancy, to support the development of the Framework and Action Plan. Further detail on the process for production and the content of Framework 2.0 is outlined in Section 4.
- 2.12 Action has been taken at all levels to ensure inclusion in the Partnership's work. In expanding membership of the Partnership particular efforts are being made to encourage under-represented groups and organisations to participate. Similarly, in the adverts for CIC Board Directors and Staff vacancies, applications have been welcomed from women, young people and those demographic groups under-represented. Additionally, a diverse demographic profile has been adopted for recruitment of citizen representatives to the Community Assemblies. Although work in this area has been delayed due to COVID-19 the Agency is planning to take a more robust approach to diversity and inclusion in 2021/22 and determine whether it is appropriate to establish an advisory group or to continue to mainstream diverse representation at each level.

### **3.0 Citywide Progress 2020/21**

#### Overview

- 3.1 The Manchester Climate Change Partnership and Agency is provided with independent advice from academics and subject experts via the Zero Carbon Advisory Group, and the Adaptation & Resilience Advisory Group. Their reports on the citywide progress made in 2020/21 is contained at Appendix 1.
- 3.2 The progress made against the ambition to stay within our carbon budgets is illustrated in Figure 1 in Appendix 1. Manchester's direct energy use carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions fell by 3% between 2018 and 2019. A provisional estimate for 2020 suggests that emissions may have fallen by a further 11% in the past year, much of this decrease being due to Covid-19 restrictions.
- 3.3 The graph shows Manchester's historic energy related CO<sub>2</sub> emissions (emissions from direct fuel use in buildings, transport and industry, and electricity on a Scope 2 basis), with estimated emissions for 2019 and 2020 based on the national trend. The figure also shows the recommended emissions pathway related to the Manchester carbon budget. The estimated annual energy use emissions of CO<sub>2</sub> for Manchester in 2020 are 1.8MtCO.

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<sup>4</sup> <https://urbact.eu/zero-carbon-cities>

- 3.4 The emissions trend in the first three years of the carbon budget period (though 2020 is a provisional estimate) show Manchester is not yet following the recommended pathway, meaning that the carbon budget is being used at a faster rate. The distribution of the carbon budget can be varied in a number of ways, however slower reduction rates must be compensated for by faster reduction rates in the future to keep within the budget. Notably the estimated 11% drop in emissions in 2020, largely due to Covid-19 restrictions, still do not match the rate of mitigation needed to get Manchester onto the emissions pathway to stay within the carbon budget. An average reduction rate of 16% per year would therefore now be required to stay within the budget based on an even distribution of the budget. Framework v2 will identify the critical actions that will need to be taken across the City if we are to return to the trajectory required to stay within the carbon budget.

#### Aviation

- 3.5 The COVID-19 pandemic had an unprecedented impact on many sectors of the economy, and the aviation industry had a particularly significant impact. Restrictions on non-essential travel saw passenger numbers at Manchester Airport fall by 94% from 29.3 million in 2019 to 1.6 million in 2020.
- 3.6 Reduced demand and social distancing also led to a marked drop in load factors from 82% in 2019 to 64.5% in 2020. With planes flying with fewer passengers, this in turn led to a 63% increase in emissions per passenger. As a result, we estimate that the fall in emissions from flights from Manchester Airport was slightly less steep than that in passenger numbers - a 91% reduction from 3.7 million tonnes CO<sub>2</sub> in 2019 to 0.34 million tonnes CO<sub>2</sub> in 2020.
- 3.7 There is still a great deal of uncertainty about the speed and nature of the aviation industry's recovery. The industry is expecting a relatively quick rebound in leisure flights, but the future trajectory of business flights is less clear with virtual meetings having become embedded during the pandemic. The aviation sub-group will continue to monitor aviation emissions, and work with the Partnership to help members play their part in keeping to a pathway aligned with the Tyndall carbon budget and the recommendations of the Climate Change Committee.

#### Consumption

- 3.8 A consumption-based approach measures all of the carbon emissions consequent of goods and services consumed within the city, regardless of where they are produced. This contrasts the 'direct' or 'production-based' approach that underpins Manchester's zero-carbon budget, which instead relates to emission directly occurring within the city and those underpinning the electricity it consumes.
- 3.9 The Centre for Research into Energy Demand Solutions (CREDS) has developed a place-based consumption-based carbon calculator. CREDS

estimate that Manchester residents are responsible for 5,645.3 kgCO<sub>2</sub>e - 29% lower on a per capita basis than the England average. Based on the population of the city in 2019 we can estimate a total consumption-based footprint of 3.12 MtCO<sub>2</sub>e for Manchester in the year 2019.

- 3.10 It is too early to say what effect the UK COVID-19 lockdowns and their economic consequences might have had on our consumption-based footprint. One study in Italy predicted that consumption-based emissions had fallen by 20%, whilst planetary emissions fell by around 7%.

### Adaptation and Resilience

- 3.11 Irrespective of the rate of carbon reduction that is achieved in Manchester, the city is already exposed to a range of weather hazards. Earlier this year, the Agency published *Manchester's climate risk: a framework for understanding hazards & vulnerability*<sup>5</sup>. This document establishes an evidence base and structure for more detailed climate risk assessments for the city and its stakeholders. It identifies weather related hazards in the city and considers how climate change might affect them. It also establishes a framework to support a comprehensive assessment of the city's vulnerabilities and exposure to climate change and to evaluate our capacity – or lack thereof – to respond to these threats.
- 3.12 Although the risk associated with climate change cannot be eliminated altogether, it is possible to build capacity and take action to adapt and to enhance climate resilience. On-going work at the Agency will develop an overarching strategic vision for a more climate resilient Manchester. Making progress is further supported by the bolstering of strong stakeholder networks in Manchester, and more widely in Greater Manchester and beyond.

## **4.0 Framework 2.0**

- 4.1 Members will be aware that Manchester was one of the first cities to adopt science-based carbon budgeting. For direct emissions, Manchester has set a carbon budget of 15 million tonnes for 2018-2100. This means Manchester needs to reduce its carbon emissions by at least 13% per year, 50% during 2020-25, en-route becoming a zero-carbon city by 2038, at the latest. The key challenge is to ensure that specific actions are developed across sectors to deliver the target.
- 4.2 The Climate Change Partnership has been given the role of developing and facilitating the delivery of Manchester's strategy to ensure it plays its full part in limiting the impacts of climate change. Version 1.0 of the Manchester Climate Change Framework 2020- 25 was published in February 2020 and was formally endorsed by the City Council in March 2020. Version 2.0 of the Framework for 2020-25 and a new Implementation Plan are being produced during 2021 to provide more detail of what actions need to be taken to achieve the level of carbon reduction required.

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<sup>5</sup> <https://www.manchesterclimate.com/sites/default/files/Climate%20vulnerability%20framework.pdf>

Framework 2.0 will have 5 key components:

- Overall Aim
- Headline objectives: CO2 reduction, climate adaptation and resilience, health and inclusive economy
- Thematic Objectives: buildings, renewable energy, transport, food, things we buy and throw away, green infrastructure and nature-based solutions
- Bottom up – Actions for all residents and businesses
- Top Down - Setting out an approach to removing barriers to action: included in the development of detailed Implementation Plan

4.3 The City Council, working with MCCA, has procured Anthesis, an environmental consultancy, to support the development of the Framework and Action Plan. The process will involve the following stages:

- Development of thematic objectives and potential actions for residents and businesses
- Consultation 1 with residents and businesses asking them “What actions are you already taking?” and “What barriers are preventing you from taking further actions?”
- Development of a Draft Implementation Plan
- Consultation 2 on Draft Implementation Plan – “Are these the right actions to remove your barriers to taking action?” (October to November 2021)
- Final Framework Published (January/February 2022)
- Formal approval by MCCP and the City Council (March 2022)

4.4 Science based targets will determine the pace of change required. Consultants will define these for different sectors, recognising that progress is likely to be faster in some areas than in others. The actions will be focused on the following key themes:

- Buildings
- Renewable energy
- Transport
- Food
- Things we buy and throw away,
- Green infrastructure and nature-based solutions

4.5 For each theme the aim is to develop Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic and Time Bound (SMART) objectives. The objectives will be accompanied by a list of specific actions that will signpost Manchester people, businesses and other organisations to take the actions required.

4.6 The aim is that the Framework and Implementation Plan will provide the city with a clear set of actions that will, if taken, reduce emissions by the required amount by 2025 to ensure that the city stays within its carbon budget and remains on track to become a zero-carbon city by 2038 or earlier. Throughout this process the intention is that barriers will have been identified and removed to enable citizens and businesses to take the actions that are required. In overall terms the Framework is intended to further support efforts to position

the city as a leader, both nationally and internationally, in the response it is taking to mitigation, adaptation and resilience. As a result the objective is that through these actions the city will be seen as a better place to live, work, play and invest in because of the progressive approach it is taking to this key global challenge.

- 4.7 Given the correlation between climate action and the wider work of the Scrutiny Committee, it is vitally important that members represented on the Committee are able to contribute to this work. Therefore, it is proposed that the draft Implementation Plan for Framework 2.0 consultation is brought back to the next meeting of the committee for consideration.

## **5.0 National Policy and Local – National Government Joint-working**

- 5.1 As the Agency and Partnership seek to lead the work to tackle climate change at the city level through ambitious plans for carbon reduction, the national policy context is also often critical in helping to unblock barriers to action.

- 5.2 The Government has published a series of strategy documents relating to its national Zero Carbon ambitions earlier in the year including its Industrial Decarbonisation Strategy and Transport Decarbonisation Plan. Others, such as a Heat and Buildings Plan, were delayed further and won't now be published until after the parliamentary recess. The overarching Government Net Zero Strategy is expected to be published in the Autumn, prior to the UN Climate Change Conference of the parties (COP 26) which takes place in Glasgow between the 31<sup>st</sup> of October and 12<sup>th</sup> November.

- 5.3 Earlier this year the Committee on Climate Change (CCC) called on Government to provide local authorities with more powers to act to address Climate Change. In particular in its report on the sixth carbon budget the CCC made a set of recommendations as follows:

- The UK Government and local authorities share a common goal to deliver Net Zero.
- The Sixth Carbon Budget can only be achieved if Government, regional agencies, and local authorities work seamlessly together.
- More than half of the emissions cuts needed rely on people and businesses taking up low-carbon solutions – decisions that are made at a local and individual level. Many of these decisions depend on having supporting infrastructure and systems in place. Local authorities have powers or influence over roughly a third of emissions in their local areas.
- Top-down policies go some way to delivering change but can achieve a far greater impact if they are focused through local knowledge and networks.
- Four key things are needed to achieve this vision of collaborative delivery:
  - **Framework:** An agreed framework for delivery for Net Zero incorporating local and national climate action
  - **Financing:** Appropriate long-term financing to support local authorities in delivering Net Zero

- **Flexibility:** Local operational flexibility around how local areas address climate change
- **Facilitation:** coherent policy and powers for the facilitation of delivery.

5.4 The call for the development of an agreed framework for delivery incorporating local and national action was taken up by the UK100 group, an alliance of local authorities working together on the climate change agenda. In July UK 100 issued a joint communique signed by Metropolitan Mayors and local authority leaders which urged central government to take the following steps:

- Retain the urgency from the pandemic to build a green recovery.
- Change national rules and regulations to enable local councils to do more on climate.
- Create a framework for delivery of climate targets with local flexibility.
- Investment in green jobs and schemes at scale, and in delivery at the local level.
- A consistent message from across government prioritising Net Zero.
- Better or more appropriate powers for councils on housing, planning, and transport and more capacity to implement them.

5.5 The Agency will continue to work with UK 100 on this agenda in the run up to COP26 and members will be kept up to date on national policy announcements and their implications for our work to tackle climate change across the city.

## 6.0 Recommendations

6.1 Recommendations are at the front of this report.