

Manchester City Council Report for Information

Report to: Communities and Equalities Scrutiny Committee – 11 January 2022

Subject: Climate Change – Events

Report of: Strategic Director (Neighbourhoods)

Summary

This report provides an overview of the current City Council approach to:

- help to address the environmental impact of events in the city.
- acknowledging the ongoing impacts of COVID-19.
- what future measures the Council can implement to influence sectoral change and further minimise the carbon footprint of these events.

The report highlights demonstrable progress to incorporate sustainability into the fabric of the Council's approach to how events are planned and delivered. Manchester is progressing from a position of strength, but in the face of the challenges and uncertainty that continue to impact the event sector, the City Council needs to continue to provide the leadership, direction and support to enable the event sector to respond decisively.

Recommendations

The Communities and Equalities Scrutiny Committee is invited to comment on the report and endorse the approach outlined, in particular:

1. Note the achievements to date in positioning the Council at the forefront of developing a sector specific toolkit to help raise awareness of the impact of climate change with event partners and build the level of engagement required to affect change.
2. Recognise and support the importance of maintaining the Council's commitment to the next phase of development, where the identified carbon reduction opportunities can be researched and validated so that investment can be targeted and measurable outcomes can be delivered.

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 progress being made in respect of the response to climate change on the development and delivery of the City Council's events programme and how the approach to carbon reduction for events supports achieving zero carbon for the City by 2038.

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	Events have a key role to play in supporting the economic and cultural recovery of the city and play an important role within the city's future growth strategy by attracting investment, raising the profile of the city, creating employment opportunities and contributing to the city's resident and visitor offer
A highly skilled city: world class and home grown talent sustaining the city's economic success	Manchester has a highly skilled event ecosystem that provides year round opportunity. Engagement in sport, cultural and community activities enables local residents to learn new skills and participate in creative programmes including volunteering
A progressive and equitable city: making a positive contribution by unlocking the potential of our communities	Engagement in arts and culture through Events enables local residents to improve their health and wellbeing, to develop confidence and resilience and to learn new skills
A liveable and low carbon city: a destination of choice to live, visit, work	The report identifies how carbon reduction is embedded into future work plans for events. Events and cultural activity that reflect and celebrate the diversity of the City are essential to making Manchester cohesive and a vibrant place to live and visit.
A connected city: world class infrastructure and connectivity to drive growth	Event organisations increasingly produce digital artistic content to support their activities which support connectivity with other places and extend the reach of their event beyond the local community.

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Background documents (available for public inspection): None

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Following submission of the update report 'The impact of climate change as it relates to the responsibilities for the Communities and Equalities Scrutiny Committee' of November 2021, the Committee requested a specific report on the environmental impact of events and what can be done to minimise this impact. This report sets the issue in context, outlines progress that has been made detailing some specific examples and describes what the focus will be for the next 12 months.

2.0 Background

2.1 UK Event Sector – post pandemic recovery context

2.1.1 The impact of the Covid 19 Pandemic continues to challenge the Event Industry as we move into 2022. In 2019, the UK's events industry was estimated to be worth £70 billion in direct spend, accounting for over 50% of the UK visitor economy and providing over 700,000 jobs. The Live Music sector alone lost 81% of its revenues in 2020 and it was estimated that 77% of the festival workforce lost 100% of their income in 2020. With events and festivals being a major contributor to Manchester's cultural and sporting offer, the impact was directly felt close to home. In the 12 months prior to the start of the pandemic, Manchester partnered 55 event organisations to deliver or facilitate 63 events in public spaces or on our highways, attracting more than 1.4 million people across 200 days of live events. The City Council's approach in 2020 had to be reset to:

- support event organisers to cancel or postpone events at the right time so that the financial impacts could be managed;
- move content online or behind closed doors to retain organisational capabilities; and,
- facilitate a collaborative event planning approach with partners so that the Council could retain the ability to reboot activity when permitted.

2.1.2 The approach meant that as we moved into the late summer period of 2021 the Council's event partners were supported so that they could assist the initial phase of the City's cultural and economic recovery through major events such as Manchester International Festival, Manchester Pride, Parklife, Manchester Food and Drink Festival, the Great Manchester Run and Manchester Marathon – ensuring that key event partners are still in place and that new partners feel confident in investing in the future programme in Manchester.

2.1.3 Whilst the initial phase of recovery has stabilised the sector, the ability of the sector to build back continues to be compromised by supply chain issues and the ongoing uncertainty that enables organisers to plan with confidence. It is anticipated that 2022 will remain a period to rebuild and re-establish the event programme and the operating environment for both professional and community event organisers will not be easy to navigate.

2.1.4 The recovery context is important in framing this report. Although the immediate pressures of the pandemic are the most pressing for the festival and events sector, there are a number of longer-term challenges - including reducing its environmental impacts and the sector's post-Covid recovery presents both opportunities and challenges to addressing this issue.

2.2 UK Events Sector – managing environmental impacts

2.2.1 Hosting major events in an ethical and sustainable manner has emerged as top priority for host cities and event organisers, however, a survey conducted in 2021 on behalf of UK Events Summit organisers Major Events International (MEI) found 62% of UK event organisers and their suppliers felt the industry was “behind the curve” when it came to addressing sustainability issues.

2.2.2 A number of recent, high-profile initiatives are being progressed by industry leaders to further address the issue:

- The LIVE Green Declaration for the UK live industry to reduce emissions and reach Net Zero by 2030 supported by its 13 association members was launched at the Green Events & Innovations Conference on 16 September 2021.
- LIVE Green has been set up to support the sector's transition to a “regenerative future”. Among the services it provides are a free-to-access resource hub and industry-wide measurement of CO2 emissions.
- The Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Studies launched its research into the impacts of touring commissioned by Massive Attack. Among the recommendations of the report, are to reduce airfreighting of equipment, set a target for indoor venues to have zero CO2 emissions by 2035 and 50% lower than the 2015 level by 2025. It also suggests outdoor events such as festivals should set a deadline to phase out the use of diesel generators by 2025 and seek to at least match the contemporary carbon intensity of the UK electricity grid going forward.
- The 2020 Show Must Go On – Environmental Impact Report for the Festivals and Outdoor Events Industry - identifies that 28% of festivals have a budget for environmental sustainability, 68% of festivals have a sustainability coordinator or someone responsible for sustainability in the team and over 100 festivals and events have signed up to Festival Vision 2025 - a steering group of live events industry associations representing over 600 event businesses and leaders in the field of sustainability.

2.2.3 However, the report also highlights the challenges the sector faces. UK festivals generate 25,800 tonnes of waste, 22,876 tonnes of CO2 and use 185 million litres of water annually. Festivalgoers produce 2kg of waste per person per day: nearly twice as much as is produced per person per day from household waste. Despite an industry-wide pledge to halve the negative environmental impacts of festivals by 2025, and a “23% reduction in relative emissions per audience per day from energy, waste, and water, mainly driven by diverting waste from landfill”, total music festival carbon emissions from energy, waste, and water on-site have actually risen over the past five years, “driven by a nearly 50% increase in audience numbers”.

2.2.4 In May 2021 the Digital Culture Media and Sport (DCMS) Committee published the report 'The Future of UK Music Festivals' and within the section 'Securing a Safe and Sustainable Future for Festivals' identified that:

Despite the good intentions and countless initiatives to reduce the environmental impacts of festivals, the growth of the market has undermined the sector's efforts to reduce overall emissions, and the legacy of the pandemic presents a further threat to those measures. The Government and local authorities should signal their commitment to emissions targets by holding the festival sector to account on, and supporting, its pledges to reduce emissions, rather than letting it continue to mark its own homework.

2.2.5 In its submission to the committee, Julie's Bicycle - a UK-based and internationally recognised charity working to catalyse and support local and international climate and environmental action in the arts and creative community – warned:

“with festivals facing additional financial pressures from both Covid-19 and Brexit and few policy incentives, without external support and environmental requirements built into recovery, voluntary environmental budgets and action will be vulnerable. Action to reduce environmental impacts will stall, or may even reverse”.

2.2.6 In response, Vision:2025 has taken the initiative to develop an industry Green Code of Conduct, which could establish consistent and workable minimum standards across the UK for the industry. The draft green code has been shaped by, and has the broad support of, industry associations and is currently being consulted on with a summary of feedback due in February 2022. The rationale for the code recognises:

- *As an industry, it is time to create robust foundations to enable meaningful action on the climate crisis.*
- *Stakeholders across the sector are calling for clarity and a common understanding of standards and practices.*
- *The DCMS is currently exploring the role which Local Authorities might take in regulating the environmental performance of events. Many local authorities are already putting guidance in place. It is important that the industry drives this conversation forward, to ensure that outcomes are work-able for the industry.*

2.2.7 The event industry is moving forward, but it is still some way off achieving truly sustainable event organisation at scale and if the professional organisers and promoters are playing catch up, how that is reflected back through the smaller community and not-for-profit event organisers that account for 80% of the marketplace, will be an additional challenge that will require Local Government intervention and support.

2.2.8 Local Authorities have a key role to play in resetting the agenda and putting in place the right mechanisms to support the sector meet local goals and to bring community event organisers to the table. The work undertaken by Manchester

City Council in recent years has already positioned the city as a recognised Local Authority leader in the UK marketplace. The introduction of a number of targeted sustainability initiatives in Manchester demonstrates how a local authority can start to influence the events sector, however this should be seen as a first step and to become an effective agent of change and maintain its leading position, Manchester now needs to develop and implement impactful measures that will deliver tangible carbon reduction results within the sector.

3.0 Current Actions

3.1 Climate Change Action Plan 2020-25

3.1.1 The Events and Parks teams currently own an action in the Council's Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP) in Workstream 3 'Reducing consumption based emissions and influencing suppliers', as below:

- Action 3.5: Use other levers available to the Council to reduce the use of Single Use Plastics through licensing and events on Council owned land. Continue to roll out the use of Sustainable Events Guides.
- To achieve: A reduction in consumption based emissions across the city and promotion of more sustainable events.

3.1.2 As part of the ongoing review of the CCAP by the Zero Carbon Team, it is proposed that this action is clarified to separate into: events the Council owns or funds and third party events that take place on Council land.

3.1.3 Another action, whilst not owned by the Events and Parks teams is also relevant to events:

- Action 3.3: Ensure the Council's operational estate and markets are Single Use Plastic Free and that procurement and commissioning reduce their use alongside other packaging.
- To achieve: A reduction in the use of Single Use Plastic by 2024 (in line with the Plastic Free GM Pledge).

3.1.4 Progress against each of these actions is reported quarterly within the CCAP Quarterly Progress Reports, which can be found on the Council's website ([Quarterly Progress Reports | Zero Carbon Manchester | Manchester City Council](#)). Progress has been made since the publication of the CCAP 2020-25 as outlined in the following sections - albeit at a slower pace than intended due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

- Sustainable Event Guides
- Single Use Plastics
- Temporary Power
- Supplier Engagement

3.1.5 The next focus is on extending our influence on event organisers in the city, as the recovery period of live events is expected to continue over the next 2

years. This will be informed by industry-wide action, including the Green Code of Conduct.

3.2 Sustainable Event Guides

3.2.1 The City Council Events Team published a series of Sustainable Event Guides in 2019 to help event organisers and suppliers identify actions to reduce the environmental impact of events. The guides refer to sustainability in its broadest sense of balancing the environmental, social and economic impacts of events. The guides have greatest emphasis on the environmental aspect given the gravity of the climate emergency and the city's commitment to being Zero Carbon by 2038 at the latest.

3.2.2 The Sustainable Events Guides provide a resource for inspiration on the kind of actions event organisers and suppliers can take. It is split into sections for possible actions across Energy; Water and Waste; Travel; Food and Drink; Marketing and Production. Along with sections on ensuring positive social and economic impact related to local businesses, communities and working conditions. It also signposts a range of other useful resources and carbon footprint calculators.

Guides are available for:

- Major Outdoor Events
- Indoor Events
- Community Events
- Small Outdoor Events
- Production Suppliers
- Food and Drink Traders
- Waste and Cleansing Services

3.2.3 The Guides are available on the Council [website](#), along with those of Vision:2025 and Julie's Bicycle and have been directly shared with a broad range of stakeholders including event organisers, event suppliers, cultural venues / organisations and sports venues.

3.2.4 The guides have been discussed and shared with a number of teams across the Council, indeed they were developed to ensure they covered the full breadth of events the Council supports. The framework of the guides has been tested on a Council-owned event 'Manchester Day' to develop an action plan and achieve results, which provides us with key information to share with third party organisers who may need support. However, the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the events industry in 2020 and 2021 has undoubtedly delayed event organisers in being able to fully embrace the guides and put plans into action.

3.3 Single Use Plastics

3.3.1 In October 2021, an additional guide for event organisers and suppliers was published by the Events Team: 'Reusable Cups: Why it matters and how to do

it'. The guide was commissioned with £7,000 funding from the European URBACT funded C-Change project, along with an analysis of the impacts of changing from single use plastic to reusable cups at Manchester events, including the scale of opportunity.

3.3.2 The analysis and report reviewed six events that had taken place between October 2018 and December 2019. Key headlines of indicative impacts:

- avoided using 1.7 million single use plastic cups
- reduced cup waste by an estimated 96% (~30 tonnes)
- reduced CO₂e emissions by an estimated 82% (~90 tonnes)

3.3.3 The results should be treated as indicative given that they include estimate figures via a desk-top study and need further review based on live events data. To note that hot drinks cups and serveware are excluded from the analysis.

3.4 **Temporary power: reducing the need for generators**

3.4.1 In 2021, research has been carried out into best practice on encouraging or enforcing event organisers to move away from generators, which are often powered by fossil fuels. A consultancy that specialises in energy and sustainability for live events has been identified to outline the potential opportunity for Manchester, based on the City of Amsterdam. The City of Amsterdam undertook a project to review access to grid power in 12 locations (a mix of urban sites and green spaces) to identify capital investment needed to ensure the power available is fit for purpose for a range of events, ultimately removing the need for diesel generators. This 3-year project started in 2019 but the end results are delayed due to impacts of Covid-19 pandemic:

- Year 1: identify power requirements and infrastructure required
- Year 2: for all events over 2,000 attendance, 50% of electrical power used has to be sustainable from the grid or by use of biofuels (HVO), at least 10% must be from batteries or solar panels unless all from a green grid connection
- Year 3: 100% of the use of electricity has to be green energy and no more diesel power generators are allowed.

3.4.2 The first phase of a similar project in Manchester is due to begin in January 2022. It is estimated this could save in the region of 900 tonnes CO₂ annually across Manchester events (see point 4.7).

3.5 **Engagement of suppliers**

3.5.1 The Council has a framework agreement in place for event production suppliers until June 2023, where the majority are SMEs. The Council is aware that several of the appointed suppliers also provide services to third party events. In December 2021, the Events team approached suppliers on the framework to recap on the city's zero carbon ambition, which included raising awareness of the recently introduced 10% social value weighting related to

environment and climate change action in any future procurement. Framework suppliers have also been signposted to resources available to SMEs via the Business Growth Hub's 'Journey to Net Zero' course.

4.0 Next Steps

- 4.1 As outlined, progress has been made across key initiatives and the focus for the next 12 months, in the context of the target to halve the City's carbon emissions by 2025, will be to build on that progress through greater engagement with event organisers and suppliers, in line with the post-Covid recovery of the event industry and drawing on resources and in-house knowledge and experience.
- 4.2 As part of a refresh of the CCAP 2020-25, the next phase of action will be to differentiate between events the Council owns or funds (predominantly community events) and third-party events that take place on Council land (mainly managed by professional event organisers). The former has potentially less impact in terms of a collective carbon footprint but poses a greater challenge as regards to the starting point and resource gap. Whereas professional event organisers are likely to have more resources available and already be aligning themselves to the industry-wide developments. The Council though, still has a key role to play in engaging all levels of event organisers to ensure buy-in to the overall goal as well as in facilitating information sharing on best practice. There are also suppliers who work with all levels of events, as such benefits are likely to be shared as the professional organisers ask more of the local supply chain. It is hoped that in turn, smaller neighbourhood-level events will improve environmental performance through crossover of volunteer organisers and increased offer from suppliers.
- 4.3 In order to fully contribute to the CCAP, a period of benchmarking is needed to further understand the impact of current progress and future opportunities when organising events, before the Events Team can set meaningful carbon reduction targets. As such, the plans below are in development and will be aligned to any revisions agreed within the refresh of the CCAP.

4.4 Community Event Fund

- 4.4.1 For the funding period starting 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023, events funded by the Community Events Fund (CEF) are required to demonstrate how they contribute to the Zero Carbon by 2038 target. The organisers of community events are often volunteers and therefore limited in their capacity, which is heightened by the increased challenges posed by running an event in line with the Covid-19 regulations in place at the time. As such, in order to incentivise our Community Event organisations to buy in to the issue and achieve visibility and results, we are planning to support organisers with a two-step approach:

Step 1 - Community Event Application – adapted to clarify the expectation of the Council as regards to the Zero Carbon 2038 target. Support available to organisers to discuss with a member of the events team (Carbon Literacy certified) prior to submission of an application.

Step 2 - Series of workshops, training events and online webinars for organisations focussed on guidelines, requirements, myth busting, increasing confidence, supports available, and inspiration. This will be followed up with the offer of bespoke support as the event planning develops and post-delivery to review.

4.4.2 The CEF call out communicates the urgent need to make changes to the way we deliver events to limit impacts on the planet. The use of the Sustainable Event Guide for Community Events, which is in checklist format, is a mandatory part of the application process to assist in identifying action needed. Events in receipt of CEF will then need to report back within 2 months of the event what they have achieved and submit monitoring on key indicators of environmental performance:

- Amount of single use plastic cups / serveware / other used compared to reusables used e.g. number of reusable cups used
- Waste tonnage – split into recycling/composting and landfill streams
- Carbon footprint calculations of the event / an element of the event, which must be agreed with the Council at grant approval stage

4.5 Sustainable Event Guides

4.5.1 An intensive focus will be placed on the use of the Sustainable Event Guides across the Council and to external organisations. Internal sharing of the Guides will take place in January/February 2022, the Events team will work with the Communications team to agree a plan to communicate to colleagues across the organisation and asking all Council staff to share with their stakeholders. This has the potential to reach events outside of the scope of the Events team where the link to the Council is via other teams such as Neighbourhood teams.

4.5.2 For external organisations, the priority is to mandate their use where the Council has more influence, as outlined in section 4.4. Although we do not currently ask external event organisers whom are not in receipt of Council funding to use the Sustainable Event Guides, it is known anecdotally that some do. The Events Team will engage with organisers to understand other ways they manage and continually improve their environmental performance, as part of reviewing how the Council might extend its influence in ensuring the sustainability of events taking place on Council land in future.

4.6 Single Use Plastics (SUPs)

4.6.1 The analysis of events between October 2018 and December 2019 that had already adopted reusable cups in place of single-use cups, also identified future opportunities. Based on pre-pandemic figures, around 30 outdoor events typically take place annually in the city centre and key parks, where there is a food and drink element as part of the event. These events have an estimated combined attendance of approximately 1 million (excluding those already using reusable cups).

4.6.2 If every adult were to consume an average of 1 drink (which is a conservative estimate), there is an opportunity to avoid the use of at least a further 1 million single use cups annually (in addition to the 1.7 million already identified). This equates to a further reduction of around 20 tonnes plastic waste per year and in the region of 57 tonnes CO₂e emissions.

4.6.3 The analysis identified a potential two-step approach to supporting events to eliminate SUPs, where Local Authorities are in a position of influence, particularly focusing on those that are held on MCC land or where MCC is a partner.

1. Larger and more commercial event operators can manage the transition without the need for direct support. The Local Authority could consider how to speed up awareness and adoption across the city as part of wider environmental targets.
2. Smaller events, and particularly community-scale and volunteer managed events, may struggle with the move, having less means to understand and resource the changes. They may face barriers to access due to the cost of operating at smaller scale, and/or existing bar operators not having reusable cup systems as part of their service. The Local Authority could support awareness and explore ways to either provide more affordable access, either through council-run initiatives or through collective brokering with commercial suppliers.

4.6.4 The summary of recommendations from the analysis were:

- Develop a city-wide strategy for supporting the adoption of reusable cups, which could include:
 - a requirement for all events funded by the Council and/or taking place on public land to eliminate single use plastics over a period of time
 - setting up a forum or project that brings together event organisers around the topic
 - a collective stock of Manchester cups – the forum could be used to investigate the viability of this
 - recommended supplier status or other solutions to meet the needs of smaller-scale events gaining access to reusable cups
 - training for community and volunteer scale events
- Establish a standard framework and process for event organisers to report on environmental impacts, including cups. The Council's Sustainable Events Guide provides a reporting framework that could be developed. Alternatives include the Julie's Bicycle Creative Industry Green Tool and A Greener Festival which larger organisers may already be using.
- Publish a Manchester-focussed guide on reusable cups at events to support adoption and promote best practice.

4.6.5 Since the analysis in Spring 2021, the Events Team has published a Sustainable Events Guide on Reusable Cups and introduced a requirement for community events to report on SUP usage. Plans are in development around training for community event organisers and reporting requirements.

Further work is needed to promote this new guide within the Council and across external event organisers, to encourage them to take action that aligns to the Greater Manchester SUP free pledge by 2024.

4.7 Temporary Power: reducing the need for generators

- 4.7.1 The Events Team are carrying out a scoping study to identify need and outline specification for improving access to grid power for live events. The study will look at 3 parks sites and approximately 10 city centre sites. This involves data gathering from event stakeholders to identify energy requirements along with review of the current infrastructure. This will be followed up with an engineering design phase, which will review previous work done by the Public Realm team in identifying improvement opportunities. A steering group will be established and include officers from Capital Programmes, Public Realm, Zero Carbon, Events, Parks, Specialist Markets and Energy Management.
- 4.7.2 The outcome of this work will be a report identifying the business case for capital investment in infrastructure, which will include an estimate of costs and carbon savings. At this point, capital funding could be sought.
- 4.7.3 Following the scoping study and identification of capital funding, detailed specification and engineering drawings would be needed for each location before the final stage of installation.
- 4.7.4 In 2021, the Council worked with the Manchester International Festival (MIF) to install access to grid power from the National Football Museum to remove the need for diesel generators to power stages and cabins for its Festival Square. This new power source will feed into the power improvement project.

4.8 Carbon footprinting and benchmarking

- 4.8.1 In-house knowledge has been developed through calculating the carbon footprint of Manchester Day over consecutive events, which has been externally verified by Julie's Bicycle. In 2019, the event was certified 4 stars in its Creative Green standard, a certification designed specifically for the arts and culture industries. This recognises the environmental best practice demonstrated by this event, owned by Manchester City Council and produced by outdoor arts organisation Walk the Plank.
- 4.8.2 We now have an opportunity to work with event organisers in gathering more data to be able to benchmark and track progress towards the zero-carbon target. We will initially select a representative sample of events across 2022 to calculate a carbon baseline in order to set targets for future years. This will align with the proposed timelines in the Vision:2025 Green Code of Conduct.
- 4.8.3 Whilst the carbon savings from the above projects have not been quantified and therefore do not currently contribute towards the 50% reduction needed by 2025 for the Council's direct emissions, once the expected carbon savings have been identified and investment secured for implementation, they will

support the reduction of citywide emissions and progress will be captured within the CCAP Quarterly Progress Reports.

4.9 Resource

- 4.9.1 The funding required to complete the initial phase of research and analysis through to the financial year end (2021/22) has been assigned via the events budget and on completion of the studies, the next phase of funding requirements (capital and revenue) will be identified for consideration.
- 4.9.2 It is also worth noting that the impact of the pandemic on event delivery has enabled more staff time and funding from the Events Team to be directed to exploring and progressing this area of work. A risk has been identified that this work would not reach its full potential without a dedicated staffing resource to support the climate actions relating to sustainable events and the Council moving towards being single use plastic free by 2024. Responding to this risk is currently being explored in order to continue working at the pace identified.

5.0 Conclusion

- 5.1 The move to incorporate sustainability into the fabric of the Council's approach to how events are planned and delivered has been building momentum in recent years – as a response to policy shift, societal demand and commercial imperative. However, to fully embed carbon reduction as a standardised key outcome across all events will require a further uplift in engagement with the whole sector and the development and delivery of next stage actions that can incentivise adoption over cost and provide measurable outcomes that can accelerate buy in.
- 5.2 Manchester is progressing from a position of strength, but in the face of the challenges and uncertainty that continue to beset the event sector, the City Council needs to continue to provide the leadership in setting the agenda and providing the direction, resource and investment needed to support the event sector to be able to respond and to ensure that any 'drift' is halted, so that real change can be affected in the increasingly short timeframe available if we are to deliver against the Zero Carbon commitments.
- 5.3 In summary the key areas of focus for the next 12 months are:
- **Community Events** – increase the knowledge base of organisers through a series of workshops, training events and online webinars for Community Event Fund supported organisations.
 - **Single Use Plastic** - extend research programme to provide recommended solutions that will increase adoption of reusable cup schemes.
 - **Power** - undertake scoping study to present business case for capital investment in grid power supply for events.
 - **Carbon Footprinting** - extend data collection to support the establishment of a baseline benchmark so we are able to set informed targets for future years.