

## Manchester City Council Report for Resolution

**Report to:** Environment and Climate Change Scrutiny Committee –  
8 September 2022  
Executive – 14 September 2022

**Subject:** Manchester City Council Climate Change Action Plan: Refreshed  
Climate Change Action Plan 2020-2025 and Annual Report  
2021-22

**Report of:** The Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer

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### Summary

The Council declared a Climate Emergency in July 2019 and developed a Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP) 2020-25, which was approved by Executive in March 2020. Quarterly updates and an Annual Report covering year one (2020-21) of the CCAP are available online at [www.manchester.gov.uk/zerocarbon](http://www.manchester.gov.uk/zerocarbon).

This report presents a refreshed action plan for delivery between September 2022 – March 2025 and the latest Annual Report for the year 2021-22 of the CCAP 2020-25.

### Recommendations

The Environment and Climate Change Scrutiny Committee is recommended to note, comment upon and support the content of the report and the appendices – the refreshed 2020-25 Climate Change Action Plan and Annual Report 2021-22.

The Executive is recommended to:

Note the content and approve the report and the appendices – the refreshed 2020-25 Climate Change Action Plan and Annual Report 2021-22.

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### Wards Affected: All

<b>Environmental Impact Assessment</b> - the impact of the issues addressed in this report on achieving the zero-carbon target for the city
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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 Manchester's Climate Change Framework 2020-25.
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<b>Equality, Diversity and Inclusion</b> - the impact of the issues addressed in this report in meeting our Public Sector Equality Duty and broader equality commitments
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Actions set out in the Climate Change Action Plan 2020-25 recognise the need for just and equal delivery of the climate action plan across the city, focusing on the areas
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such as community engagement, accessible transport, access to green spaces and tackling fuel poverty.

<b>Manchester Strategy outcomes</b>	<b>Summary of how this report aligns to the OMS/Contribution to the Strategy</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 small 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 will 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, improved air quality and easy access to green spaces.
A liveable and low carbon city: a destination of choice to live, visit, work	Becoming a zero carbon city will 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.

Full details are in the body of the report, along with any implications for:

- Equal Opportunities Policy
- Risk Management
- Legal Considerations

### **Financial Consequences – Revenue**

It is not expected that there will be any financial consequences to the Revenue budget that should arise from the content of this report.

### **Financial Consequences – Capital**

It is not expected that there will be any financial consequences to the Capital budget that should arise from the content of this report.

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

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

*Manchester City Council Climate Change Action Plan 2020-25*  
*Manchester City Council Climate Emergency Declaration July 2019*  
*Manchester Climate Change Framework 2020-25 Updated 2022*

## **1.0 Purpose of the report**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to present a refreshed version of Manchester City Council's Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP) 2020-25 and highlight the progress made in delivering the Council's CCAP during its second year, April 2021 – March 2022.
- 1.2 In the last two years, the Council has made good progress in delivery of its Climate Change Action Plan and achieved important milestones. The purpose of refreshing this CCAP at halfway through this 5-year period is to show progress made to date, set out new milestones and include new actions which are clear and measurable. The refreshed Action Plan is designed to ensure the Council is remaining on track in reducing its own carbon emissions and importantly, leading by example, giving renewed focus on the City wide actions that are needed.
- 1.3 Both the refreshed Climate Change Action Plan and the Annual Report 2021-22 have been reviewed by the City Council's Zero Carbon Coordination Group to ensure their accuracy and transparency. The information will also be published in an accessible format on the Council's website.

## **2.0 Background**

- 2.1 The Council declared a Climate Emergency in July 2019 and developed the 5-year Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP) 2020-25, setting out its plan to respond to the Climate Emergency, tackle climate change and take action for the City Council to become a zero carbon organisation by 2038.
- 2.2 The five-year CCAP 2020-25 went live following [approval by Executive in March 2020](#).
- 2.3 The Climate Change Action Plan 2020-25 sets a target for the Council to reduce its direct CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 50% between 2020 and 2025 based on a 13% year on year reduction trajectory to then reach zero carbon by 2038. The Plan also recognises the Council's unique leadership role in supporting and influencing the city to reduce its emissions and in ensuring that the city's residents are protected from the impacts of climate change.
- 2.4 The actions are structured across five workstreams as follows:
  1. Buildings and energy;
  2. Transport and travel;
  3. Reducing consumption based emissions and influencing suppliers;
  4. Climate adaptation, carbon storage and carbon sequestration;
  5. Influencing behaviour and being a catalyst for change
- 2.5 Regular updates on delivery of the CCAP are provided via the Quarterly Progress Reports to the Environment & Climate Change Scrutiny Committee. Previous quarterly progress reports are available on the Council's website and can be found [here](#).

### **3.0 Climate Change Action Plan – Key Messages**

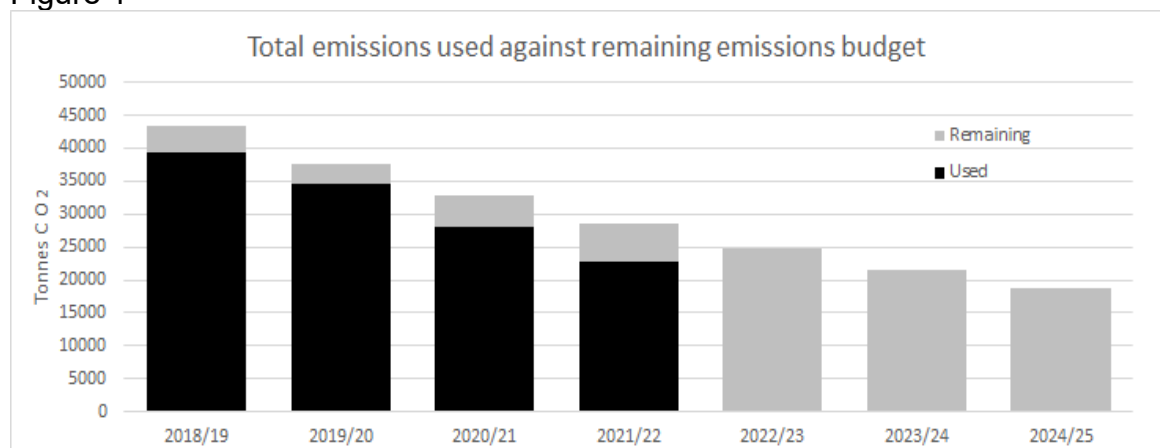
- 3.1 The Council has made good progress to date in working towards its target to reduce its direct CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 50% by 2025 and is on track to meeting its targets. Since 2020, the Council has exceeded its annual reduction targets, achieving 29.4% reductions so far.
- 3.2 The refreshed Climate Change Action Plan sets out new actions, building on existing ambitions, for example, looking at ways to accelerate reaching net zero carbon even sooner than 2038; identifying opportunities to be bolder and avoiding any risk of complacency.
- 3.3 The Council is committed to the net zero carbon target, already having put in place investment of approximately £192m to deliver the 5-year Plan and a further £800,000 of revenue investment was secured as part of the 2022/23 budget setting for the Council. This will provide vital additional capacity to support delivery of the CCAP across the Council.
- 3.4 In addition to this investment and as part of the CCAP, the Council has established a zero carbon finance and investment subgroup, reporting into the Zero Carbon Coordination Group. The aim of this subgroup is to identify funding and finance models and opportunities to secure further resources required to deliver the CCAP.
- 3.5 Furthermore, a key part of the Council's Leadership role across the City is to maximise opportunities to communicate and engage all stakeholders, such as residents, communities and businesses to come along on the zero carbon journey.
- 3.6 Although the Council is working hard to enable changes within its control, national Government Policy needs to change to support this transition to net zero carbon. As such, the Council is working with partners and other Cities to lobby Government for policy changes and financial support on this important agenda.
- 3.7 The Council is working hard to engage and influence wider changes and align with the Manchester Climate Change Framework. But a full team effort is required with everyone in Manchester playing their full part to limit the impacts of climate change to create a healthy, green and socially just city where everyone can thrive.

### **4.0 Annual Report 2021-22 Key Achievements and Progress to date**

- 4.1 This Annual Report brings together the CCAP updates provided over the last 12 months (2021-22) into a single annual report and highlights the progress which has been made during this time in terms of individual actions within the Climate Change Action Plan. It also includes updates on the Council's direct carbon emissions during this 12-month period (as estimated figures are reported during the year, due to lags in billing and data monitoring).

- 4.2 The updated analysis of the Council's carbon emissions shows that, overall, the Council has remained within budget this year, (against an annual target to reduce emissions by 13%), emitting 22,807 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> – 16% under budget. It has also reduced its direct emissions by 10.6% (-2,694 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>) compared to 2020-21.
- 4.3 Figure 1 below shows the Council's emissions from the baseline year 2018-19 to end of 2021-22, showing the year-on-year budget reduction. These emissions are made up of Council buildings and energy, streetlights, waste collection fleet, operational fleet and MCC business travel. The Council has remained within the emissions budget each year.

Figure 1



- 4.4 The Climate Change Action Plan Annual Report for the year 2021-22 is attached as Appendix 2.
- 4.5 A selection of key achievements made during this second year (2021-22) as well as overall progress to date for each workstream is set out in paragraphs 4.6 to 4.13.
- 4.6 Manchester City Council's CCAP 2020-25 was rated one of the strongest in the country by Climate Emergency UK, being 1<sup>st</sup> place amongst single tier authorities and 3<sup>rd</sup> overall out of 409 UK Local authorities. Climate Emergency UK are an independent Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) whose aim is to support Local Authorities and other bodies to deliver climate ambitions.
- 4.7 The Council has already put in place investment of approximately £192m to deliver the 5-year Plan. However, it has committed a further £800,000 of revenue investment as part of the 2022-23 budget setting, which will provide vital additional capacity to support delivery of the CCAP across the Council.

New posts include:

- Zero Carbon Project Manager within Strategic Housing to help develop and deliver the Zero Carbon Housing Strategy

- Sustainability Project Manager working specifically to eliminate avoidable Single Use Plastics within the Council and providing additional support to deliver sustainable events.

#### 4.8 Buildings and Energy (workstream 1)

- The Council secured an additional £4.9m of funding from the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme, to continue the Estates Retrofit programme, supplementing the £19m secured in 2021-22, contributing towards emissions reductions and reduced energy consumption.
- 69 new low carbon Council properties are being developed by the Council. These properties will include a range of innovative features including solar PV, Electric Vehicle charging, ground source and air source heating, plus living green roofs and walls. The site is on Silk Street, Newton Heath.
- £600,000 funding has been secured as part of the Greater Manchester Warm Homes Fund to install central heating systems in fuel poor homes for up to 50 homes.

Other progress to date:

- 12 Council buildings have been retrofitted (improved from an energy efficiency perspective) using £19m of secured funding, reducing our energy demand.
- 55,000 LED streetlights have been installed, reducing our energy demand.
- Commissioned a feasibility study for large scale energy generation (£35k), recommending taking forward steps for the purchase of a solar farm or Power Purchase Agreement.

#### 4.9 Transport and Travel (workstream 2)

- A range of walking and cycling improvements have been delivered across the Northern Quarter as part of the Mayor's Challenge Fund.
- 26 eCargo bikes and 6 eCargo trailers are now being used across Council teams, city partners and a public hire scheme as part of a project launched by the City Council in January 2022 in collaboration with the Energy Savings Trust.

Other progress to date:

- 27 (50%) of our waste collection fleet plus 37 other MCC vehicles are now electric, helping reduce the use of fossil fuels and helping improve air quality.

#### 4.10 Reducing Consumption Based Emissions and Influencing Suppliers (workstream 3)

- The Council has launched a "Reusable Cups Guide". This adds to the range of sustainable events guides, which are being rolled out across Manchester events.

Other progress to date:

- 10% social value weighting for the environment has been introduced and now being implemented, and we are working with suppliers to reduce their CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.
- Appointed a member of staff to lead on the Council's commitments to reduce the use of avoidable Single Use Plastics and deliver sustainable events.

#### 4.11 Climate Adaptation, Carbon Storage and Sequestration (workstream 4)

- The West Gorton Community Park has won two awards: a 'Golden Pineapple' Award from the Festival of Place, the Excellence in Flood and Water Management award at the Landscape Institute Awards. The Park was highly commended in the Environment Agency's Flood and Coastal Resilience Awards.

Other progress to date:

- Built a 'sponge' park in West Gorton, helping reduce surface water flooding and reduce excess water entering the water network whilst improving the quality of green space in the neighbourhood.
- Planted over 7,000 trees and hedge trees, helping to absorb carbon, improve health and wellbeing and support biodiversity.

#### 4.12 Influencing Behaviour and Being a Catalyst for Change (workstream 5)

- All Wards have developed Climate Change Action Plans which contain localised positive climate action.
- A "Zero Carbon Culture Guide" was launched to support Manchester's culture sector to become zero carbon. In collaboration with sustainability specialists, Julie's Bicycle, the Council has:
  - published a guide for any culture organisations that provides inspiration on potential actions and shared through local networks
  - produced additional guidance for Council-funded organisations on how to create a Carbon Reduction Plan (a requirement of Cultural Partnership funding 2023-26)
  - delivered enhanced carbon literacy training to staff from the Culture and Events teams to equip them with the knowledge to support other organisations.

Other progress to date:

- Achieved Silver Carbon Literacy Accreditation and working towards Gold, having trained over 1,400 members of staff and 54 elected members.
- 3 Neighbourhood Climate Change Officers now in post, helping communities produce climate change action plans for their Wards.
- 41 neighbourhood climate action projects delivered.



4.13 Image 1: A visual summary of key activity, achievements, and progress to date



## 5.0 Refreshed Climate Change Action Plan 2020-25

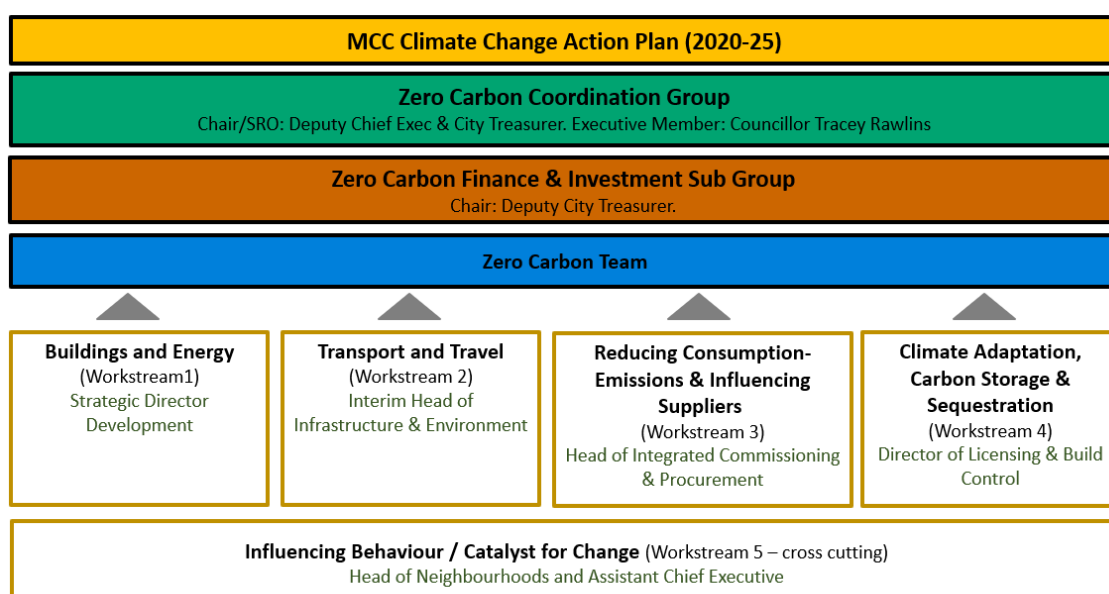
- 5.1 In September 2021, the City Council's Zero Carbon Coordination Group requested a refresh of the current CCAP at the mid-point of the 5-year plan - September 2022. This was to be a refresh of the current MCC Climate Change Action Plan, not a re-write. The purpose of refreshing this CCAP at halfway through this 5-year period is to show progress made to date, set out new milestones and include new actions which are clear and measurable. The refreshed Action Plan is designed to ensure the Council is remaining on track in reducing its own carbon emissions and importantly, leading by example, giving renewed focus on the city wide actions that are needed.
- 5.2 The refresh ensures our actions are SMART, align with key strategies and plans, and reinforces our commitments as an organisation to taking responsibility for our own emissions as well as supporting others across the city to play their full part in ensuring Manchester is resilient to the impacts of climate change.
- 5.3 It also shows our progress and achievements to date and specific individual actions split out into the two sections – **Council direct actions** and **City-wide leadership** actions for all five workstreams.
- 5.4 Our commitments for each workstream are set out across three pillars in the refreshed CCAP.
- Firstly, continue to reduce MCC's own direct CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, reduce MCC's consumption emissions, influence suppliers and take actions to adapt to climate change.
  - Secondly, to strengthen MCC's city wide leadership role through leading by example, to support and influence others across the city to reduce their CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, reduce city wide consumption emissions and support city wide adaptation to climate change.

- Thirdly, to strengthen MCC's stakeholder engagement and policy work, influencing stakeholders, identifying funding and investment, and identifying ways to help transform current systems to enable others to make the right choices.
- 5.5 The refreshed MCC CCAP also links to other key and relevant city wide strategies and plans, such as the Local Plan, the Green & Blue Infrastructure Strategy, the GM Transport Strategy, Manchester's Work and Skills Strategy and the Manchester Housing Strategy, enabling the Council to be bolder, even more ambitions and deliver even more across the City.
- 5.6 Where possible, it also aligns to the refreshed Manchester Climate Change Framework 2020-25, which is being published at the same time in September 2022.
- 5.7 As some of these key strategies and plans, such as the Local Plan, are still developing and evolving, the Climate Change Action Plan will aim to remain aligned with these pieces of work to stay current and fresh. By aligning to these other areas, this can enable our decision making across all activity to be joined up and that we continue to make Manchester a resilient and liveable city, able to cope with the ongoing impacts of climate change.

## **6.0 Governance and Reporting**

- 6.1 A Zero Carbon Coordination Group (ZCCG) was established in September 2019 to oversee the Council's response to the Climate Emergency, the development of the Plan and the strategic oversight of its implementation. The Group is chaired by the Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer and is attended by the Executive Member for Environment & Transport, the strategic leads for each of the workstreams within the Climate Change Action Plan and members of the Council's Zero Carbon team.
- 6.2 The Group will continue to meet monthly to review progress and delivery of the refreshed Climate Change Action Plan, unblock issues and ensure that the different parts of the plan are joined up. The Group is also critical in identifying emerging opportunities to support the Council and the city to accelerate delivery.
- 6.3 In addition to the ZCCG, the Council has also established a zero carbon Finance and Investment sub group, which reports into the CCAP's Zero Carbon Coordination Group. The aim of this subgroup is to identify funding and finance models and opportunities to secure further resources required to deliver the CCAP. Figure 2 (below) summarises the governance of the Council's zero carbon programme along, which includes this new sub group.

Figure 2: Zero Carbon Governance Diagram



6.4 In addition to monthly programme management, we monitor, track and report our progress to the Council’s Strategic Management Team, Environment & Climate Change Scrutiny Committee and Executive Committee, using the following methods:

- Quarterly reports
- Specific items on Scrutiny work programme
- Annual report
- Annual work programme
- Key Decisions

## 7.0 Recommendations

7.1 The Environment and Climate Change Scrutiny Committee is recommended to note, comment upon and support the content of the report and the appendices – the refreshed 2020-25 Climate Change Action Plan and Annual Report 2021-22.

7.2 The Executive is recommended to note the content and approve the report and the appendices – the refreshed 2020-25 Climate Change Action Plan and Annual Report 2021-22.

## 8.0 Appendices

Appendix 1 – Refreshed Manchester City Council Climate Change Action Plan 2020-25

Appendix 2 - Manchester City Council 2020-25 Climate Change Action Plan Annual Report 2021-22