

Manchester City Council Report for Information

Report to: Climate Change Ward Action Plans Task and Finish Group – 23 March 2023

Subject: Approach to Establishing SMART Reporting of the Outcomes of Climate Change Ward Action Plans

Report of: The Head of Neighbourhoods &
The Strategic Lead Neighbourhoods South

Summary

This report considers options for reporting approaches that record the outcomes, impact, and activity of Climate Ward Action Plans. Suggestions of best practise from other work and future aspirations for the monitoring and evaluation of Climate Ward Action Plans.

Recommendations

1. A consistent structure for all plans should be maintained with the addition of broader partner action and place-based initiatives section.
 2. KPIs are further developed with specific time bound targets attached to each action in Ward CCAPs.
 3. Progress on the development of plans and the development of KPIs is reported into Environment and Climate Change Scrutiny as part of the annual Neighbourhood Teams update. This will include progress on the delivery of the In Our Nature Programme.
 4. The Task and Finish group consider publication of all ward climate change action plans.
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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 issues addressed in this report will work towards delivery of Workstream 5 of The Council's Climate Change Action Plan 2020-25 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.

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion - the impact of the issues addressed in this report in meeting our Public Sector Equality Duty and broader equality commitments

The delivery of Ward Climate Change Action Plans aims to better define the impact of the actions undertaken to engage all groups across the city including protected or disadvantaged groups and equality monitoring will be carried out going forward to understand the impact on diverse communities.

Manchester Strategy outcomes	Summary of how this report aligns to the OMS/Contribution to the Strategy
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 several 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 low-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

Financial Consequences – Capital

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Background documents (available for public inspection):

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

Report to Climate Change Ward Action Plans Task and Finish Group – 23 February 2023

Report to Environment and Climate Change Scrutiny Committee – 11 November 2021 - The Role of Neighbourhood Teams in Developing Local Climate Change Activity and Partnership Working

Report to Environment and Climate Change Scrutiny Committee - 10 November 2022 - Update on the Role of Neighbourhood Teams in developing local climate change activity and partnership working

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 The first meeting of the Task and Finish group focused on the development and approach to ward climate change action plans. A number of points were raised by members of the task and finish group that will allow these action plans to be strengthened. This includes suggestions for measures, namely monitoring recycling rates across wards, the introduction of a section on aspiration and spheres of influence so that each plan is able to demonstrate ambition into the future and a section that includes activity that is happening either across wards or on a neighbourhood level, recognising that there is a lot of activity that is not always ward focused but instead stretches across a wider geographic footprint.
- 1.2 The focus on this report is ways in which the monitoring of the impact of actions in the 31 ward plans in the city can be strengthened. This will enhance the current approach which records the number of engagements and activities that take place across the wards in the city and begin to define targets and record the effectiveness of interventions.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 The current approach to recording actions in Climate Ward Action Plans is based on a set of KPIs (Key Performance Indicators) which were detailed in the previous report to the Climate Change Ward Action Plans Task and Finish Group. This data is collected across the year and reported in April each year for the previous year. This report is currently being collated for 2022/23. Data in this report is focussed on recording and measuring the number of interventions, funding to support those interventions and the reach of those interventions in terms of resident engagement. As discussed at the last task and finish group meeting, this work needs to grow in maturity and this will continue to develop as the programme of activity moves forward.

3.0 Opportunities for the development of performance measures

- 3.1 It is important that Climate Ward Action Plans are ambitious but remain realistic in terms of targeting practical actions that are within the sphere of influence of and can effectively be delivered or influenced by the officers, partners, and residents in each area. Considerable work has been undertaken in the last 12 months to redefine the actions in each action plan to make them deliverable, specific to each ward and informed by our neighbourhood intelligence and consultation. Our next phase of work will focus on targets for those actions that are monitored to demonstrate impact as far as possible.
- 3.2 Extensive research at national and international level has focused on the areas of action for citizens that have the greatest impact on carbon reductions. These are consistently agreed to be focused on Sustainable Energy and Water Use, Sustainable Purchasing and Consumption (including diet), Sustainable Travel and Resilience to Climate Change. However, there are significant areas outside of but related to this that offer straightforward and accessible opportunities to engage residents in discussions about climate

change and increase their knowledge and awareness including increasing recycling (including food waste, plastic, glass, cardboard/paper etc), reducing littering and flytipping, and greening and biodiversity projects. All these activities are included in Climate Ward Action Plans and will be extended, with clear objectives attached about deepening conversations related to carbon literacy at all levels and opportunities. This includes links to activities and groups involved in Keep Manchester Tidy and GB Spring Clean.

- 3.3 In addition to this, opportunities are explored to connect other activity delivered at neighbourhood and ward level on Cost-of-Living support and food offer, greening and biodiversity, road safety, health equity and healthy living with climate change messages. This will include sharing advice and support on delivering sustainable events in line with the guides produced by Manchester City Council and the Plastic Free GM campaign. Neighbourhood Officers have built a bank of best practice examples for climate change engagement at local level and will continue to add to this and share information across the neighbourhood teams.
- 3.4 Supporting residents to act is the focus of most of the activity at ward level and is broadly recognised to be challenging to monitor. In preparing this report, officers have looked at examples of monitoring climate change behaviour change in the UK This has included examples from Hampshire County Council who focused on identifying the key opportunities and barriers to achieving desired behaviour change amongst citizens to quantify who is willing to take different climate actions, quantify barriers and motivations and understand who it is best to target; supported by statistical analysis conducted by the University of Southampton; The Scottish Government who conducted broad citizen survey on attitudes to and engagement with climate change actions in 2022; The Local Government Association who recognised the importance capacity of Councils to build strong relationships with the public and wider stakeholder to encourage uptake of carbon actions, community engagement as a fundamental driver of success in this area of work but recognising the challenges of a lack of dedicated resource to monitor and evaluate projects and programmes in the 2022 Neighbourhood Approach to Decarbonisation report; and Islington Council's high profile public engagement campaign around waste and littering which focused on behaviour change but monitored through analysis of littering rather than individuals behaviours.
- 3.5 This is a challenging area and work is still ongoing to learn about the most effective methods. Sustaining the change that people make is another key focus that is and will be considered in terms of actions and the repeated consistent messaging from multiple sources that has been shown in studies to increase the likelihood of action being taken. The activity in ward plans will focus on engaging with a broad range of residents and supporting people who have the motivation and capability to do things; being clear about what they can do and the actions that will make the greatest impact on climate change objectives.

One way in which an understanding of sustained change and can be captured is through conducting surveys and interviews with broad questions that

demonstrate people's level of understanding of climate change as an urgent problem, how their behaviour and lifestyle can contribute to addressing climate change and what actions they can take to help tackle climate change. This way of working could be incorporated into events and activities, where appropriate to monitor the change in affirmative action in different areas of the city. This will include information where possible on the background and characteristics of residents engaging so this intelligence can be used to focus on sections of the community that are not yet engaged in the climate change conversation. This will demonstrate progress over time.

- 3.6 The lottery funded In Our Nature programme aims to enable communities to take action in supporting and addressing climate change within the city. The programme is delivered in partnership with a number of organisations, including the Council. Whilst the programme is in its early stages it provides another opportunity for learning and ways of demonstrating impact that can be built into ward climate change action plans as the programme develops. The programme is supported by the Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research and through this work, a local carbon footprint is being developed. This will be a useful tool moving forward in informing and enabling focused areas of action that can be aligned with the ward climate change action plans and will support in identifying methods of quantifying the carbon impact of climate action taken by residents. In this way, we will build up knowledge and understanding of the measurement and monitoring of climate change emissions as well as ward level carbon footprints to add to our neighbourhood intelligence in planning meaningful climate action at a local level.
- 3.7 Further to discussion at the last task and finish group meeting, it is suggested that the current KPIs will be further developed and data collected on engagement levels, schools involved in active travel and anti-idling and other clean air activity, recycling rates at ward levels, food waste, greening projects including biodiversity, food growing and tree planting, plastic free events, EV (Electric Vehicle) Charge provision, energy efficiency advice and surveys of those attending events to determine understanding and willingness to take action. Neighbourhood Managers and officers supported by CCNOs will work in the next quarter towards having a specific, time bound target attached to each action in Ward CCAPs so that progress can be monitored and reported effectively. Alongside this it is suggested that each plan has a summary at the end of partner actions and broader place-based initiatives that are in or related to the ward and broader local neighbourhood but not directly delivered by ward officers.

4.0 Other considerations

- 4.1 Ward level climate change plans are an important component of the Council demonstrating its commitment to working with residents and communities across the city to support its ambition of net zero. These plans are dynamic documents that are amended and refined as further consultation, intelligence and information is gathered, with actions will be agreed by local councillors and officers on an annual basis. In order to enable input from communities

across the city, it is suggested that the task and finish group consider whether the plans are made available publicly.

- 4.2 As discussed at the meeting of the Climate Change Ward Action Plans Task and Finish Group on 23rd February, it is recognised that whilst the template and format of ward plans is consistent across the city, the content and emphasis across the themes differs from ward to ward guided by engagement with communities and intelligence about specific issues in each ward ensuring that they are relevant to local areas. It is recommended that this consistent structure should be maintained.

5.0 Recommendations

5.1 It is recommended that

1. A consistent structure for all plans should be maintained with the addition of broader partner action and place-based initiatives section.
2. KPIs are further developed with specific time bound targets attached to each action in Ward CCAPs.
3. Progress on the development of plans and the development of KPIs is reported into Environment and Climate Change Scrutiny as part of the annual Neighbourhood Teams update. This will include progress on the development of the In Our Nature Programme.
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