

**Manchester City Council
Report for Information**

Report to: Communities and Equalities Scrutiny Committee – 9 November 2021

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

Report of: City Solicitor

Summary

This report aims to provide an update to the report that came to this committee in June 2021 for further discussion to enable the Committee to consider further areas within their responsibility where the impact of climate change is of particular relevance and for the committee to identify 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.

Wards Affected: All

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

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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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	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 update on the reports received to date regarding an overview of the areas where the remit of this Committee overlaps with the climate change agenda.

It is intended as an opportunity for further discussion and to develop 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 31st March 2021 and the report that came in June 2021 to consider the impact of Climate agenda issues within the remit of this committee. In July the Committee is looking at the Playing Pitch Strategy, debated the importance of pitches being resilient to climate change, and heard from Officers about sustainability of pitches.

The committee also had an item on recycling in Leisure Centre's, members heard that environmental issues formed part of the contract management for Leisure Centre's and what work was ongoing, in developing that aspect further.

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

- 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.

3.1 Community engagement

The Committee may wish to ask for an update to a future meeting in respect of retrofitting to reduce Carbon emissions given the increasing cost of fuel affecting those most vulnerable in our communities.

- 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.
- There is a report elsewhere on the agenda providing an update in respect of Age Friendly Manchester.

3.2 Culture sector and voluntary sector

Action 5.3 focuses on embedding zero carbon ambitions into the Council's decision-making.

- Committee may wish to ask for an update on progress for building Climate change targets into the grants to voluntary and community sector organisations and cultural organisations.

Manchester's cultural sector has been working on climate action for many years. Individual organisations in the city have developed Carbon Reduction Plans and are also working to engage artistically with audiences on climate change. Some examples of current projects include;

- Manchester Jewish Museum. The museum's expanded building is more sustainable and energy efficient. Despite doubling in size, the museum has reduced overall energy use and carbon impact by 20% so that the museum may be preserved and enjoyed by future generations.
- Contact working with Ergon Theatre: The Wicked Problem was born out of a desire to bring together arts and science, this project explores themes around climate change and sustainability, offering audiences a uniquely interactive experience as they investigate the future of Greater Manchester. The Audience are the jury and are part of the first ever trial to decide the fate of an individual who has broken a climate law.
- Brighter Sound – Playing for Timeproject commissioned two artists to create brand new pieces of music in response to the global climate emergency. Each artist has received mentoring from industry experts, and the opportunity to record their music professionally. This shows the power of the cultural sector to reach audiences and connect them to the issues related to the climate crisis.
- The sector has also collaborated on climate action through the Manchester Arts Sustainability Team (MAST), which was set up in 2011. MAST's good practice has been internationally recognized by the EU's URBACT Programme. In partnership

with Manchester Climate Change Agency and Manchester City Council this practice has been shared with 5 other European Cities through the C-Change project.

Through the Cultural Investments and Grants Portfolio there is an opportunity to build carbon reduction requirements into future funding agreements, as set out in the Council's Climate Change Action Plan. Following a review by Julie's Bicycle in 2020/21, the Culture Team is currently developing guidance for grant-funded organisations on zero carbon requirements. This will sit alongside a bespoke Zero Carbon Culture Guide, which will provide a checklist of key actions for the cultural sector and signpost guidance and resources. The Committee may wish to review progress on implementation during 2022/23.

The 2019/20 Cultural Impact Survey data for the 15 organisations funded by the Cultural Partnership Agreements grant programme provides an illustration of the actions already being taken;

- 22 individual employees across the 8 of the CPA organisations had received training in carbon literacy by an accredited trainer in 2019/20, which was an increase of 64% from 2018/19.
- 93% of CPA organisations were a member of a carbon reduction programme in 2019/20 (Green Growth, MAST, Julie's Bicycle), an increase from 80% in 2018/19.

3.3 Libraries contribution to Climate Change Emergency

Libraries general contribution: Libraries purchase books and lend them to numerous people, reducing the amount of books needing to be produced - reducing paper production.

- Libraries are well used community venues where Information is provided to residents both through resources and partners using libraries as community hubs.
- Libraries are well used community venues where campaigns can be hosted (e.g. around recycling, energy reduction etc).
- Libraries are local cultural hubs enabling local cultural activity for all ages, much of which features environmental topics.

Achievements/Actions

- The lending of Ebooks and eaudio books is increasing each year - currently nearly 300,000 per year. This reduced the production of books - reducing paper production.
- Summer Reading Challenge and Read & Feed workshops in 2019 run by Biffa to improve recycling.
- Launch and use of Loads To Do, enabling cultural events and activities to be promoted electronically.
- Libraries run more environmentally friendly craft sessions - e.g use

recyclable material, and no non-environmentally friendly material - e.g. glitter.

- Libraries promoted as a workbase for City Council and partner staff who are working in communities - to reduce the amount of travel undertaken by staff.

Capital Programme

All library capital schemes undergo an assessment of their carbon reduction characteristics as part of the capital approval process and are subject to the Manchester Low Carbon Build Standard.

Libraries share occupancy with Leisure services at Wythenshawe Forum, Arcadia Sports Centre and Moss Side Leisure Centre. These sites have recently been upgraded with energy conservation measures including a combined heat and power plant at Wythenshawe Forum.

Central Library has been connected to the Civic Quarter Heat Network and the network is nearing completion. This shared heating system will reduce emissions and costs across prominent city centre buildings; when all buildings are connected it will save 1,600 tonnes of CO₂ a year.

3.4 Leisure and sport

- Action 1.1 focuses on reducing carbon emissions in the Council's estate.
 - The Committee has already received information as to how the Climate agenda has impacted both on sports facilities including development of pitches and how our Leisure contracts are maintained.
 - Committee may wish to have a future report in respect of the estate for our libraries and culture service and the work being undertaken in respect of climate change

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:

4.1 Climate Change Mitigation

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

4.2 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.

- 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. Committee is asked to consider whether this would be an area they would like to see a report on in future.
- Leisure Strategy could include an update on the retrofit in the capital program and the work being undertaken to action Climate change. Committee may wish to consider whether there are other elements that they would ask for information in a future report.

5.0 Recommendations

This committee has a received several reports that have discussed climate change impact and are asked to consider what other reports they would wish to see that comes within the Committees remit. 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, in particular to consider the proposed reports for the Committees area as part of the work program going forward.