

**Manchester City Council  
Report for Information**

**Report to:** Environment and Climate Change Scrutiny Committee – 11 November 2021

**Subject:** The Role of Neighbourhood Teams In Developing Local Climate Change Activity and Partnership Working

**Report of:** Strategic Director (Neighbourhoods)

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**Summary**

The report provides information on how the Neighbourhood Teams are supporting local communities to engage in local climate change activity and reduce carbon emissions. This includes an update on the In Our Nature programme pilot schemes, describing the approach and outcomes of partnership working and information on the delivery of active travel.

**Recommendations**

It is recommended that the Environment and Climate Change Committee note and comment on the report.

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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 Climate Change Action Plan 2020-25 sets out the actions that will be delivered to ensure that the Council plays its full part in delivering the city's Climate Change Framework 2020-25 which aims to half the city's CO2 emissions over the next 5 years.

<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 and Manchester Economic Recovery and Investment Plan.
A highly skilled city: world class and home-grown talent sustaining the city's economic success	Manchester is one of a 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 communities	Transitioning to a zero-carbon city can help to tackle fuel poverty by reducing energy bills. Health outcomes will also be improved through the 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):** None

## **1.0 Introduction**

- 1.1 The Report provides information on how the Neighbourhood Teams are supporting local communities to deliver activities that contribute to the city's ambition of becoming a net zero carbon city by 2038. This includes an update on the Manchester Climate Change Agency led In Our Nature Programme pilot scheme, describing the approach and outcomes of partnership working and information on the delivery of active travel.

## **2.0 Background**

- 2.1 Manchester has a target of becoming a zero-carbon city by 2038. Achieving this will require everyone in the city to play their part. The Council's Climate Change Action Plan 2020-25 Workstream 5 is a cross cutting theme concerned with influencing behaviour as a catalyst for change. A key component of the plan is working at the neighbourhood level with communities on reducing their carbon imprint.
- 2.2 The role of the Neighbourhood Teams is to facilitate discussion and engage people at the local level in the climate change agenda and the City's carbon reduction targets. The work complements the wider activity in the city to direct future investment and infrastructure to achieve its carbon reduction targets.
- 2.3 The local approach recognises that climate change raises different issues for different neighbourhoods and communities in the city. By approaching the subject at the local level, the issue becomes tangible and less overwhelming. It encourages residents, businesses, and organisations to participate, consider how climate change impacts on their own lives and encourages people to act. By thinking locally and sharing good practice it is planned to build an array of local actions and changes that if culminated, will create notable change, and generate a ground swell of opinion and support for the city's carbon reduction targets. To ensure that carbon reduction is relevant to all communities the Neighbourhood Teams aim to address barriers to engagement and ensure that the issues with regards climate change is communicated so that it is relevant and inclusive for all communities.
- 2.4 Neighbourhood Teams are well placed to co-ordinate local climate change activity as they facilitate collaboration and partnership at the neighbourhood level. Neighbourhood priorities and activities are established based on the needs of the neighbourhoods, using local strengths and energy of local communities and networks. Neighbourhood Managers chair both ward co-ordination meetings and the Team Around the Neighbourhood (TANs) which bring together key partners on a neighbourhood footprint including registered housing providers, the Local Care Organisation's neighbourhood teams and Greater Manchester Police to identify and deliver on local priorities. TANs have included addressing climate change in their priorities and partners are engaging in the production and implementation of ward climate change action plans.

2.5 The report outlines the work of the Neighbourhood Teams and partners to facilitate and support local climate change activity including:

- Ward Climate Change Action Plans.
- Use of the Neighbourhood Investment Fund
- Support for Active Travel Initiatives
- Work of Climate Change Neighbourhood Officers including supporting development of wider partnership structures.
- Supporting National Lottery Climate focussed initiatives 'In Our Nature' and 'Our Streets Chorlton' as pilots for good practise and learning.
- The report also outlines key elements that are required for the local approach to be successful. These are:
  - Inclusivity and Diversity
  - Communications
  - Measuring and monitoring climate change emissions
  - Learning and development

### **3.0 Ward Climate Change Action Plans**

3.1 Ward Climate Change Action Plans form the foundations to engaging and capturing bottom-up climate change activity across the city. Work is progressing to ensure that each ward has a Climate Change Action Plan by the end of the calendar year. A standard template has been produced so there is consistency in approach, recording and capturing information about residents and partner groups involved, resources and opportunities available. Actions are identified alongside, timescales for delivery and how impact will be measured. Progress will be monitored on a quarterly basis. More information is provided in Appendix 1 on the type of activity included so far in Ward Climate Change Action Plans.

3.2 Six wards are holding their own climate change emergency events. Outcomes from these will be built in their Ward Climate Change Action Plans. The aim of these events is to bring together the local community with Councillors and partners, to highlight what is already happening, to involve the community in developing the ward climate action plan, to encourage people to feel that their actions have impact and to identify where more support is needed.

3.3 Hulme, Moss Side and Rusholme have recently held their events with between 20 and 25 residents attending. Discussion at the events centred on:

- Planting and greening opportunities.
- Cars/ traffic impact on air quality as well as its dominance on the experience of the area.
- Waste and recycling, reducing fly tipping and increasing composting.
- Ardwick, Deansgate and Piccadilly are holding a resident event during the COP26 period.
- Climate Change Workshops are planned for Didsbury East and Didsbury West in mid-November. The main aim of the workshops is to launch

Climate Change Action Plans and discuss with residents the Action Plan priorities.

#### **4.0 Neighbourhood Investment Fund: aligned to support climate change projects**

- 4.1 The Neighbourhood Investment Fund (NIF) provides local communities with funding to make their neighbourhoods better places to live. £20,000 of NIF is available for each ward in Manchester - to help groups deliver events and initiatives that benefit the community.
- 4.2 Following the Declaration of the Climate Emergency the NIF process and application form has been amended so NIF actively supports applications which are environmentally sustainable and connect to the Ward Climate Change Plans and priorities. £57,000 of NIF funding was approved for local climate change projects last financial year (2020/21) and this is expected to increase this financial year (2021/22).
- 4.3 There is a commitment from each ward for at least one climate change project to be funded by NIF this financial year. Follow this link to see more details on the Council webpages: [What are neighbourhood investment funds | Neighbourhood investment funds | Manchester City Council](#)
- 4.4 The amended NIF form invites applications that 'tackle' climate change through activities such as greening, rewilding, local food projects, awareness raising/ engagement activities around climate change, repair workshops/sessions, increasing composting, increasing recycling rates, reducing waste, green and active travel initiatives, and improvements to air quality.
- 4.5 A selection of NIF awards from 2021/22 are provided below:

#### **SOUTH AREA**

##### **Northenden & Brooklands Ward: Pioneer House School**

Amount £470

Objective - improve the green space at Sale Circle Shopping Parade straddling the two ward boundaries. This followed a visit to the school by the Neighbourhood Officer to hold a Climate Change Workshop and whole school assembly.

##### **Whalley Range Ward: Walk Ride Group**

Amount £1,060

Objective - improve road safety in the area, in order to enable safe active travel for school children and other residents.

##### **Chorlton Park and Chorlton Wards: West Didsbury & Chorlton AFC**

Juniors

Amount £959

Objective - installation of cycle racks at football ground

## **CENTRAL AREA**

### **Hulme Ward - UK Youth for Nature**

Amount: £900

Objective - To reach a diverse audience and empower local people to be part of the climate conversation, UK Youth for Nature has created a beautifully illustrated mural on the wall of a local church in Hulme. The mural sets out to highlight nature and the importance of biodiversity in climate change mitigation.

### **Piccadilly and Deansgate Wards – Climate Change Emergency Summit**

Nov 2021

Amount: £700

Objective – Funding for a residents' event on climate change.

### **Deansgate Ward – Street Tree Planting Programme**

Amount to be finalised.

Objective - to increase greening in the City Centre with the installation of street trees in various parts of the ward.

### **Deansgate Ward – Carbon Literacy Training (CLT) for residents**

Amount to be finalised.

Objective – to offer CLT to any resident in the ward who would like to take up this offer. It will be publicised at the city centre residents' climate event in November.

### **Gorton and Abbey Hey - Abbey Orchard**

Amount: £874

Objective - Create a poly tunnel to grow fruits and flowers from seed.

## **NORTH AREA**

### **Cheetham Ward - Abraham Moss Warriors, multiple greening projects.**

Amount - £6,000

Objective – Improvements to greenspace in Smedley Community Park. This includes installation of communal raised planting beds, creation of both a large flower bed and an 80-foot habitat designed to encourage and support biodiversity.

### **Miles Platting & Newton Heath Ward - Keeley Close Community Garden Group**

Amount - £575

Objective – to improve and expand community garden space to enable food growing.

### **Harpurhey Ward - No.93 Health and Wellbeing Centre**

Amount - £1,604

Objective – Project delivered in partnership with Sow the City to further develop external space at the centre, run weekly workshops and grow produce to supply the on-site community café.

## 4.6 Other funding Sources

Neighbourhood Teams have supported local climate change projects to attract funding from other external sources, including:

### **Groundwork**

Groundwork have allocated two pots of £6,000 funding for 'Eco Streets' projects in Manchester for Boscombe Street Re-Greening in Moss Side, and Pigeon Park in Longsight. The funding will be used by community groups to improve their local area through planting and greening.

### **IGNITION**

Ignition is an EU programme currently funding a design scheme in Edge Street, in the city centre, which will demonstrate how nature-based solutions (NBS) can be used to reduce flooding, irrigate soft landscaping, improve the streetscape, uplift property values and increase footfall.

The team will continue to work with partners and funders to attract additional resources that can be utilised at a local level.

## 5.0 Promoting Active Travel

5.1 Active travel is an essential element of the Council's vision for a sustainable transport system and reducing carbon emissions through a mode shift away from private car journey towards cycling and walking. The Neighbourhood Teams have played a significant role in working with communities in encouraging people to walk and cycle. This has included.

### 5.2 **Promoting Active Travel Choices on the School Run – School Streets and Walk to School Programmes**

The Neighbourhood Teams work closely with schools and parents to promote active travel choices and increase climate change awareness. The activities at schools have included:

- Delivering school assemblies to talk about active travel choices and carbon impact of short car journeys to school.
- Producing articles for school newsletters.
- Supporting applications for the nationally Accredited Active Travel Schemes such as the "WOW" "Walk to School Project by Living Streets Organisation and the Modeshift STARS education Scheme.

### 5.3 **School Streets Sessions – "providing Traffic Free Space outside Schools"**

#### **One Day Taster Sessions**

The Neighbourhood Teams, alongside Highways, have supported 20 primary schools in 13 wards across Manchester to hold one day taster

“School Street” Sessions (for list of schools see appendix 2). These sessions help to promote active travel, transform the school run and encourage safe, healthy school travel whilst improving air quality around school sites.

A “School Street” taster session followed invitations to schools to request that the Council introduce temporary restrictions on motor traffic at school drop off and pick up times providing a traffic free safe space that encourages active travel. These are one day trial sessions with the Council waiving normal fees and providing expertise, legal notices, training for volunteers, signage, and barriers for the school to allow them to successfully manage the session.

One Day Taster School Street Sessions have typically been held on climate change campaign days such as Clean Air Day or Car Free Day. These are opportunities for Schools, parents, and residents to come together to provide safe traffic free school travel supported by volunteer traffic marshals.

Over 6,600 pupils have been able to enjoy at least one day of car free space outside their school at drop off and pick up times on the school street trial sessions across Manchester.

#### **5.4 School Streets – Moving towards sessions every school day**

Following successful one day trials, many schools have asked that they hold them more regularly. The Council was successful in September 2021 in a funding application to TFGM and has been granted £50k to roll out a pilot programme at 7 schools (for list of schools see appendix 3) in Manchester that will see School Streets Sessions held every school term day.

The School Streets initiative at these 7 schools will be supported by permanent Traffic Restriction Orders (TRO) and additional fixed signage. The Council will provide accredited marshal training and resources for school staff and parent volunteers. In the lead in period the participating schools as well as other schools across the city, will be encouraged to hold further one day taster sessions. These TRO orders are subject to a statutory consultation process; it is anticipated that the move to daily sessions will take place over the Summer and Autumn terms in 2022.

#### **5.5 Promoting wider Active Travel Choices on the School Run**

In addition to School Street Road Closures the Neighbourhood Teams will continue their engagement with schools to develop active travel resources, school travel plans and support packages. As schools develop more experience of active travel initiatives, they will be supported to progress to the option of School Street one day taster sessions. As the schools become more experienced through the delivery of taster sessions and other Active Travel events such as walk to school days the Council will develop a pipeline of potential applications for regular and permanent School Streets should further funding become available.

The committee should note that a full report on the role of schools and climate change has been requested by the Children and Young People’s Committee.



## **5.6 Play Streets: Promoting Traffic Free Residential Streets**

The Neighbourhood Teams have been promoting Play Streets within communities and supporting applicants to plan and organise sessions. Over 50 streets across the city have held at least one Play Street session since 2019 (for a list of streets please see appendix 4).

## **5.7 Other schemes**

The Council is delivering a range of schemes involving development and construction of physical infrastructure, strategic plans for extending the walking and cycling network, and other schemes to increase access to active travel. The Neighbourhood Teams support the technical project teams in engaging with residents and Councillors in the development and delivery of active travel infrastructure within the city.

## **6.0 Climate Change Neighbourhood Officers**

6.1 Three Climate Change Neighbourhood Officers (CCNOs) were appointed in Spring 2021. These posts are based in each of the Neighbourhood Teams (North/South/Central). The CCNOs give advice and direction ensuring that Neighbourhood Teams, Councillors and communities have the support and information to develop locally based climate change initiatives and develop their ward climate change action plans. The Environment and Climate Change Scrutiny Committee at its meeting in June 2021 was introduced to the CCNOs. The Officers have continued to engage with communities, local councillors, and partners at the ward level. They have also engaged with wider partnerships and initiatives at both the citywide level and cross ward boundaries. This has included:

### **6.2 Air Quality (AQ) Steering Group (citywide)**

CCNOs attend quarterly AQ steering group meetings to represent Neighbourhoods contributions to the AQ action plan. CCNOs provide updates on Neighbourhood activities linked to air quality, including Clean Air Day and School Streets. The CCNOs support the Domestic Smoke Pollution campaign by coordinating leaflet drops to properties with log/coal burners.

### **6.3 Wythenshawe Sustainability Working Group (Wythenshawe)**

CCNO for South Manchester is supporting the group, which is led by the Wythenshawe Community Housing Group, by attending its meetings, advising on funding opportunities and projects. An example of a project that has progressed is the David Attenborough '*A Life on Our Planet*' community screenings. A successful screening followed by an open discussion took place in Woodhouse Park. There are plans to host more sessions in various Wythenshawe locations.

#### **6.4 Young People's Network (citywide)**

This is a working group made up of CCNOs and stakeholders involved in the youth climate agenda, including MCC Education, Manchester Climate Change Agency, Groundwork, Keep Britain Tidy, and Manchester Environmental Education Network (MEEN). The group supported the promotion and delivery of climate change-specific Holiday Activity Fund (HAF) activities over the summer holidays. CCNOs also attended locality primary head teacher conference meetings to promote climate change initiatives such as Eco Schools.

#### **6.5 Age Friendly Network (citywide)**

CCNOs have made initial links with the Age Friendly team. A climate change-focused article was published in the Age Friendly October monthly bulletin. This included information about where to find Manchester Climate Change Agency's ongoing Framework V2 consultation.

#### **6.6 In Our Nature (citywide)**

CCNOs played a key role in supporting the citywide Climate Assembly, by working with Neighbourhood colleagues to share promotional materials via leafleting and social media, attending the face-to-face workshop sessions to provide support with delivery, and assisting with liaison between Councillors and project facilitator, Envirolution. CCNOs also supported the set-up and running of the In Our Nature - Nature Takeover pop-up shop in St Anne's Arcade, city centre.

#### **6.7 IGNITION Hackathon (citywide)**

CCNOs will support a series of three events hosted by the Royal Horticultural Society and IGNITION project. Events are targeting school groups and youth organisations and aim to address practical action to mitigate climate change that can be taken at a community level. Groups will be invited to pitch ideas, the CCNOs are to sit on expert panels to assist in judging successful pitches which will later be showcased at RHS Bridgewater Hall.

### **7.0 National Lottery Climate Change Funded Projects**

7.1 The CCNOs and Neighbourhood Teams support two community climate focused initiatives in Manchester which are funded by the National Lottery Climate Action Fund. These bring together a range of partners with an expertise in climate change and engagement. These are the In Our Nature programme and the Our Streets Chorlton initiative. Both programmes have been established to drive learning and identify good practice, with a view to scaling up action across Manchester and beyond.

## **8.0 In Our Nature**

8.1 In Our Nature Programme (ION) is led by the Manchester Climate Change Agency. The initial focus of ION has been using urban greening and nature-based solutions as a way of gaining interest within communities, by supporting community projects including greening, gardening, growing and those that support nature and increase biodiversity. This approach is based upon research by Natural England <sup>[1]</sup>, and others that provide evidence between nature and climate action. The name “In Our Nature” is a play on the theme, and also represents the goals of the programme that climate action and carbon reduction will be ingrained within everything that we do as residents, and as a city, so that it becomes habitual and “in our nature” to act on climate change.

8.2 The ION programme is a partnership supported by a specialist team of organisations in climate change and community engagement including Manchester Climate Change Agency (MCCA), Hubbub, Tyndall Centre, Commonplace and Amity. CCNOs and other representatives from the Neighbourhood Teams support the programme, attend the partnership meetings, and assist partners engage with the communities. The MCCA has overall responsibility for co-ordination and management of the programme. As well as the National Lottery’s Climate Action Fund, the programme is funded by a variety of UK funders including the Esmee Fairbairn Foundation, Garfield Weston Foundation, and the Wates Family Enterprise Trust.

8.3 The aim of the programme is to communicate to people about climate change and why acting now is so important to the future of our city and ourselves. Key elements of the programme include both citywide and local initiatives as described below. Details about the programme can be found on the following link: <https://zerocarbonmanchester.commonplace.is/>

### **8.4 Area based pilot projects**

The programme has partnered up with communities in Moss Side, Hulme, Rusholme, Miles Platting & Newton Heath, the Northern Quarter (Piccadilly) and Levenshulme to bring people together to develop community climate action projects. The Arrowfield Estate in Chorlton Park has recently been added following an approach by Southway Homes to develop a single site “low carbon living” exemplar with tenants on the estate after receiving European funding to replace gas boilers with low carbon air source heat pump boilers, which has acted as a catalyst to enable wider discussion on climate change.

8.5 Each area-based pilot is being provided with a range of support to develop projects including:

- A dedicated person from the Tyndall Centre to support the community group to develop their own plans, prioritise actions and learn how best to reduce an areas carbon footprint.

- A tailored support programme provided by Amity for 6 months, for up to 12 people to come together to actively engage with each other and with the wider community for climate action.
- A Commonplace community portal consisting of an interactive map, and space to engage the community through various interactive tools and surveys.

8.6 The Neighbourhood Teams will work with the groups to connect their activities to the relevant ward climate action plan. For Miles Platting and Newton Heath the focus will be on a youth project and will be linked to active travel. The project group is currently being brought together. The other groups are at a formative stage and have held their initial meetings.

### 8.7 **In Our Nature Communications Campaign**

Supporting locally based initiatives is the city-wide ‘In Our Nature’ communications campaign which includes:

- Daily tips, advice, and inspiration on greener living in Manchester linked to the key actions defined by the Climate Change Agency
- Amplification of local projects and initiatives including through the ‘Stories We Love’ series which celebrates people and projects taking climate action.
- Promotion of opportunities for residents to have their say and feed into the city’s climate change plans.

8.8 ION has created free resources include template designs and ‘inspiration guides’ pulling together key learnings from the communications campaign. Printed assets and ‘events packs’ have also been provided to the Neighbourhood Teams and NCCOs to enable them to promote ION at events. The programme has also developed and funded several other project initiatives providing opportunities for residents to get involved in practical action.

### 8.9 **Individual project Initiatives**

Nature Takeover: There are 4 projects as part of the Nature Takeover in Moss Side which are connecting with diverse communities including an alleyway greening project in Moss Side, working with the Mustafia Sharif Centre to transform a concrete courtyard into an urban garden, creation of a community allotment and the opening of “pop up nature shop” in the city centre. Hubbub has also provided funding to local groups to create long lasting and impactful climate action projects.

Greener Wilder Homes: A peer-to-peer growing project in Miles Platting connecting families who want to grow fruit and veg with local growing enthusiasts with the help of Sow the City.

Community Fridge Network: Operating across Manchester in Moss Side, Wythenshawe and Crumpsall, with more in the pipeline.

Community Calling: Hubbub launched this campaign in Manchester this summer with Young Manchester to provide a scheme that recycles donated mobile phones to disadvantaged young people, along with data.

<https://www.hubbub.org.uk/communitycalling>

## 8.10 In Our Nature Community Grants

A citywide community grant pot was established for groups to bid into. The successful applicants have been chosen by a panel of local experts, including representatives from the Neighbourhood Teams. The 3-winning projects involved:

**Stitched Ups' walk-in wardrobe**: The 'Walk-in-Wardrobe' will be a pop-up experience for young people who want to find out more about their clothes – from what they are made from (and who by) to what happens after we get rid of them.

**Library of Things in Levenshulme Old Library**: The Manchester Library of Things will be a community shed bursting with things people need, but do not want to buy. Working like a normal book library, you will be able take out a membership and borrow useful items at low cost. Borrowing from the Library of Things will help people borrow more, save money, and protect the planet.

**Good for you Cookbook**: Future Directions CIC will work with people with learning disabilities and autistic people to develop an easy-read cookbook filled with healthy recipes and practical tips to help reduce food waste. They hope that this will inspire and empower people to gain confidence and learn new skills so they can eat well and waste less.

In addition to the above, Hubbub is funding four urban greening community projects delivered by local groups such as Manchester Urban Diggers and Mothers Against Violence.

## 9.0 Our Streets Chorlton (OSC)

9.1 This is a community-led project, engaging people in Chorlton and Chorlton Park in conversations about reducing carbon emissions by reducing car journeys. It is funded by The National Lottery's Climate Action Fund and is a partnership of Walk Ride GM, Groundwork GM, Open Data Manchester, Sustrans, Amity CIC, Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research and Commonplace. Two full time project coordinators listen, engage, and support the community to explore local solutions together. Our Streets Chorlton established a regular meeting at the start of the project to share progress, align work and good working relations. The Neighbourhood Manager for Chorlton advises and assists the project to distribute information and attends their monthly forum meetings. Highway Officers have helped inform the street closures and other matters and the Our Street project officers and CCNO's have collaborated on elements and shared learning.

Our Streets Chorlton has:

- Developed a community forum for residents to discuss carbon emissions, travel, and potential local solutions, to steer the work of the OSC project.
- Supported residents of two streets to host their first Open Streets; over three days through-traffic was stopped, and the space was used for people to socialise and take part in activities highlighting active travel.
- Facilitated a School Champions Network; a space for local parents, teachers, and residents to work together on the traffic, safety and health challenges facing schools in Chorlton.
- Supported a week of School Streets activity: School Streets at 3 primary schools and climate workshops at 3 high schools.
- Carried out 5 in-person volunteer-led traffic counts to monitor traffic on specific streets throughout the day to give us an accurate picture of traffic levels and types.
- Installed 15 community-hosted automatic traffic counters and 2 air quality sensors to help produce a current picture of Chorlton. See <https://ourstreetschorlton.co.uk/julys-data-bulletin-our-streets-in-chorlton/>

Next steps for the OSC Initiative include:

- Installing a temporary parklet on private land to use as a further consultation tool with residents and traders.
- Delivering an Inspired Community Action programme to grow greater climate action in the community by uncovering people's capacity for community action.
- The funding for the initiative is due to end in March 2022. Discussions are currently underway between OSC, Manchester City Council, Manchester Climate Change Agency and the National Lottery about future funding, project learning and the potential for widening the Our Street Chorlton Work to a citywide initiative and ensuring it adds value to the development of Active Travel Initiatives in the City and dovetails with the wider ION programme.

## **10.0 Inclusivity and Diversity**

10.1 Communities are diverse in language, ethnicity, faith, and cultures. Our approach to engagement and communication needs to be appropriate and accessible. Working with the CCNOs, Hubbub produced an Equalities Impact Assessment to identify inclusivity and diversity issues with regards communications and events planning associated with the ION programme and activities. As well as social media and web-based channels the campaign uses printed materials and flyers translated into a range of languages.

10.2 Many of the ION project pilot initiatives have explored engaging with a specific group for which there may be barriers to engagement. This includes 'Good for you, Good for the Planet' Cookbook working with people with learning disabilities and autistic people to develop an easy-read cookbook filled with healthy recipes and practical tips to help reduce food waste. Community-based urban greening projects have focused on targeted communities including Manchester's Kurdish community, Muslim women, and school

children, using nature and community-led urban greening projects to inspire climate action.

- 10.3 The University of Manchester's Leverhulme Trust-funded project, TIES, 'Toward Inclusive Environmental Sustainabilities' is the first in-depth study of immigration and household sustainability in the UK targeting the Somali and Pakistani communities. Little is known about culturally specific notions of sustainability and how green agendas are practiced by immigrants with non-Western views and lifestyles. Moreover, sustainability is often viewed by some population groups as elitist and non-inclusive. This project aims to address these issues. The Neighbourhood Team is working alongside the University to support this work.

In promoting climate change awareness consideration has been given by the Neighbourhood Teams to the locations of events and initiatives including:

- Working with faith groups and communities in the wards to bring climate change activities into planned activities for example, the recent Cheetham Cultural Festival included an event hosted at 'The Yard,' which focused on ethical fashion and tackling overconsumption in the industry. There was also a climate change/reduce, reuse, recycle information stands on both days of the festival weekend. (Ukrainian Centre and Crumpsall Horticultural Centre).
  - Working with LGBT foundation to feed into ION communications. Upcoming "Stories we love" to feature the Derek Jarman Pocket Park Volunteers (over 50s LGBT group) activity on International Day of Older People, ahead of the installation of a new green space they have helped to design.
  - Promoting community cohesion by bringing members of local communities into faith spaces. In Cheetham, there are upcoming community screenings of David Attenborough documentary, "A Life on our Planet" and follow up workshops at New Testament Church of God and Khizra Mosque. Local climate action projects will be planned with CCNO support based on attendee's ideas and feedback.
- 10.4 In the development of Ward Climate Change Action Plans and Neighbourhood Plans consideration is given to ensuring the diversity and characteristics of the area are identified so that citizens are not excluded from participation and that messages are relevant to people's lives and circumstances.
- 10.5 A priority for the Wythenshawe Team Around the Neighbourhoods is Improving carbon literacy levels of residents by focusing on "saving energy; saving money" to increase climate awareness. The initiative has pulled together Groundwork's EnergyWorks Team and Wythenshawe Community Housing Group to produce promotional material that demonstrates what can be achieved by making changes to how people heat and light their homes. Small changes in behaviour can have a significant impact if replicated across the population.

- 10.6 Those communities for which there are barriers to engaging with the climate change agenda are being identified and the communication channels reviewed so that people are not excluded. A range of communication methods will be adopted that do not depend solely on social media. Monitoring barriers to inclusivity and diversity and developing models of good practice will be part of the quarterly monitoring process for the ward climate change action plans. Good practice and learning from ION and other projects will be shared.

## 11.0 Communications

- 11.1 MCC communications team will be developing a city-wide communications campaign in the new year following the completion of the ward climate action plans. The campaign will highlight the activities and initiatives being developed at a local level and where good practice has been identified it will aim to inspire other communities to replicate elsewhere. The campaign will provide messages and materials that can be used by the Neighbourhood Teams to bring to events and meetings to promote the climate change agenda and provide tools to facilitate discussion.

Evaluation and insight gathered via the In Our Nature project will be used to inform campaign planning. Currently the Council is using its corporate and neighbourhood social media channels to amplify the activity and engagement being delivered at neighbourhood level via the 'In our Nature' campaign. In the meantime, the focus is on communicating the Council's zero carbon journey, ambition and work on key projects including.

## 11.2 COP26 plans

There will be an intensive focus on key activities in the run up to COP26 with a press and/or social media activity to promote key projects such as large-scale energy generation plans and the 'opening' of the Civic Quarter Heat Network. At the ward level, activities have been planned for this period such as ward climate events in Ardwick and the city centre, an anti-idling day of action and a relaunch of the commercial waste project in the city centre.

## 11.3 Website

New website content is being developed on [www.manchester.gov.uk](http://www.manchester.gov.uk) to showcase the Council's zero carbon ambition, governance, key projects and actions. The new content includes online quarterly update reports. The development of the web pages will continue over the coming months to add more detail on projects and neighbourhood activity.

The council is embedding its carbon reduction ambitions into other initiatives and events to reach as wide an audience as possible this includes. The events and campaigns have been supported by Neighbourhood Teams including.

- **Clean Air - Domestic burning prevention campaign:** A domestic burning prevention campaign to discourage burning solid fuels in homes or garden bonfires will launch from 15 November.



- **Clean Air Day 2021:** Amplified the annual Clean Air Day campaign using TfGM's campaign materials. Generating discussion around how parents get to school and asking them to share their journeys, promoting the trialing of school road closures
- **Clean Air Zone:** TfGM's Clean Air Zone campaign and consultations have been, and will continue to be, promoted.
- **National Recycling Week – September 2021:** During this week five locations in north Manchester hosted pop-up recycling and climate change information stands, supported by Biffa and Neighbourhood Officers.
- **Recycling:** The Neighbourhood Teams and key partners carried out a door knocking and leafleting exercise involving 5000 properties during a two-week period of action in September 2021 and leaflets advising students on how, and what to recycle. Social media messages ran to support this work.

## 12.0 Measuring ward carbon emissions and impact

- 12.1 As ward climate change plans develop it will be necessary to relate these to the carbon emissions occurring within wards to demonstrate impact. Research has been undertaken by the Tyndall Centre on how CO<sub>2</sub> emissions could be estimated at the ward level through collection of several data sets. The data sets recognise that the largest emitters of carbon are through energy consumption within buildings and transport.
- 12.2 The Tyndall Centre is gathering information and estimating carbon emissions for the six wards where there is an ION pilot (Hulme, Moss Side, Rusholme, Newton Heath and Miles Platting, Levenshulme, and Northern Quarter in Piccadilly) and for the Arrowfield Estate, to assist the development of initiatives within the pilot areas.
- 12.3 The Tyndall Centre has used the Centre for Research into Energy Demand Solutions (CREDS) Place-Based Carbon Calculator tool as a starting point for measuring carbon generation. This is a free tool which estimates the per-person carbon footprint for every Lower Super Output Area (LSOA) in England. Access to the calculator is via the following link.  
<https://www.creds.ac.uk/new-neighbourhood-carbon-calculator-helps-communities-target-action-on-local-emission-hotspots>
- 12.4 For identifying carbon generation in the 26 wards, which do not have ION pilot, it is proposed to use the CREDS tool as a helpful baseline and to facilitate discussion. As the data is shown at LSOA rather than ward level CREDS data is available as a proxy indicator. Additional data held by the Council's Performance, Research and Intelligence Team will be used in addition to CREDS data to show levels of CO<sub>2</sub> mitigating activities broken down by ward. This includes data for traffic flows, recycling, and public transport patronage.
- 12.5 Many of the data sets used by Tyndall and CREDS have long timelines for collation and to demonstrate impact. The ward climate change action plans are concerned with behaviour change and engagement and a series of other measurements will be collated to identify attitudes and perceptions.

- 12.6 The Manchester Climate Change Agency consultation on Framework V2 will collect stakeholder insight on climate actions already being taken by communities, and any barriers to action that might exist. The consultation captures postcode data so that results can be broken down by ward. The qualitative data captured in this consultation will feed into the ward-level baseline.
- 12.7 Progress of ward climate action plans will be reported quarterly. Neighbourhood Officers will also record outputs from engagement, including for example, the number of people in attendance of climate change events, the number of split recycling bags or other climate change items handed out at events, or the number of trees planted in a ward. A standard questionnaire will be used to capture qualitative data such as strengths, barriers, and attitudes towards climate action.

### **13.0 Learning and Development**

- 13.1 Councillors play a key role working with the Neighbourhood Teams to help facilitate discussion with communities on carbon reduction. To assist Councillors develop their knowledge to have a discussion with residents it is planned to develop a series of member learning sessions with councillors. The sessions will enable Councillors to discuss and share information on issues faced in developing their Ward Climate Change Action Plans.
- 13.2 The sessions will mirror recent sessions delivered to the three Neighbourhood Teams developed by the CCNOs and include the following topics:
- What constitutes climate change activity at the ward level.
  - Ward climate action plans and pilot projects (key themes arising/main activities identified/timetable for production).
  - Presentation on carbon calculations at the ward level and how impact is to be measured using both quantitative and qualitative data.
  - What Councillors would like to see in future learning sessions and support is required?

It is planned to roll out the first of these sessions in the current calendar year.

### **14.0 Conclusions**

- 14.1 The report provides an overview of the wide range of activity that the Neighbourhood Teams are working on with communities and partners to impact on climate change and assist the city achieve its carbon reduction targets. It demonstrates the wide commitment towards local activity to support the ambitious targets for the city and complement the wider investment in infrastructure and other work streams identified in the Council's Climate Change Action Plan.
- 14.2 The Ward Climate Change Action Plans form the foundations in engaging and capturing bottom-up climate change activities. All wards are on track to have completed their plans by the end of the calendar year. Compilation of quarterly

monitoring of the activities within the plans from the new calendar year will provide insight in the impact the plans are having on behaviour change and numbers of people being engaged. Understanding of the main carbon emissions at the local level through work of the Tyndall Centre and use of the CRED tool should facilitate discussion regards the prioritisation of activities and their impact on carbon reduction as our learning develops. Learning sessions for local Councillors should assist Councillors to work with the neighbourhood teams to drive the climate change agenda at the local level ensuring that the actions are appropriate to the locality and that engagement is accessible to the whole community.