

Manchester City Council Report for Information

Report to: Environment, Climate Change and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Committee – 12 October 2023

Subject: CCAP Quarterly Progress Report, Q2 July – September 2023

Report of: Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer

Summary

The Council declared a Climate Emergency in July 2019 and developed a Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP) 2020-25, which was approved by the Council's Executive in March 2020.

To remain up to date, the Manchester City Council (MCC) Climate Change Action Plan was refreshed in 2022, endorsed by the Environment and Climate Change Scrutiny Committee and approved by the MCC's Executive Committee in September 2022.

Quarterly updates and Annual Reports covering the first three years (2020/21, 2021/22 and 2022/23) of the CCAP are available online at www.manchester.gov.uk/zerocarbon.

This report provides an update and overview of progress made in delivering the Council's refreshed CCAP during Quarter 2 2023-24 (July – September 2023) (Appendix 1 – CCAP Q2 Quarterly Progress Report, July – September 2023).

Recommendations

The Committee is recommended to note and comment on the contents of the Quarterly Report for July – September 2023.

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

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

Actions set out in the Climate Change Action Plan 2020-25 recognise the need for just and equal delivery of climate action across the city, focusing on the areas such as

community engagement, accessible transport, access to green spaces and tackling fuel poverty.

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	Manchester's reputation as a leader in delivering on climate change will help to attract investment and businesses to the city. This will contribute towards helping the transition to a zero carbon city, which in turn will help the city's economy become more sustainable and will generate jobs within the low carbon energy and goods sector.
A highly skilled city: world class and home grown talent sustaining the city's economic success	Work underway in the Council supporting schools and the wider education sector will help develop a future well equipped workforce, whilst work underway within the Green Skills Action Plan is helping support employers to be prepared for the demand that is being created within the zero carbon sector.
A progressive and equitable city: making a positive contribution by unlocking the potential of our communities	There is a targeted focus on retrofitting homes across the city to help tackle fuel poverty and the cost-of-living crisis by reducing energy bills and this is a key part of the transition to a zero-carbon city. Health outcomes will also be improved through healthier homes as well as other areas, such as the promotion of more sustainable and active 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	Work underway on Neighbourhood Ward Plans and Green and Blue Infrastructure, Open Spaces and Parks (helping to adapt and increase resilience) are key areas of Manchester becoming a zero carbon city and will help the city to be a more attractive place for people to live, work, visit and study.
A connected city: world class infrastructure and connectivity to drive growth	Our investment in active and sustainable travel is helping Manchester to have a fully zero carbon transport system, which will 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

As part of the 2022/23 budget, £0.8m additional revenue investment was approved to support additional staffing to support delivery of the Council's Climate Change Action Plan. This funding is ongoing and has now been included as part of each service areas mainstream budgets. It is not expected that there will be any further revenue budget consequences arising from the content of this report.

<https://democracy.manchester.gov.uk/documents/s38151/Zero Carbon Budget Report.pdf>

As part of the 2024/25 budget planning, work is ongoing to ensure all revenue consequences arising from the work undertaken as part of the action plan are captured and included as part of the budget process.

Financial Consequences – Capital

This report looks back over the previous three months. It is not expected that there will be any capital budget consequences arising from the content of this report.

As part of the 2024/25 budget planning, work is ongoing to ensure all capital consequences arising from the work undertaken as part of the action plan are captured and included as part of the budget process.

Contact Officers:

Name: Mark Duncan
Position: Strategic Lead – Resources & Programmes
Email: mark.duncan@manchester.gov.uk

Name: Sarah Henshall
Position: Zero Carbon Manager
E-mail: sarah.henshall@manchester.gov.uk

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 Updated 2022
- Manchester City Council Climate Emergency Declaration July 2019
- Manchester Climate Change Framework 2020-25 Updated 2022
- Neighbourhoods Directorate 2023/24 Budget – Environment and Climate Change Scrutiny Committee

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to provide a progress update on Manchester City Council's delivery of its Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP) 2020-2025 for Quarter 2 2023-24 (July – September 2023).
- 1.2 The refreshed CCAP was endorsed by the Environment and Climate Change Scrutiny Committee and approved by the Council's Executive Committee in September 2022.
- 1.3 The report provides updates on the Council's actions to achieve its zero carbon ambitions by 2038 at the latest, and tracks progress of the Council's actions at a citywide level to lead by example, influence and enable other stakeholders to act.
- 1.4 All activity described in this report relates to the period in which the report is issued, in this instance July to September 2023. Emissions data relates to the previous quarter due to billing and data monitoring being quarterly in arrears i.e. April to June 2023.
- 1.5 This report highlights the positive action the Council is taking to embed zero carbon into Council operations, highlighting the progress made with retrofitting the Council's housing stock, adding capacity to the Zero Carbon Housing Team and promoting this work through additional communications and resident engagement. It also highlights the Council's city-wide leadership role by sharing best practise to reduce avoidable single use plastics and encouraging partners to do the same such as signing up to the Refill campaign.
- 1.6 The Quarter 2 progress report has been shared with the City Council's Zero Carbon Coordination Group and Strategic Management Team to ensure its accuracy and transparency and will be published in an accessible format on the Council's website.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 A five-year Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP) covering 2020-25 went live following approval at Executive in March 2020.
- 2.2 The Council's CCAP has a science-based target calculated by the Tyndall Centre for Climate Research to reduce the Council's direct emissions and remain within the carbon budget of 126,336 tonnes of CO₂ (tCO₂) over the five-year period of 2020-25. In addition, the Council has committed to be zero carbon by 2038 at the latest, also based on the science-based targets developed by the Tyndall Centre.
- 2.3 The CCAP 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 Regular updates on delivery of the CCAP will continue to be provided to this Scrutiny Committee via the Quarterly Reports and an Annual Report. The latest Annual Report 2022-23 was presented to the Council's Environment, Climate Change and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Committee and Executive Committee in September 2023. Progress reports dating back to April 2020 are available on the Council's website and can be found [here](#).
- 2.5 A refreshed Manchester City Council CCAP 2020-25 was reviewed by the Environment & Climate Change Scrutiny Committee and approved by the Council's Executive Committee in September 2022. The refreshed CCAP sets out the City Council's commitment to continue working to reduce MCC's own direct CO₂ emissions alongside a strong focus on our city-wide leadership role and work across Greater Manchester in support of wider climate change objectives.
- 2.6 The refreshed MCC Climate Change Action Plan sets out new actions, building on existing ambitions, for example, looking at ways to accelerate reaching zero carbon sooner than 2038, identifying opportunities to be bolder and avoiding any risk of complacency.
- 2.7 The actions within the refreshed CCAP were adopted across all workstreams from Quarter 3 2022-23 (October – December 2022) and progress continues to be reflected in the Quarterly Reports going forwards.
- 2.8 For 2023-24, our carbon budget is 21,562 tCO₂ - this carbon budget is what we measure our direct emissions against – which are made up of:
- MCC buildings
 - Streetlights
 - Refuse collection vehicles
 - MCC Operational fleet
 - Business travel by MCC staff
- 2.9 Our emissions reporting also includes direct (Scope 1 & 2) emissions from our Housing Operation's housing stock (formerly Northwards), which includes emissions from offices and fleet plus some energy use in communal housing areas – they do not include the domestic emissions of tenants.

3.0 Key Messages from Quarter 2 Progress Report

- 3.1 Manchester City Council's maximum permitted CO₂ emissions for 2023-24 is 21,562 tonnes (tCO₂) – this is referred to as our Carbon Budget. Provisional data shows that the Council has used 22% of the 2023-24 budget during Q1 (April – June 2023). This means the Council emitted 4,765 tCO₂ between April and June 2023, which is 6% lower than the same period last year.
- 3.2 Since 2020, the Council has remained within its carbon budget each year and the Quarter 2 report (Appendix 1) shows continued progress is being made with the Council being on track to meet its 2025 target.

3.3 Key achievements in this quarter includes the completion of the first tranche of new low carbon social housing in Newton Heath, the promotion of Plastic Free July, and the Council co-hosting a Youth Sustainability Conference.

4.0 CO₂ Emissions

4.1 Emissions reported as part of the Quarter 2 report cover the previous quarter (Q1), in this case April to June 2023 due to energy billing being quarterly in arrears.

4.2 The report shows the Council has used 22% of its 2023-24 carbon budget during this quarter (April – June 2023). Emissions relate to Council buildings, streetlights, waste collection, operational fleet, and staff business travel.

4.3 Provisional data for this quarter shows that total carbon emissions in Q1 2023-24 have fallen by 6% compared to Q1 the previous year. Whilst this is positive, we have seen a slight increase in emissions across the following areas (which is also as a result of changes to emissions conversion factors at national level – see 4.5 for further detail):

- Emissions from Streetlights has risen by 5% during Q1 2023-24 due to a change in National Government's emission conversion factors. Whilst the level of CO₂ emissions has increased, the amount of electricity used to power the streetlights has continued to reduce during this period (1,599,830 kWh of electricity used in Q1 2023-24 from 1,603,518 kWh of electricity used in Q1 2022-23).
- Staff business travel emissions increased by 16%, when compared to Q1 2022-23. However, when comparing staff business travel to the previous quarter (which is more meaningful), there was only a 7% increase compared to Q4 2022-23. The Council's Sustainable Travel Officer is working across various services with the aim of reducing business travel or where feasible moving to sustainable modes of transport, and this will continue to be monitored and reported.
- Emissions from the Council's Operational Fleet increased by 8% during Q1 2023-24 – in part due to a rise in usage during the summer period to cover the increase in grounds maintenance and hosting the city's events.

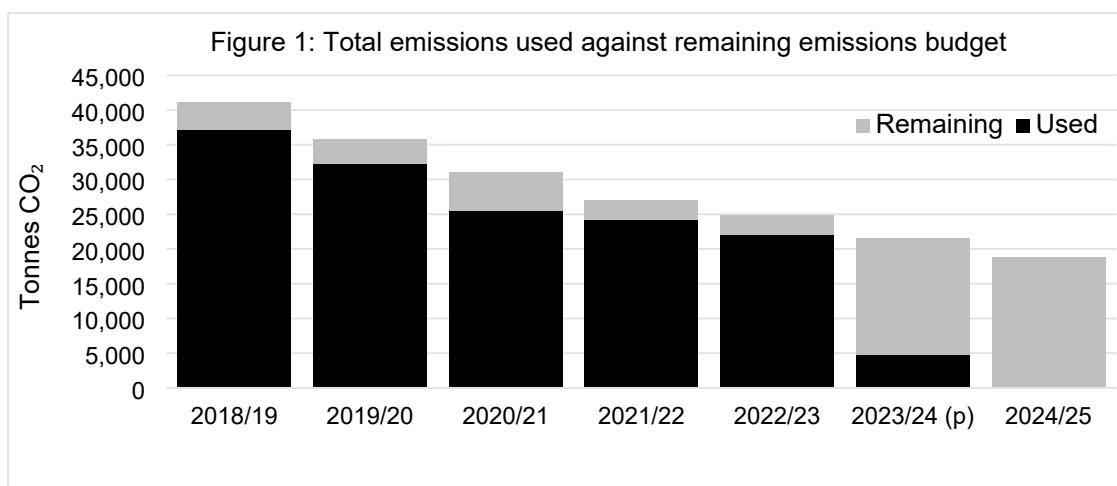
4.4 The Council has made good progress in meeting its science-based targets to reduce its direct CO₂ emissions. However, we are starting to see lower CO₂ reduction rates, which could be due to factors, such as weather conditions, returning to 'normal' business following the pandemic and having delivered some 'quick win' CCAP actions in the earlier years. This means achieving future CO₂ reduction levels will, in some cases, become technically and financially more challenging. We will continue to monitor progress and trends closely to identify and undertake timely actions in future.

4.5 The Council is also reliant on UK Government leadership through national policies and funding programmes to unlock further support and wider commitment to achieving major CO₂ reductions. Challenges arising from policy uncertainty and what appears to be reduced ambition from UK Government

means it is vital the Council continues to engage and influence UK Government on the importance of climate change and the net zero agenda.

4.6 To calculate the Council's CO₂ emissions from energy and fuel usage, we apply National Government's emission conversion factors, which were updated in June 2023. These emission conversion factors are based on the decarbonisation of the national electricity system. Due to the increase in the use of natural gas in the production of electricity, this has increased the carbon intensity of the national electricity system by 7%. By continuing to progress our actions to reduce the Council's energy consumption and renewable energy generation, this will minimise the impact of the emission conversion factor changes to our own emission reduction efforts.

4.7 Figure 1 (below) shows the CO₂ emissions from the baseline year, 2018-19, and highlights the year-on-year reductions in CO₂ emissions. The graph shows that since 2018-19, the Council has remained within its budget of permitted carbon emissions each year, and therefore remains within its science-based Carbon Budget set by the Tyndall Centre.¹



4.1 Communicating and engaging on our journey to zero carbon remains a priority. Therefore, we will continue to engage with staff, Members and stakeholders sharing positive messages about the actions the Council is taking and what action others can take. The Council is leading the development of a citywide climate change communications campaign, which will be delivered in partnership with the Manchester Climate Change Partnership early 2024.

5.0 Key Achievements

5.1 The Council has successfully completed housing retrofit improvements on 629 properties (exceeding the original target of 500), with a total estimated carbon

¹Invoicing of electricity and gas data can be changed by the supplier within reason up to 6 years after original billing, and this taking place weeks or even months after the original bill is not unusual in the industry. As such, the emissions recorded in our [CCAP 2022-23 Annual Report](#) for that year have been revised (from 22,072 tCO₂ to 22,033 tCO₂) following a recent review of our energy data.

saving of 1,879 tCO₂e. This was partly funded by the European Regional Development Fund.

- 5.2 Eleven (first tranche of 69) new low carbon homes on Silk Street in Newton Heath are complete and have been handed over to the Council for social housing. These houses have been fitted with solar panels, electric charging points and will be heated through ground source heat pumps.
- 5.3 A communications campaign delivered by the Council throughout July, to support the global [Plastic Free July](#) movement, continuing to advance and promote the Council's ambitious commitments to eradicating avoidable single-use plastics.
- 5.4 The Council was a highly commended finalist in the Climate and Nature Action 2030 category at this year's national [Chartered Institute for Ecology and Environmental Management Awards \(CIEEM\)](#), which recognises the targeted work to combat Climate Change and support biodiversity.
- 5.5 The Council delivered a Youth Sustainability Conference at Connell College in partnership with Manchester Environmental Education Network (MEEN), which was attended by 70 pupils. The conference included workshops and an opportunity for the students to showcase the environmental work they have completed in the last year.

6.0 Recommendations

- 6.1 The Environment, Climate Change and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Committee is recommended to note and comment on the contents of the report and the progress that has been made in delivering the CCAP 2020-25 during the last three months (July – September 2023).
- 6.2 The quarterly progress reports are published in an accessible format on the Council's website.

7.0 Appendices

- 7.1 Appendix 1 - CCAP Q2 Quarterly Progress Report July – September 2023