

Manchester City Council Report for Information

Report to: Environment, Climate Change and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Committee - 7 December 2023

Subject: Manchester Climate Change Agency In Our Nature Progress and Wider Community Engagement Update

Report of: Director, Manchester Climate Change Agency

Summary

This report is to give an overview of Manchester Climate Change Agency's (MCCA's) community engagement activity over the past 12-months.

The report covers the In Our Nature programme, the Manchester Climate Change Youth Partnership, and the EU Foodwave project. Photographs are provided below.

Recommendations

The Committee is recommended to consider and comment on the contents of 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	All MCCA community engagement activity is closely aligned to the Manchester Climate Change Framework , the city's high-level strategy for tackling climate change; supporting and enabling residents and organisations to act. A key principle within the framework is that the residents of Manchester have a role to play in reducing the contributors to and impacts of climate change. Projects and activity delivered are strategically aligned to the Framework and often co-designed with communities to address local concerns. It is expected that this will contribute to Manchester's zero carbon target.
Equality, Diversity and Inclusion - the impact of the issues addressed in this report in meeting our Public Sector Equality Duty and broader equality commitments	By aligning with the Framework, MCCA community engagement activity is underpinned by the principle of a Just Transition to a zero carbon, climate resilient city. The Framework calls for the city to ensure that all of Manchester's residents are protected from the impact of climate change, that actions to help the transition do not have a negative impact on the most vulnerable people, and that the costs do not fall unevenly on

	<p>those that are least able to afford them. Specific examples of processes used to ensure E, D & I is fully embedded in MCCA community engagement activities include the production of Equality Impact Assessments to assess interactions and projects in the In Our Nature programme, the appointment of programme monitoring and evaluation specialists to support understanding of E, D & I progress, and collaborations with networks that allow engagement activity to reach and include communities and individuals not normally part of the climate conversation.</p>
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Manchester Strategy outcomes	Summary of how this report aligns to the Our Manchester Strategy/Contribution to the Strategy
A thriving and sustainable city: supporting a diverse and distinctive economy that creates jobs and opportunities	<p>The Manchester Climate Change Partnership, supported by MCCA, are responsible for setting the city's high-level climate change targets – these are contained within The Manchester Climate Change Framework 2020-25, and its 2022 Update.</p> <p>They are aligned to the OMS outcomes, in particular the zero carbon city priority.</p> <p>This report describes the MCCA led activity to engage and support Manchester's residents and communities to take climate action in support of the OMS and Framework objectives and targets.</p>
A highly skilled city: world class and home grown talent sustaining the city's economic success	
A progressive and equitable city: making a positive contribution by unlocking the potential of our communities	
A liveable and low carbon city: a destination of choice to live, visit, work	
A connected city: world class infrastructure and connectivity to drive growth	

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

- 1) Equal Opportunities Policy
- 2) Risk Management
- 3) Legal Considerations

Financial Consequences – Revenue

None.

Financial Consequences – Capital

None.

Contact Officers:

Name: Samantha Nicolson
Position: MCCA Director
E-mail: samantha.nicolson@manchesterclimate.com

Name: Dr Kat Lowe
Position: MCCA Programme and Partnerships Manager, In Our Nature
E-mail: katherine.lowe@manchesterclimate.com

Name: Jane Houldsworth
Position: MCCA Deputy Director
E-mail: jane.houldsworth@manchesterclimate.com

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.

In Our Nature Year One Progress Report
<https://www.inournature.uk/projects/in-our-natures-annual-report-2023>

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Manchester Climate Change Agency (MCCA) and the Manchester Climate Change Partnership (MCCP) are responsible for setting the city's high-level climate change targets, monitoring progress towards them, and for catalysing action to deliver against them.
- 1.2 Residents and communities' play an important part in meeting Manchester's targets and ensuring a just transition to net zero, and MCCA leads several strands of activity to engage and support this audience to benefit from taking climate action.
- 1.3 This report will cover three areas of activity led by MCCA: the In Our Nature programme, the Manchester Climate Change Youth Partnership, and the EU FoodWave project.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 In Our Nature is a £3.5 million community climate programme, led by MCCA and funded by the National Lottery, working with residents and communities across Manchester to take climate action. It started as a £200k pilot project that ran from May 2021 to August 2022, the success of which secured an invitation from the Lottery to bid for further funding which is now supporting a three-year programme running from September 2022 to August 2025.
- 2.2 The Manchester Climate Change Youth Partnership is a group of young people aged 16-28 who come together to take action on climate and ensure the youth voice is present within MCCP. It was established by MCCP in 2017 and has previously been known as the Manchester Climate Change Youth Board.
- 2.3 The FoodWave programme was a four-year EU funded initiative active across Europe, the UK, and Brazil, promoting sustainable food concepts and action to young people aged 15-35. Working with the local authority in Milan and other project partners in European cities, MCCA played a lead role in securing the Manchester element of the funding.

3.0 In Our Nature

- 3.1 In Our Nature has, so far, engaged directly with over 650 Manchester residents in 15 Wards and is helping them to deliver 26 climate projects that include tackling energy efficiency at home, increasing use of public transport, local food growing, reducing textile waste, and more.
- 3.2 The programme supports communities across Manchester to identify and address barriers to positive climate action and to deliver impactful climate projects tailored to local need.

- 3.3 The programme is tasked to deliver both carbon emission reductions and broader socio-economic benefits such as reducing bills and improving health and wellbeing for residents.
- 3.4 The programme is led by MCCA and delivered in partnership with Hubbub, Groundwork Greater Manchester, Amity, and The Tyndall Centre for Climate Research. We work closely with Manchester City Council's Neighbourhood's team to ensure a joined-up approach to shared objectives.
- 3.5 It is a flagship programme of The National Lottery's Climate Action Fund and has also attracted match-funding from the Wates Family Enterprise Trust, and other private sector donors.
- 3.6 As the Agency is the accountable body for the grant funding, In Our Nature has formal governance structures in place, including bi-annual compliance reports to The National Lottery's Climate Action Fund, quarterly performance reports to Manchester Climate Change Agency's CIC Board, and discussions on strategic programme design with the Manchester Climate Change Partnership Board. Manchester City Council are represented on the Partnership Board.
- 3.7 The long-term aims of the programme are to:
- Empower Manchester's communities to come together and make meaningful changes that help the city to tackle the climate crisis and address wider socio-economic issues.
 - Build a community-led movement for climate action that is inclusive and celebrates the diversity and creativity of the people of Manchester.
 - Share our learning, catalysing, and accelerating community action beyond Manchester.
- 3.8 In Our Nature is closely aligned to the Manchester Climate Change Framework and is targeting the delivery of 50 community-led projects on a range of Framework themes, co-designing them with communities to address local concerns. The Manchester Climate Change Framework can be found here: www.manchesterclimate.com/content/2022-update.
- 3.9 The communities supported include those that are place-based and those that are formed through a shared interest, identity, and experience (for example, faith groups, or sports clubs) often using the networks provided by members of MCCP, helping to ensure a diverse range of communities across the city are supported by the programme.
- 3.10 In Our Nature has strands of activity that target communities where data suggests they are more vulnerable to climate change and/or are less likely to engage in the climate conversation, alongside strands of activity that invite any communities to come forward and request support to take climate action. This approach ensures that all residents and communities have the opportunity to engage with the programme.

- 3.11 The support offered to communities includes practical assistance with project development and delivery; funding to purchase equipment and expertise; local ward-level carbon footprints to help inform projects; and capacity building support for groups and individuals to increase their capability and confidence ensuring a lasting legacy for the programme.
- 3.12 The programme has created a Resource Hub, a website that provides a wide range of tools, tips, and inspiration, with most content created from the projects delivered to date, building a rich resource of materials and assets that showcase what Manchester's residents and communities can do, inspiring and enabling others to take action. The Resource Hub can be found here: www.inournature.uk
- 3.13 In Our Nature communications are delivered at both a city and more local scale, providing inspiring content that demonstrates the positive action residents and communities can take and signposts to the support the programme can provide. Examples include how to use technology to reduce home energy bills, how to avoid waste at Christmas, seasonal food cooking tips and demonstrations, local cycling events, and more examples can be found on X (formerly Twitter) at @InOurNatureMRC.
- 3.14 In the first year of the programme we have achieved the following key outcomes:
- We are providing intensive, place-based support in seven locations (Cheetham Hill, Longsight, Sharston, Gorton and Abbey Hey, Crumpsall, Harpurhey and Woodhouse Park).
 - Over 600 residents have had their voices heard through project consultation work using listening exercises to co-design projects with communities that address issues important to them.
 - A new method to show the carbon footprint of a Ward has been produced and designs have been created for five wards. These are being shared with local communities and made available on the Resource Hub here: www.inournature.uk/our-carbon-footprints.
 - Seven community groups across 12 wards have recently competed delivery of projects funded through the programme's Community Support initiative that provides communities with help to design and deliver projects and covers the cost of any material, equipment or additional expertise they might need, see here for further detail: www.inournature.uk/projects/in-our-nature-community-support.
 - Round 2 of Community Support opened on 1st November and closed on 6th December. Successful projects will be informed in early 2024 with their activity well underway by April 2024.
 - Five community groups in four wards (Moston, Levenshulme, Clayton and Openshaw and Cheetham Hill) secured Community Nature grants, supporting projects on urban greening and biodiversity. These projects are funded by the Wates Foundation match. More detail can be found here: www.inournature.uk/projects/meet-the-winners-of-the-inournature-community-grant.

- We launched our Big Moston Food Club in partnership with Climate Outreach which is exploring how to reach and motivate specific audiences on the topic of climate action.
- The Resource Hub was launched and now contains 50 toolkits, 'how to' guides, and case studies to inspire and aid others in taking action. For example, a clothes swap toolkit, developed following work in Cheetham Hill, which can help people swap, share and repair their clothes. For more information see: www.inournature.uk/fashion-toolkit.
- We've achieved over 25,000 engagements across the In Our Nature website and social media accounts. See @inournaturemcr on Instagram for more details.
- We exhibited at the Manchester Flower show and on Castlefield Viaduct to engage residents with playful and interactive messaging around the importance of biodiversity and spending time in nature.
- The first In Our Nature Community Get Together event took place on 16th November, bringing over 50 individuals from community groups across Manchester together to share their experiences of taking climate action and provide inspiration for one another.

3.15 The programme is working closely with a wide range of groups and networks reflecting the diverse demographics in the city and involve those not normally in the climate conversation. Groups include but are not limited to those representing older residents (Age UK Crossacres), those providing mental health support to residents (No.93 Wellbeing Centre), those providing help and support to tenants on low incomes (Wythenshawe Community Housing Group), alongside faith and cultural groups and organisations representing persons experiencing racial inequalities (Wai Yin Society, Khizra Mosque).

3.16 We are implementing robust monitoring and evaluation of the programme so we can be clear on impact. The Tyndall Centre for Climate Research are leading on carbon measurement and Chrysalis Research are leading on all other areas on impact measurement, including performance on equality, diversity, and inclusion and whether long-term behaviour change has been achieved.

3.17 A range of photos and case studies that bring the programme to life can be found at www.inournature.uk.

4.0 The Manchester Climate Change Youth Partnership

4.1 The Manchester Climate Change Youth Partnership is for 16–28-year-olds in Manchester who want to be part of climate change decision-making and action in the city. In 2021 the Youth Partnership produced its own Youth Manifesto which contains 7 key priorities for young people in Manchester and can be found here www.manchesterclimate.com/youth-board.

4.2 In early 2023, the Youth Partnership decided to expand its scope and create a new structure that would allow a larger number of young people to participate in a wider range of climate activity. This would allow it to continue to play an

active role in MCCP, to deliver youth-led projects, and build a network of young people to share opportunities such as events, jobs, and training.

4.3 Following a series of meetings and workshops held throughout this summer, the Youth Partnership adopted a new structure which includes:

- Youth Board. A smaller group of young people who govern the Network and Projects strands and maintain an active presence in MCCP activity.
- Youth Projects. A range of projects that young people run themselves or are invited by others to contribute to.
- Youth Network. A forum to share news, events, jobs, training, and other youth climate related information. It can accommodate large numbers and communicates via the Slack app.

4.4 Following launch of the new structure in mid-September:

- 35 young people have joined the Network.
- The first Youth Project has been held (see FoodWave section below).
- The Youth Board has been established and has held four meetings.
- Youth Partnership representatives have attended an MCCP meeting.

4.5 Support to the Youth Partnership is being led by staff at MCCA as part of the Agency's role to catalyse inclusive and proactive climate action through MCCP, with additional support from a staff member from the MCC Neighbourhoods team, who is a founder member of the original Youth Partnership.

5.0 The EU FoodWave Project

5.1 The EU funded FoodWave project worked to build an international community of young people (aged 15-35) who are active across 17 countries worldwide. It aimed to create awareness of sustainable approaches to consuming and producing food in cities in support of climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts, and to have an influential voice in city-level decision making.

5.2 The programme started in December 2019 and completed in November 2023.

5.3 Groundwork Greater Manchester provide the project management role in Manchester and delivered youth engagement and training delivery roles, alongside Sow the City and Met Munch (at Manchester Metropolitan University).

5.4 MCCA's role in the project was to engage local partners and MCCP in the project, ensure it was aligned to the Manchester Climate Change Framework and the Manchester Food Strategy, and to deliver an outreach event for young people.

5.5 The MCCA-led outreach event took place in September 2023, an interactive workshop for young people on the topic of sustainable food. The Manchester Climate Change Youth Partnership were invited, and the workshop was led by

FoodSync with a cooking demonstration provided by Cracking Good Food. The workshop allowed the exploration of the complex food system, provided examples of cooking to avoid food waste, and enabled a positive conversation about practical action that young people can take on the topic of sustainable food. FoodSync are feeding the results of the workshop back to the Manchester Food Board.

5.6 11 young people attended the workshop, providing excellent feedback on their experience.

6.0 Recommendations

6.1 The Scrutiny Committee is recommended to consider and make comments on the information in the report.

7.0 Photographs

7.1 In Our Nature – Community Engagement and Consultation



7.2 In Our Nature Community Support Recipients – Moss Side Social Stitching



7.3 In Our Nature Community Support Recipients – Aviva Studios Repair Café



7.4 In Our Nature Community Get Together. 16 November 2023.



7.5 Manchester Climate Change Youth Partnership – New Structure Design Workshop. 8 June 2023



7.6 Manchester Climate Change Youth Partnership – Members of the Youth Board



7.8 FoodWave Sustainable Food Workshop – Cooking Demonstration

