

Manchester City Council Report for Information

Report to: Environment and Climate Change Scrutiny Committee - 10 November 2022

Subject: Update on the Role of Neighbourhood Teams in developing local climate change activity and partnership working

Report of: Strategic Director (Neighbourhoods)

Summary

The report provides updated information on how the Neighbourhood Teams and Climate Change Neighbourhood Officers are supporting local communities to engage in local climate change activity and reduce their carbon footprint. This report includes an update on ward level Climate Change Action Plans and an update on the In Our Nature programme pilot schemes and future delivery of the programme.

Recommendations

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

Wards Affected: All

Environmental Impact Assessment - 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.

Manchester Strategy outcomes	Summary of how this report aligns to the OMS
A thriving and sustainable city: supporting a diverse and distinctive economy that creates jobs and opportunities	The 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):

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

Report to Environment and Climate Change Scrutiny Committee 11 November 2021
– Neighbourhood Teams in Developing Local Climate Change Activity

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 The Report provides updated information on how the Neighbourhood Teams have supported communities to implement local climate action at ward and neighbourhood level in the last 12 months. This includes the development of Ward Climate Change Action Plans and examples of developing best practice to support local communities to deliver activities that contribute to the city's ambition of becoming a net zero carbon city by 2038.

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 was updated in 2022 to include SMART objectives and milestones. Workstream 5 of the Action Plan is a cross cutting theme concerned with influencing behaviour as a catalyst for change. A key component of the plan and this workstream is working at the neighbourhood level to enable and support community groups and residents to engage in the climate change agenda through the Ward Climate Change Action Plans and build capacity to take positive local action communities on reducing their carbon impact.
- 2.2 The three Climate Change Neighbourhood Officers are an integral and now permanent part of the Neighbourhood Teams in North, Central and South Manchester. They provide expertise, advice and co-ordinate engagement activity and partnership work with local communities, partner organisations and businesses on climate change in the neighbourhood, supporting the wider Neighbourhood Team officers with information and best practice approaches. This has significantly improved the capacity and knowledge in Neighbourhood Teams to fulfil their role in facilitating discussion and engaging people at the local level in the climate change agenda and the City's carbon reduction targets.
- 2.3 All Neighbourhood team staff play a role in meeting the service plan priority to deliver a strong place focus on Climate Change to reduce carbon emissions and work towards cleaner air in the city. They guide and support members of the community to consider deliverable actions and steps that can be taken that are appropriate for them. The work complements the wider activity in the city to direct future investment, action and infrastructure to achieve Manchester's carbon reduction targets.
- 2.4 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, relevant 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 a toolkit of local actions is developing and these changes together will create notable change. To ensure that carbon reduction is relevant to all communities the Neighbourhood Teams aim to address barriers to engagement and ensure

that the issues and related messages are communicated so that they are relevant and inclusive for all communities.

- 2.5 Neighbourhood Teams are well placed to co-ordinate local climate change activity as they facilitate collaboration and partnership at the neighbourhood level. They continually develop their understanding of communities and can identify where further knowledge needs to be developed. Neighbourhood priorities and activities are established based on the needs of the neighbourhoods, using local strengths, assets 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.
- 2.6 The report outlines the work of the Neighbourhood Teams and partners to facilitate and support local climate change activity based on the six key themes detailed in Ward Climate Change Action Plans:
- a. Community Engagement/ Awareness Raising
 - b. Children and Young People (Our Year 2022)
 - c. Reduce, Reuse, Recycle
 - d. Active Travel, Clean Air, Transport
 - e. Nature Based Solutions /Green and Blue Infrastructure
 - f. Energy (specifically awareness raising around energy efficiency)

The report also outlines key elements that are required for the local approach to be successful. These are:

- Inclusivity and Diversity
- Communications
- Learning and development

3.0 Ward Climate Change Action Plans

- 3.1 Ward Climate Change Action Plans (CCAPs) form the foundation for the Neighbourhood Teams to engage and capture bottom-up climate change activity across the city. Work for the last 12 months has focused on ensuring that each ward had a draft Climate Change Action Plan by the end of the calendar year 2021 using a standard template produced to ensure consistency in approach, recording and capturing information about residents and partner groups involved, resources and opportunities available. In 2022 this approach has developed further to identify six themes to be used across the plans plus a focus on training and guidance for Neighbourhood Managers and Neighbourhood Officers in each ward to ensure the content of the plans is as SMART as possible. Engagement is also planned with ward members in January to work towards robust ward level CCAPs that can be shared with

communities to generate their comment and input to defining and delivering the objectives. This will lead to ward plans for each ward that can be shared with wider stakeholders so that they can engage with and influence the content of each plan. The aim is to achieve this citywide by April 2023.

- 3.2 In 2021 six wards held their own climate change emergency events. Outcomes from these have been built in their Ward Climate Change Action Plans. The aim of these events was 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 the actions have impact and to identify where more support is needed.
- 3.3 Since November 2021, many further events have been held to strengthen these approaches delivering proactive and creative climate engagement across fourteen further wards in the city. Having held a first event in March 2021, Longsight held a follow up event in Crowcroft Park in August 2022 to update on progress and raise awareness of actions households can take under the 6 key themes and Central Neighbourhood Team have worked intensively with residents in Ardwick following the climate change summit there. A coordinated Wythenshawe event included participants from across the five wards in that area and Whalley Range, Burnage, Didsbury East, Chorlton Park, Chorlton, Didsbury West have provided opportunities for residents to engage in the climate conversation.

North Neighbourhood Team have held events in Ancoats and supported Eco Cheetham in June 2022 which provided further opportunities for discussion and engagement in this part of the city. Further details of events in each area are detailed in the section of the report on Community Engagement and Awareness Raising below.

- 3.4 It has been encouraging to see Neighbourhood Team staff engaging on their plans at local events unrelated to climate change. From a Climate Change themed discussion at the Neighbourhood Partnership meeting in Cheetham to a stall at the Baby Week event in Old Moat, varied opportunities to promote climate change messages to different audiences are taken up across the city. In Didsbury, the Neighbourhood Team, along with the CCNO collaborating with People, Place Planet Didsbury set up a stall at Didsbury Pride this year to reach more residents. The Central CCNO engaged with children, families and adults in climate change awareness activities at an event in Whitworth Park, linked to Our Year 22 for National Play Day ensuring that our youngest residents were included.
- 3.5 Given that the work of Neighbourhood Teams and Climate Change Neighbourhood Officers relates to education and behaviour change it is difficult to quantify the direct impact of the work they are carrying out in terms of reduced carbon emissions at ward level. Conversations and information sharing with residents and other stakeholders may not have a direct or immediate impact on carbon emissions and going forward it will be a challenge to link the two directly together. This is likely to improve due to

further information on ward level emissions in the future as a result of the extension of the In Our Nature project. This report is intended to demonstrate the growing reach of the climate change engagement that is developing at neighbourhood level and the connections with the wider delivery of zero carbon priorities that is expected to have long term impact on knowledge and behaviour.

- 3.6 Key Performance Indicators have been identified in draft against each theme in ward level Climate Change Action Plans (see Appendix 1) so that we can track progress, and this is continuing to develop. Data will be collected and reported on an annual basis alongside qualitative descriptive information from conversations, consultations, focus groups and interviews. We will use this data as a baseline to develop the approach to document our learning going forward and will examine opportunities to commission evaluation at appropriate points in the delivery of the work. This will aim to assess what we have done, what we can do differently and what we can improve.

4.0 Community Engagement / Awareness Raising

- 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.

In 21/22 a total of £91,245 NIF was allocated to 49 climate change projects across the city. The total allocated so far for 22/23 is currently £24,612 across 19 projects, with further applications pending.

Neighbourhood Teams have been using creative methods to encourage bids for community-led Projects that tackle the climate emergency. In Burnage, a Dragons Den style event was held in early November to allow local schools and community groups to pitch for NIF funding for climate related activity. Due to its success the event was replicated in Didsbury East and West with funding proposals ranging from bicycle parking stands to support for sustainable drainage systems in Didsbury Park to help tackle pathway flooding because of excessive rainfall. This promoted Climate Change messages and ensured that NIF is used on climate related projects. Information on creative methods is shared across the three neighbourhood teams to share good practice and ideas.

- 4.2 Climate Officers and the Neighbourhood Team are providing ongoing support as a delivery partner of the project Creative Climate Resilience Through Folk Pageantry with the University of Manchester. Creative Climate Resilience is an arts-led research program with a focus on climate change community knowledge and creativity. The project works with residents and community groups in Miles Platting and Newton Heath. Outcomes and successes to date include –

- 42 workshops hosted at local churches or MCC Libraries, 800+ adults and children engaged

- Recorded interviews with 22 individual residents on challenges facing communities regarding climate change, from which mini-narratives are used to create a publicly accessible 16-minute animation video 'Streets Like These' available on YouTube
- Creation and inclusion of a climate change themed float in Manchester's annual St George's Day Parade 2022 (2000+ passive engagements with parade watchers)
- Project leads and MCC Officers invited to showcase at UK Climate Resilience Programme conference 2022
- Approx. 500 hours of physical engagement time in projects in the ward
- Project activities and events will continue to be supported and delivered in partnership with Neighbourhoods Team in Miles Platting and Newton Heath into next year.

4.3 The Central Neighbourhood Team (CNT) have achieved some outstanding results in Ardwick earlier this year. They held a Climate Change Summit attended by over 45 residents to share information about climate change, collate views and create a local network. From this a new Climate Change Action Group (ACCAG) has been formed and they meet bimonthly to look at local improvements. The CNT have supported the groups aspirations by helping them take ownership of two connecting green spaces on the A6 to introduce a new planting scheme to increase biodiversity and mitigate air pollution. The amazing work did not stop there, and the ACCAG closed the A6 to raise awareness of active travel and air quality which was a success. The group have followed on from the event by applying for funding to the GM Green Fund and have been successful with £19,000 towards their next project.

In Hulme, Manchester based award winning photographer and writer Len Grant was commissioned to document climate action taking place across the ward. The book entitled '*Climate Action in Hulme from the Ground Up*' was launched in October 2022 at an event of members, senior officers and partners and highlights how climate change is being tackled locally. The book is an engaging read reporting on actions taken by residents, voluntary organisations, schools, Businesses and The City Council with the stories and comments from the various interviews accompanied by vibrant sketches. It is a refreshing innovative approach showing what has been achieved in this part of the city and it is hoped it may also inspire others to action.

4.4 In the south of the city, the South Neighbourhood Team worked with partners on an engagement event that was held in Old Moat Park attended by 150 people in July 2022. Bikes were stamped by GMP (Greater Manchester Police) or repaired by the bike doctor to encourage active travel, creative techniques to restyle, repair and reuse clothing were buzzing with activity, energy advice from Southway Housing Energy Buddies about insulating homes and saving money was also popular. Along with queues for the smoothie bike and the importance of food and diet there were loads of freebies and information about recycling for residents to take away and what else was going on locally. The new electric refuse collection vehicle was close

by so residents could see how local services like Biffa was playing their part to reduce their carbon footprint.

- 4.5 In June 2022, Ancoats hosted a Neighbourhoods and Transport for Greater Manchester-run community event on Cutting Room Square and Blossom Street where a temporary road closure was put in place, which facilitated free trials for attendees of electric Beryl Bikes and ECargo bikes. The event engaged local residents and passing weekend footfall in promoting active travel, local walking/cycling routes and captured feedback on the Ancoats & Beswick ward climate action plan. Project ideas and feedback were later integrated into the plan. The Roadshow was supported by local sustainable fashion business and Revolve MCR who repaired attendees' bikes free of charge. 50+ residents and children engaged on the day. Implemented by Neighbourhoods and Highways, Blossom Street and adjacent Hood Street now have an experimental traffic regulation in order working towards a full closure, the consolation will remain live until February 2023.
- 4.6 Neighbourhood Teams also mobilise and respond to climate related incidents at a very practical level. Most notably, these have included providing advice and guidance to residents affected by flooding and by extreme heat events. The recent flooding incidents in the south of the city were supported by focused engagement activity reassuring and informing residents. The South Neighbourhood Team are involved in planning for further possible flooding events working with civil contingencies on information about revised flood risk areas with The Environment Agency, creating warner/informer resident groups and establishing contingency plans, information and documents to ensure effective and rapid mobilisation in the event of further flooding incidents.

5.0 Children and Young People (Our Year 2022)

- 5.1 Neighbourhood Teams have supported a wide variety of climate change projects and campaigns in schools over 2022. Some indicative examples are detailed below.

In partnership with St Chad's RC Primary school, Cheetham, the Neighbourhoods Team delivered "Eco-Cheetham – Celebrating our local climate action." The event engaged parents and local residents through an event led by the pupils, which highlighted climate action taken over the academic year in the local area. This included the work undertaken to be awarded the Eco-Schools Green Flag with distinction, and tour of the new outdoor classroom and community greenspace. The event was supported by local members and attended by over 40 parents.

All primary school in Hulme have now launched and are participating in the Junior PCSO's scheme, empowering pupils to take a lead role in reducing vehicle-idling and encourage travelling by sustainable means to and from school instead. 70 pupils across the ward are now engaged in the scheme.

A total of 106 schools and early years settings registered to take part in Eco schools in October 2021. When a school has completed the 7 steps of the

programme, they can apply for a green flag award. 26 Schools and early years settings achieved their green flag award this year. 4 schools were able to carry over their flags from previous years taking the total number of accredited Eco Schools green flags to 30 across the city.

5.2 Led by MCC Education and in partnership with Envirolution, the first Green Bee Assembly was supported by Neighbourhood and Climate Change Officers and elected members. The project brought together 66 students from across the city to take part in workshops, presentations and culminating finally at the Green Bee summit event. Both the Green Bee Assembly and summit provided an excellent platform for Neighbourhoods Teams to make new connections with schools and headteachers not previously engaged, as well as to strengthen pre-existing relationships.

5.3 Climate Change Workshops at were held at 6 schools across Wythenshawe delivered by Neighbourhood Officers (NOs) and a further 5 schools are planning for these workshops to introduce students to the idea of our own personal carbon footprint and what makes up a carbon footprint. The students share ideas of small changes they can make themselves and encourage others to make which will reduce their carbon footprint. NOs help students to think of a pledge they can make by the end of the workshop which they can take out into their home and school communities and tasks to carry out in school. Examples of pledges made, and tasks included:

- walk to school more
- walk or cycle to school
- run a transport competition with prizes for the class that travels the most sustainably

5.4 Other work with a focus on young people includes a combined Environmental Youth Group; a group made up of Eco Councils from schools in Withington, Old Moat and Fallowfield. This exciting youth partnership who are all passionate about Climate Change have been working together since November 2021 with the South Neighbourhood Team. Along with highlighting what each of them have been doing at their first meeting hosted at Withington Girls School to tackle climate change, they all signed a pledge to work as a combined environmental group and produced two joint priorities. Priority 1 was to apply for NIF funding and make a film to encourage behaviour change using social media. Priority 2 was to hold an event for the whole community and raise awareness of Climate Change event in May 2023. This example of young people taking action was highlighted at this year's Children's Climate Change Summit.

6.0 Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

6.1 Reducing the amount we consume, repairing or reusing existing items not only reduces a household's carbon footprint, but it can also save money. The third option, recycling, is something high on the agenda in all neighbourhoods where residents are looking to improve their environment through better waste management. Neighbourhood Teams in areas across the city have been

working with residents, businesses, and partners to improve recycling rates for several years. The reduce, reuse, recycle message is therefore a highly relevant way Neighbourhood Teams can and do engage their communities on climate change and is an area of work they will build on over the coming year.

6.2 Examples include:

Neighbourhood Team led activity -

- Longsight Hatton – East Rd:
 - Ongoing resident engagement across 6 streets/280 properties in Longsight alongside bin service change aimed at improving the local environment by reducing the amount of general waste produced & increasing the amount of recycling, which will also reduce residents carbon front print.
 - Impact to date – significantly reduced side waste on 3 streets,
 - Residents actively engaged with their environment and reduce, reuse, recycle conversations.
- Harpurhey up-cycling workshops
 - ‘Repair & Wear’ clothes upcycling led by not-for-profit enterprise Stitched Up
 - ‘Transform your furniture’ upcycling workshop, led by Eric Wright Group as a social value project.
- Ancoats & Beswick: Cycle repair workshop at New Islington

Community partner led activity -

- Moss Side Powerhouse 3Rs
 - Monthly fashion recycling/ clothes swap events
 - Weekly clothes upcycling classes (funded by Buzz)
 - Repair and redistribution of unused cycles to local community
 - Fashion show held Sep 2022 showcasing upcycled outfits produced. Event targeted young carers and local schools.
- City-zen CIC: retrofit an old bus for use by this community-based CIC in Moss Side.
- Bideford Community centre: used school uniforms community sale in Brooklands

7.0 Active Travel, Clean Air, Transport

7.1 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 journeys towards public transport, cycling and walking. The Neighbourhood Teams have played a significant role in working with communities in encouraging people to walk and cycle particularly for short journeys to improve their health, reduce personal costs and reduce carbon emissions.

7.2 Promoting Active Travel Choices on the School Run – School Streets and Walk to School Programmes - The Neighbourhood Teams have continued in the last 12 months to work closely with schools and parents to promote active

travel choices and increase climate change awareness via School Streets and Walk to School programmes.

- 7.3 Between 2018 and 2022 Neighbourhood Teams, alongside Highways, have supported 21 different primary schools in 14 wards across Manchester to hold one day tester “School Street” Sessions (for list of schools see appendix 2). In 2022 so far 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 is a one-day trial session 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. These 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.

Around 9,000 pupils have been able to enjoy car free space outside their school at drop off and pick up times for at least a day by participation on the school street trial sessions.

- 7.4 As previously reported, the Council was successful in September 2021 in a funding application to TFGM (Transport for Greater Manchester) and was granted £50k to roll out a pilot programme for School Streets at 7 schools in Manchester that will see School Streets Sessions held regularly on school term days. The School Streets initiative at these 7 schools is being supported by Experimental Traffic Regulation Orders (TRO) and additional fixed signage. The Council will provide accredited marshal training and resources for school staff and parent volunteers. The Permanent Legal Orders have been subject to resident consultation and the comments received have been analysed. Daily sessions for schools will be implemented at two schools in the Autumn Term and the remaining schools in the Spring Term of 2022/23. These will then be reviewed for 6 months to identify any issues and define the approach to implementation going forward for these schools and any further schools that are interested in a permanent School Streets initiative.

- 7.5 **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 held at least one Play Street session in 2019. Play Streets are spring, and summer based to take advantage of better weather, however, play streets applications were suspended from Summer 2020 to July 2021 because of Covid restrictions. Restrictions in 2021 continued which along with community nervousness of mixing in large numbers led to was low totals of Play Street projects. There were 8 Play Street projects approved in the summer of 2022 in addition to numerous street closures as part of the Jubilee celebrations. A dedicated launch and promotion of Play Streets is planned for 2023.

8.0 Nature Based Solutions / Green and Blue Infrastructure

- 8.1 Residents in the Brunswick area of Ardwick have participated in several planting projects connecting green spaces to encourage sustainable travel, re-wilding areas to encourage biodiversity and are planting to improve a local area which will also be visible from the A6. Additional funding will enable them to acquire green infrastructure to help improve air quality due to the high volume of traffic.
- 8.2 With increased rainfall, residents have been encouraged to introduce more permeable surfaces. We are seeing a growing number of green passageways across the city in areas such as Moss Side and Rusholme. Anecdotally, residents are reporting when done well this also appears to deter fly tipping in the alleyway in addition to creating new green spaces.
- 8.3 Neighbourhood Officers are also supporting the expansion of local green spaces which includes installation of planters in local neighbourhoods. Monica Grove an area of Burnage experiencing large student numbers has installed planters using greening to enhance the general environment. Neighbourhood Officer for Gorton facilitated the installation of planters at St James Primary School providing a welcoming green environment also preventing pavement parking at school pick up and drop off times.
- 8.4 In addition to general planting, residents in Miles Platting and Newton Heath have taken an educational approach. Funding has been used to work with the National Trust who have provided training on different plant species and wildlife within their green environment enabling residents to take a much more informed approach to increasing biodiversity locally.
- 8.5 The voluntary and community sector continues to play a fundamental role in their communities. Recycle Bees are working with several schools, educating pupils in Whalley Range and Moss Side, re-imagining bland spaces into vibrant green places where plants and vegetables thrive. In partnership with City of Trees the educational setting is being developed at Claremont PS, Moss Side from growing to include wider biodiversity with a variety of trees and hedges being introduced in key locations. The school sits on a busy crossroad and the CCNO has liaised on this sharing a report containing research on the benefit of green infrastructure in protecting school playgrounds from traffic related particulates to encourage wider thinking on the benefit of nature-based solutions. Match funding is currently being sought.

8.6 In Our Nature

The In Our Nature Programme (ION) is led by the Manchester Climate Change Agency and funded by the National Lottery's Climate Action Fund. It aims to engage residents to take meaningful action on climate change, communicating why acting now is so important to the future of our city and ourselves, and the positive co-benefits that can be delivered, including tackling the rising costs of living, improved health outcomes etc.

The 'pilot' phase of the programme, which ended in August 2022, was delivered by a specialist team of partners including Hubbub, the Tyndall Centre, and Amity CIC and match-funded by a number of external sources, including the Wates Family Enterprise Trust. The pilot carried out several activities including:

- providing in-depth support to 6 community groups (in Rusholme, Miles Platting and Newton Heath, Hulme, Levenshulme, Moss Side and the Northern Quarter) consisting of the provision of a hyper local carbon footprint, capacity building support and a small budget (around £5k per community) to be spent on projects to reduce carbon emissions. Groups chose a wide range of projects, from holding energy efficiency awareness events that promoted ways of saving energy and money, to practical workshops on urban greening.
- a city-wide series of communications and campaigns, tackling topics such as fast fashion, sustainable food choices and food waste reduction, repair and reuse workshops, and pop-up shops with games and activities to provide climate messages in creative ways to those that might not engage in climate discussions otherwise.
- the implementation of focussed projects, including a community fridge in Moss Side, vouchers for urban greening in Newton Health, online recipe swaps and 'cook alongs' to promote reduction of food waste etc.

MCC Neighbourhood teams were closely involved in the pilot phase of ION, which allowed methods of engaging diverse communities in taking climate positive action to be tested, successful methods identified, and case studies captured. This intelligence and insight supported the successful award of a further £2.5 million from the National Lottery to significantly expand the ION programme in scale and continue it until August 2025.

This new phase of the ION programme commenced on the 1 September 22. Through the period from September to December 2022, the programme will focus on gearing up for delivery – including bringing Groundwork Greater Manchester in as a programme delivery partner, recruiting new posts into the Manchester Climate Change Agency, putting programme management systems into place, building an online 'Resource Hub' for the programme, refreshing the look and feel of the ION programmes communication assets and materials etc – and delivery on the ground will commence in the New Year. MCC, particularly the Neighbourhood Teams, will continue to play a key role in the programme.

The ION programme – through work with the Tyndall Centre – will investigate methods of quantifying the carbon impacts of positive climate action taken by residents and communities, which will support Manchester's efforts to measure and monitor climate change emissions. Additionally, the Tyndall Centre will produce ward level carbon footprints, to inform meaningful climate action at a local level.

9.0 Energy (specifically awareness raising re efficiency)

- 9.1 The Neighbourhood Teams are well placed to support the achievement of the City's targets on energy, specifically through raising awareness on efficiency and facilitating partner/ resident engagement.
- 9.2 Housing generates approximately one quarter of all carbon emissions in Manchester. The Neighbourhood Teams are key members of the working group on resident engagement for housing retrofit along with colleagues and partners from Housing Strategy, Housing Operations, Net Zero, Work & Skills and Communications. An engagement plan, utilising the Neighbourhood Teams knowledge of our communities, will be developed by March 2023 as part of the wider retrofit plan.
- 9.3 The Neighbourhood Teams continue to signpost and refer residents to partners were appropriate for support and advice on energy efficiency. These include, for example, Energy Doctors, Northwards Energy Advice Service and Power Up via One Manchester.
- 9.4 Partners, including those in the paragraph above, have been included in resident engagement and information events across the city to provide practical advice and support on energy efficiency. Examples include:

Broadhurst Park Resident Event- A Place Called Home
Chorlton Community Event
Gorton Grocers
Harpurhey Information Market
Moss Care St Vincent Carbon Retrofitted Show ('Cosy) Home,' Moss Side
Wythenshawe Climate Event

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 (Climate Change Neighbourhood Officer), 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.

The Neighbourhood Teams continue to connect with opportunities that strengthen understanding in this area. One example of this is the connection with the University of Manchester and the Towards Inclusive Environmental Sustainability (TIES) project which is researching behaviour and aspirations of migrant communities in the city. The team is keen to use the learning from the research to help inform the team's work programme. Other opportunities are being identified that recognise the intersectionality of climate change and inclusive approach to engagement for example, the Men's Health and Information Event at Khanqah Naqshbandia Mosque in Burnage

11.0 Communications

- 11.1 MCC communications team will be developing a communications campaign in the new year following the updating 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.

- 11.2 New website content has been developed on manchester.gov.uk to highlight the Council's zero carbon ambition, governance, key projects and actions. The updated content includes online quarterly update reports. The web pages have specific details on projects and neighbourhood climate action with contact details for the three locality Neighbourhood Team for residents and links to Neighbourhood Investment Fund applications process. 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 in Autumn 2021.
- **Car Free Day 2022:** The teams delivered and supported action with Education colleagues on this day.
- **Clean Air Day 2022:** Opportunity for one-day trial sessions of School Streets
- **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:** Alongside regular street level engagement on recycling focused on neighbourhoods where compliance is not to the standard needed, the South and Central Neighbourhood Teams and key partners carried out a door knocking and leafleting exercise involving 5000 properties during a weeklong period of action in September 2022 advising students on how, and what to recycle. Social media messages ran to support this work.

12.0 Learning and Development

- 12.1 Developing learning and understanding of climate change action and best practice engagement methods for the Neighbourhood Teams is a continual

process strongly supported by the three CCNOs. A workshop will be held in November with all Neighbourhood Team staff to highlight best practice examples of climate change activity at ward level and effective engagement methods, celebrate success and focus on the development of smart actions in ward level climate change action plans. A further session will be held for Councillors recognising the key role members play in facilitating discussion with communities on carbon reduction.

13.0 Conclusion

13.1 The examples provided in this report provide an overview of the wide range of activity delivered by Neighbourhood Teams with the support and expertise of the three Climate Change Neighbourhood Officers. The teams have continued to develop their understanding of communities, effective methods of engagement and of communities understanding and concerns about climate change issues at a local level to assist the city to achieve its carbon reduction targets. This work is integrated with and compliments the wider investment in the other workstreams in the Council's Climate Change Action Plan.

13.2 Our understanding that behaviour change is often a gradual process has developed over the last 12 months and that we should use a full range of opportunities to repeat engagement regularly. We have learned that using existing networks and events is an effective way to share messages and information to residents and partners who may not chose to attend a specifically climate focused event or meeting. Our most effective engagements have often but not exclusively involved young people whose enthusiasm and excitement to get involved has encouraged parents and carers to take action at home. Tapping into shared concerns, whether this is related to road safety, neighbourhood management, green space, household budgets or health has proved an excellent route in to start conversations related to the climate emergency.

13.3 Priorities in the coming 12 months for this work will include:

Further climate change engagement training and development for Neighbourhood Teams and members;

Ensuring all ward level climate change action plans are SMART;

Publication of ward CCAPs in 2023 to enable engagement with wider stakeholders including residents in delivering the actions in each plan;

Collation of information towards KPI reporting to demonstrate impact;

Developing a structured evaluation approach to measure the impact of interventions

Sharing best practice examples of climate change engagement work with other services in Neighbourhoods, with our partners and with communities;

Playing a key role in supporting the delivery of ION Programme and

Continued delivery of creative and proactive engagement across the diverse range of partners and communities in Manchester.