

Manchester City Council Report for Information

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

Subject: Update on the role of Neighbourhood Teams in engaging Manchester residents on Climate Change

Report of: Strategic Director (Neighbourhoods)

Summary

This report describes 12 months of activity to engage, support and activate Manchester residents to engage in local climate change activity and reduce their carbon footprint. The report includes information on the further development of ward level Climate Change Action Plans as a framework for local actions and the establishment of monitoring to measure impact.

Recommendations

The Committee is recommended to consider and comment on the information in 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 local actions described in this report are linked into the Council's Climate Change Action Plan particularly contributing to the delivery of climate change community engagement approaches working with MCCA and partners. This includes the establishment of a monitoring framework to measure the impact of Ward Climate Change Action Plans and the Neighbourhood Investment Fund.
Equality, Diversity and Inclusion - the impact of the issues addressed in this report in meeting our Public Sector Equality Duty and broader equality commitments	Officers have worked with Hubbub on an EIA identifying inclusivity and diversity issues with regards to communications and events planning. Neighbourhood Teams consider the behaviour and aspirations of excluded and marginalised communities to deliver an inclusive approach to engagement that recognises the impact of climate change on the most vulnerable 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.
A highly skilled city: world class and home-grown talent sustaining the city's economic success	Manchester has 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	Progressing our journey to a zero-carbon city is helping 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	Actions to increase the transition to safe active travel are included in ward plans in the drive towards 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

None

Financial Consequences – Capital

None

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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 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.

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

Report to Climate Ward Action Plans Task and Finish Group 23 March 2023 –
Approach to establishing SMART reporting of the outcomes of Climate Change Ward Action Plans

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 This report provides updated information summarising activity delivered by the Neighbourhood Teams across the city to influence behaviour and support 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, publication of those plans to promote engagement and behaviour change, development of the monitoring framework to assess impact of those plans and examples of developing best practice in engagement at a local level contributing to the ambition of Manchester becoming a zero carbon city by 2038. The report also updates on progress towards ward plans containing specific, measurable, achievable targets.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 Climate Change has been a priority in the Neighbourhood Teams service plan since 2020/21 and as a result Ward Climate Change Action Plans started to be developed in 2021 using a standard template to ensure a consistent approach to capturing bottom-up climate change activity delivered and supported by Neighbourhood Teams across the city and engaging residents in this activity. The ward level plans have continued to develop in the last 12 months with agreed themes that are linked to the priorities in the MCC Climate Change Action Plan 2020-2025 and the Manchester Climate Change Framework 2020-2025 plus a focus on learning, guidance and sharing best practice across communities and all the officers working in Neighbourhood Teams. Development of consistently structured, public facing Climate Change Ward Plans to embed change locally is a priority in the Neighbourhood Teams Service Plan 2022-23. The three specialist Climate Change Neighbourhood Officers continue to provide expertise and advice to improve the level of knowledge across the North, Central and South Neighbourhood Team officers.
- 2.2 Delivering at this local level has helped to facilitate collaboration, partnership and participation based on the needs of local areas. Neighbourhood Teams develop actions using the local strengths, assets and energy in areas. Working in this way ensures the actions are relevant and inclusive for a wide range of communities and residents. This approach encourages people to consider how climate change might impact on them and encourages them to act and helps residents to navigate the complex challenges resulting from the climate crisis. [OBJ]

3.0 Ward Climate Change Action Plans Task and Finish Group

- 3.1 Following the last report on the local climate change activity of MCC Neighbourhood Teams to this Scrutiny Committee in November 2022, it was recommended that a Task and Finish Group should be established to evaluate the ward level Climate Change Action Plans and the associated key performance indicators and other meaningful outcome measurements and reporting.

- 3.2 The Task and Finish Group was established, chaired by Councillor Annette Wright, and met twice in February and March 2023. Officers presented information on the development of plans and a suggested approach to moving towards SMART targets across ward climate change action plans.

The following decisions were made by the Task and Finish Group:

1. That a consistent structure for all plans should be maintained with the addition of broader partner action and place-based initiatives section.
2. That KPIs are further developed with specific time bound targets attached to each action in Ward CCAPs; However, the ward-specific section may include activities which it is not easy to provide a meaningful measure for but which local residents want to take place and that officers should not be held to account for achieving targets in relation to these.
3. That progress on the development of plans and the development of KPIs be reported into Environment and Climate Change Scrutiny Committee as part of the annual Neighbourhood Teams update. This will include progress on the delivery of the In Our Nature Programme. That when the action plans are submitted to the scrutiny committee later in the year, some KPIs should have already been incorporated into them.
4. That the ward action plans should be published, with clear information about what they are for and who they are aimed at, about the targets and aims included in the document and that they are living documents which will change. It is recommended that updated versions be published every 6 months or, at a minimum, annually. Consideration should also be given to including a review of the year.
5. To recommend that a session be arranged for Ward Councillors on the role of the Climate Change Officers, noting that this could be incorporated into existing briefing sessions.

In relation to these decisions the actions detailed below have been taken.

- 3.3 Officers have worked together to better define the function of CCAPs at ward level with the focus now strongly on working with and supporting residents, communities and organisations to make changes and on encouraging low carbon behaviours. A consistent structure for Ward level CCAPs was developed and shared with all Neighbourhood Team staff in every ward in the city. (See Appendix 1). All Ward CCAPs are now produced using this structure. The structure consists of the following seven themes in every plan with shared aims across the city, links to the related city-wide strategies and specific related actions for each ward.

3.3.1 **Nature and biodiversity**

- 3.3.2 This theme recognises that across the UK biodiversity is on the decline and that in Manchester some areas have abundant nature while others are lacking. It acknowledges connections to the city wide Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy. The overall aims are to work with all stakeholders to enhance and promote existing green spaces and promote nature-based solutions while

supporting residents and Friends Groups for parks and green spaces.

3.3.3 Young people

3.3.4 The aims in this theme are to work with partner organisations and local stakeholders to support young people to take leading roles in climate change projects and to work alongside schools, youth centres and groups to ensure young people are empowered and supported to act in their local communities.

3.3.5 Transport, active travel, air quality

3.3.6 This theme relates to the understanding that emissions from transport contributes to a quarter of the carbon emissions that Manchester generates as a city and focuses on supporting initiatives to encourage active travel supporting the city-wide Active Travel Strategy.

3.3.7 Things we buy, use, and throw away

3.3.8 This theme aims to convey clear messages and practical guidance encouraging residents to buy less and reuse having a positive impact on reducing emissions generated by manufacturing processes and landfill sites.

3.3.9 Food

3.3.10 This is a new theme for 2023 and recognises the impact that our food and drink choices have on the environment and impact on our zero carbon ambition. Projects under this theme are seeking to encourage and support the reduction of food waste, growing and eating local and seasonal foods and reducing the consumption of carbon intensive foods.

3.3.11 Homes and energy efficiency

3.3.12 This theme focuses on raising awareness of actions that residents can take in their own homes to reduce carbon emissions including reducing energy use, switching to a green energy provider, using less water, or greening their garden. In the future, further work will support engagement on housing retrofit programmes as they progress across areas of the city.

3.3.13 Engagement, raising awareness and influencing change

3.3.14 Under this theme, the actions to communicate the scale of the challenge to achieve zero carbon and increase resilience in communities as widely as possible are described and reported. This is the call to action to ensure that local activity is delivered to compliment strategic action at a citywide level and increase capacity at the local level.

3.3.15 All ward level plans also now include an area to record partner led projects and activities. These projects are only included with the permission of the organisation that is leading them.

- 3.4 Two training workshops were delivered for neighbourhood team staff in June 2023 with specific emphasis on sharing best practice around effective actions in ward plans with attached time bound targets and how these should be developed. Actions in the recently published Ward CCAPs have SMART targets attached wherever possible. Further workshops will take place on a regular basis to maintain the focus on ensuring targets are specific, measurable, and achievable. A library of best practice projects and case studies has been created and is regularly updated and shared with all members of Neighbourhood Team staff. These case studies have been used extensively throughout this report to bring alive the activity that has been delivered.

Collection and recording of data by Neighbourhood Teams has significantly improved since March 2023. This is specific to the number and quality of engagements related to climate change that Neighbourhood Teams have delivered in each ward in the city as well as counting the number of events, the theme of those events and practical actions including dealing with waste appropriately, energy advice, planting, food growing and repairing items. In addition to counting the numbers of residents who attend events we are now collating information on the number of meaningful engagements held against the various themes. Since March 2023, over 2800 people have attended different climate change events and over 900 meaningful engagements have taken place. Meaningful engagement is where officers have had a direct conversation with a resident, given advice, provided equipment or access to funding to support behaviour change.

In terms of KPIs, until further data is collated from financial year 23-24, we have focused this year on the following:

- Fund a minimum of one community-led, climate change focused. Neighbourhood Investment Fund project in every ward in the city each year
- Facilitate at least two different engagement activities for residents and businesses per ward per year.
- Support at least five new activities per ward per year.
- Publish Ward CCAPs at least once per year minimum for every ward.

- 3.5 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 22/23 a total of £63,332 NIF was allocated to climate change projects across the city. The total allocated so far for 23/24 financial year is currently £101,706, with further applications pending. Projects supported include a broad range of activity from a sewing course in Longsight that has equipped residents with skills to repair their own clothes, to plants and equipment for an alleyway greening project to improve the environment and growing skills in Whalley Range.

- 3.6 In North Manchester, the Neighbourhood Investment Fund climate change projects during 2023/24 include two successful bids by non-for-profit organisation, totalling £5,700 to Intergenerational Music Making. They will deliver a “Sounds of Sustainability: Exploring Climate Change Across Generations” project in both Cheetham and Harpurhey. The project will run from The Yard in Cheetham and Manchester Youth Zone in Harpurhey, where it will work with community groups to use creativity in exploring ideas and experiences around climate change, environment and to encourage empathy, respect, and sharing across generations. The project will bring together people of all ages to share their perspectives on climate change and work collaboratively to create art and music pieces that reflect their shared learning and experiences as well as to create meaningful connections and relationships that transcend age barriers.
- 3.7 In Hulme, our Neighbourhood Team have been working closely with resident-led groups who want to make their community cleaner, greener, and safer. Neighbourhood Investment Funding was used by Sustainable Communities Hulme CIC (Community Interest Company) to put on a series of resident engagement workshops in the St Mary’s area of Hulme. Road closures were put in place for the engagement days to give residents to chance to come outside and take back the roads. Over the three events, the group spoke to dozens of residents about the area and what changes they might like to see particularly around green spaces, road safety and waste provision. To complement the consultation, the group have conducted traffic counts and devised several traffic calming configurations which would not only improve road safety in the area but also reduce pollution and encourage people to take up active means of travel. Building on their research, Sustainable Communities Hulme have developed short-, medium- and long-term pathways to improve the area. These are now being worked through with colleagues in Neighbourhoods, Highways and Waste and Recycling.
- 3.8 The Neighbourhood Team working across Didsbury East and Didsbury West are taking a creative approach to supporting Climate change projects through the Neighbourhood Investment Fund. A portion of the budget for Didsbury East and West is being used to fund a Dragon’s Den style event. This will see a number of community groups pitch for funding. The audience will then vote, ranking all Projects in order of the one they would most like to see to their least favourite, providing a fun and creative form of engagement also ensuring the creation of new Projects and an opportunity for community networking. Burnage will be following suit and are also planning to hold an event in the New Year.
- 3.9 Further progress against 23/24 KPIs will be available in March 2024. It is challenging to attribute changes in emissions and carbon savings at ward level to the engagement and activation activities that are being delivered through ward action plans. However, improved collated data for 23/24 will be used to set further targets and meaningful KPIs by the end of April 2024 to monitor impact and progress for the next 12 months. At the current time, there are over 140 activities, projects and events that have taken place or are planned across all 32 wards in the city.

- 3.10 Updated ward CCAPS, based on the new agreed format will be published imminently the MCC Website. Prior to publication, plans were checked for quality and clarity and approved by the relevant elected members for each ward. Printed versions with the same information will be made available for face to face engagement at meetings and events. These capture the actions at the time of publication and recognise that Ward CCAPs are living documents that are constantly evolving and improving. They will be published online at least once per year going forward.
- 3.11 Two briefings for Ward Councillors on ward CCAPs and the role of Climate Change Neighbourhood Officers were held on 13 July 2023 and 17 July 2023 and relevant comments and issues raised have been incorporated into the updated plans.

4.0 Case Studies

Several case studies are outlined below to give a flavour of the diverse range of activities taking place across the city against each theme. This does not detail every piece of work taking place and the full detail of actions on a ward-by-ward basis can be found online via the MCC website Zero Carbon pages.

4.1 Nature and Biodiversity

- 4.1.1 Neighbourhood Teams have supported several projects led by Sow the City as part of the Greater Manchester Green funding. Manchester has received a high proportion of Greater Manchester Green funding. This fund supports community-led projects which increase accessible, nature-rich green space where people need it most. These are community led projects with local residents playing a lead role in their design and delivery. From co-design to practical action, through this fund local people are empowered to create the green spaces that they want and that will improve their environment and their lives. For example, Ardwick Climate Action, a group of residents who want to increase awareness of Climate Change & improve their environment, do everything from co-design, practical implementation & maintenance of the sites, as well as engaging other residents to do the same. Levenshulme's Green Hub project is a co-created community growing and wildlife space, led by local CIC Station South, which aims to inspire residents and will welcome them into an accessible hub of climate friendly activity. This year alone the fund has brought in £380k direct funding plus more than £200k match funding into Manchester to improve the city's nature and biodiversity and support community activity. Sow the City have been commissioned to support community groups to apply for the fund. Neighbourhood Teams have supported by bringing individuals together through facilitated climate change discussions; providing NIF to kickstart groups, activities and ideas; providing links and facilitating relationships with partners such as landowners, social value opportunities or to gain required support from other MCC departments, to ensure these projects are deliverable.
- 4.1.2 Neighbourhood Teams have supported the delivery of an additional 32 local projects and initiatives focused on Nature & Biodiversity across the city.

Projects include alley way and street greening, public space and communal garden creation/improvements, tree and hedge planting and grow your own (fruit, vegetables, herbs) initiatives. As a result, more than 220 local people have been engaged on the topic which has enabled meaningful conversations around climate change, over £26,000 of NIF has been committed to this theme and biodiversity and access to nature has been increased through planting of trees and hedgerows as well as herbs and other edible plants.

4.1.3 The following case studies provide a snapshot of the projects being delivered across the city:

In Central Manchester, the Neighbourhood Team worked with the local community, led by Be Longsight, to redevelop a neglected but prominent public space in Longsight. Be Longsight secured £6000 Eco Streets funding which brought in Groundwork MST to work with them to redesign the space. The Longsight NT have worked with the Public Realm Team to enable and fund designs to be implemented and the improve the green space at the A6, Slade Lane junction, for people & nature including:

- Addressing issues/ educate regarding the feeding of pigeons in the area which attracts pests/rats.
- Pathway improvements which included a sustainable urban drainage system (SUDS) to mitigate against climate change (poly channels along edge of footway allow surface water runoff & provide water for planted areas).
- Introducing a large variety of bulbs, perennials & 5 new trees.
- Created wildflower areas.
- Designed and installed a bespoke Bird feeder to change behaviours.
- 5 engagement sessions were held including community planting events & 2 sessions in local schools.
- Be Longsight & MCC Grounds Maintenance have agreed a jointly delivered maintenance plan to ensure the space is maintained and monitored appropriately. Be Longsight will undertake regular litter picks and garden maintenance, such as weeding, whilst Grounds Maintenance will deliver the grass cutting programme. The group have worked alongside the Neighbourhood Team & Groundwork, to engage local residents & schools in the development & delivery of the project & will continue to promote local involvement with the site now that the improvements have been completed. A positive example of a local group taking ownership and working with MCC and local residents.
- The Neighbourhood Team will continue to support & plan to encourage regular community use/events in the space.

4.1.4 In the Bethnall Estate, Fallowfield, the South Neighbourhood Team is supporting residents to transform a neglected, fly tipped waste ground into an attractive, biodiverse green space which improves the environment for residents and nature. The area has been cleared and cleaned up, fly tipping has reduced and work is now underway to develop the site into 'Sopwith Community Garden.'

4.1.5 North Neighbourhood Team have supported the Miles Platting Community and Age-friendly Network (MPCAN), a network representing 12 local groups, to secure £40,000 from GM Greenspaces fund and to deliver the Miles Platting Wildlife Corridor. The proposal is to create a space for people and nature which will enhance a number of identified spaces and create new habitats in the neighbourhoods of Miles Platting. The aim is to improve biodiversity and the local ecosystem, increase interaction and connection between residents and their natural environment, mitigate impacts of climate change, and encourage physical activity between sites and along the Rochdale Canal.

4.1.6 During 2023/4 there will be ongoing engagement to engage residents close to the sites in co-designing improvements and practical action, such as planting events, habitat workshops and celebrations. There will be training and skill sharing sessions to increase understanding of biodiversity and climate change as well as sessions to co-create management plans for the sites. Surveys, questionnaires, and stories will be used to monitor progress and record impact.

4.2 *Young People*

4.2.1 Across the city, Neighbourhood Teams have held or supported 17 events so far this year focused on children and young people. In South Manchester, the team have established and supported the Withington, Old Moat and Fallowfield 'Environmental Youth Group' to engage more widely with local communities on climate change action in various community settings. Between 60 and 100 children have been involved in this work. Their approach to upcycling was used at the annual Envirolution Festival held in Platt Fields Park and 12 schools have pledged and secured 9K of NIF funding to make a climate change film to encourage behaviour change. Activities within the film so far have included; Upcycling wooden pallets with climate change art now displayed in a residential alleyway to deter fly tipping, building of bird boxes and spreading of wildflower seeds in a newly created community greenspace in Fallowfield, greening of public highways using planters which were then adopted by the local community and partaking in a road closure event to mark Clean Air Day in June, highlighting the importance of reducing car usage and improving air quality.

4.2.2 Neighbourhood Teams have delivered engagement with children and families through other events. Three partnership weekend events delivering Wythenshawe Games were held this year. One of these in Hollyhedge Park targeted at under-fives and their families. This was attended by the CCNO who had meaningful climate change conversations with family groups including 40 people to ensure all ages were reached and climate change was part of the event. A whole host of partners participated alongside the provision of a range of play activities for children and young people comprising of health, general community alongside Play. Central Neighbourhood team also worked closely with the Craft and Design Centre on their Autumn Fun Day in the City Centre using creative activities including painting pots and planting edible herbs to engage 20 families in meaningful conversations about food and climate change.

4.2.3 In partnership with MCC Libraries during October, the Neighbourhoods Teams supported the delivery of climate change-themed engagement activities for young people during the annual “Fun Palace” events at three major library locations across the city including Central Library in the City Centre, and Wythenshawe Forum Library. Three events ran simultaneously with climate change engagement activities geared toward younger audiences. These included recycling games, carbon reduction “snap” puzzles and carbon footprint mapping activities, as well as distribution of information materials to adult residents. The Fun Palace events attracted an attendance of 1000+ residents across the city. Due to popularity and success of these events, MCC Neighbourhoods will provide support and further engagement activities at MCC Library locations during the planned “Carbon Literacy Day” activities in December 2023.

4.2.4 During 2022-23 MCC Neighbourhoods have also continued to provide in-kind support to the development of the Manchester Climate Change Youth Partnership. This is in collaboration with Manchester Climate Change Agency and the Manchester Museum (University of Manchester). Through this, and further work with young people we are playing our part in the journey to Manchester becoming a Child Friendly City.

4.3 *Transport, Active Travel, Air Quality*

4.3.1 Neighbourhood Teams have held or supported 26 events so far this year focused on air quality. This year the Central Neighbourhoods Team, in partnership with Marston Holdings who provided a corporate social value contribution, have provided funding to install eight brand-new air quality monitors on two schools Hulme. This is the first step in a long-term behaviour change project called the Air We Breathe. To ensure the long-term viability of the project, a £350,000 funding bid has been submitted to Defra in partnership with Marston Holdings, Manchester Metropolitan University and the schools and we hope to know the outcome by January 2024. If successful, the funding will pay for a two-year project to understand the reasons for vehicle use behaviour while testing novel approaches to change these behaviours.

4.3.2 Impending improvement works to the Yellow Brick Road section of the Manchester Cycleway (Fallowfield Loop) have been used as a chance to promote active travel in the area and invigorate the community into stewardship. In October, a community event was held at Gorton Community Centre in partnership with Groundwork, MCC Highways, MCC Parks and Healthy Me, Healthy Communities. Cycle UK and Wheels for All attended with adaptive and e-bikes for people to experience. The launch event was an opportunity for people to engage on the planned Highway improvements to the Yellow Brick Rd & to help bring people together to form the Friends of group. 50 people attended and welcomed the opportunity to work on the improvements. The first meeting of the Friends of Yellow Brick Road was held in November and was attended by 7 residents, local councillors, and representatives of stakeholders MCC Neighbourhood Team, MCC Parks, Canal & River Trust, Abbey Hey Primary School and Groundwork.

- 4.3.3 Meetings will continue regularly to progress the work and cement ongoing community engagement in the area.
- 4.3.4 Clean Air Day in June was promoted to all schools in Manchester but with support from the South Neighbourhood Team St Paul's in Withington successfully applied and closed off the street outside their school. Parents and children left cars at home for the day and arrived on bikes, scooters or on foot and everyone celebrated before start of school by playing sports, doing chalk drawings, cycling and litter picking. 350 children were thrilled to claim the street, be active with a healthy fun element and attendance was improved. There is now a desire to do this annually because it was so successful.
- 4.3.5 An Active Travel Family Fun Day in Charlestown in North Manchester had over 600 people attend a vehicle free space in Boggart Hole Clough and participate in 3 hours of free bike trials, access bike repairs alongside a climbing wall, crafts and face painting. North Neighbourhood Team were joined by MCC Parks, Moston Cycling Club, Walkride Blackley, No.93 Wellbeing Centre, Big Bike Revival, Lakeside Café and GMP to promote the benefits of Active Travel. Barbara from Walk Ride Blackley said "Our get together in March at Boggart Hole Clough was great for the community...the turnout was amazing even though it was a bit showery...the bikes made available were made full use of by children and adults alike.. excellent!!"

4.4 *Things we buy, use and throw away*

- 4.4.1 Actions here relate to education and support for local communities to reduce, reuse, repair and recycle and Neighbourhood Teams have supported or held 18 events so far this year focused on this theme.
- 4.4.2 With the ongoing cost of living crisis projects that fulfil environmental needs and economic needs are being delivered. A prime example is 'Make and Mend' sessions which have been facilitated by the Neighbourhoods teams throughout the year.
- 4.4.3 In Longsight, We Matter are using £1,500 of Neighbourhood Investment Funding to host 10-week women-only sewing course for residents. The emphasis is placed on reusing existing garments and the skills learnt by attendees will reduce the need for them to go for new clothes when old ones are worn out.
- 4.4.4 North Neighbourhood Team have held two clothing upcycling and sewing workshops in Charlestown and another in Harpurhey as part of a recycling extravaganza including a series of engagement events to mark Recycling week. They also commissioned sustainable fashion co-operative Stitched Up to hold a further six workshops.
- 4.4.5 Chorlton ward have held two reduce reuse recycling fairs which have included a range of activities including repair to rewear workshops alongside resources to support waste recycling. Following this the South Neighbourhood Team are continuing collaboration with Chorlton Central Church - which has Eco Church

silver status - to make the events regular. A similar event is currently being planned for Didsbury ward.

- 4.4.6 Elsewhere in south Manchester, a slightly different approach is taking place in Fallowfield where six-week sustainable fashion sessions are underway at 'The Place' Fallowfield which is set in an area predominantly made up of One Manchester housing and residents. It is heartwarming to see the range and background and age range of attendees most of whom are not likely to attend the more traditional climate change events but are keen to explore sustainability in this setting. The sessions opened with an explanation of why they had been arranged and the impact fast fashion has on the environment as well as creative ways to upcycle to reuse items they felt could no longer be used to keep these out of landfill and reference to harmful emissions and their impact to provide more context. This is helping residents to understand how their actions are making a difference. The wider co benefits also become apparent namely community cohesion, health and wellbeing reducing isolation learning new skills and intergenerational activity with the oldest attendee a sprightly 97-year-old!
- 4.4.7 Since MCC announced our partnership in June with not-for-profit organisation City to Sea (www.refill.co.uk) to expand the network of locations where residents can fill up re-useable water bottles for free, Neighbourhood Team officers across the city have been busy promoting Manchester Refill at events encouraging residents to sign up to the app identifying locations nearby where they can refill on the go helping to reduce single use plastic and minimise waste. Adults and children are also provided with our Zero carbon water bottle if needed.
- 4.4.8 North Neighbourhood Team have been successful in signing up 12 businesses to be local refill destinations so far and South Neighbourhood Team have been broadening their reach to include community hubs. Three centres have agreed to sign up as refill locations so far.

4.5 *Food*

- 4.5.1 Acting on climate change can be viewed as costly but often there are simple things, we can all do that also save money - something that is hugely needed in the cost-of-living crisis. As part of a social value project, Bruntwood created 1000 "Hey Dhal" packs, these contained all the ingredients (and recipe) to make a whole dhal capable of feeding four people. The ingredients cost less than 8p per person for the meal and being a vegan dish, it has a very low carbon footprint.
- 4.5.2 Central team worked with Bruntwood to distribute the packs to local partners in Hulme and the surrounding area. Packs were given to food banks, charities and churches for distribution. On top of this, the climate credentials of the meal pack were used as a conversation starter during engagement events throughout the year.

4.5.3 Crowden Road Allotment Society in North Manchester is a small site compared to other allotments; still, their energy, passion, and commitment to local causes have shone through. Crowden Roads' members have brought the community together, reduced social isolation and realised satisfaction from watching things develop and grow. They have also joined the Charlestown Growers Group, an informal WhatsApp group where the aim is to include as many groups as possible in the North Manchester area to swap ideas, hold growing workshops where local community groups can come along and gain knowledge and experience from the established groups. The group is also connected with the wider community, supplying fresh fruit and vegetables to the local foodbank, Humans MCR, throughout the growing season. During the spring/summer this year a dozen boxes of produce were supplied to the food bank each week. Moving forward they are looking to dedicate one of the plots specially for Humans MCR so that they can grow their own produce to distribute within the community. Their future project would be to open their doors during the year for the local community to collect fresh fruit and vegetables.

4.5.4 In South and parts of Central Manchester, as part of a sustainable approach to managing student departure in areas of the city having a large student population to minimise waste, eight drop off points were set up across five separate wards to enable students to donate items no longer required that could be reused or recycled – this included unwanted food items. All unopened foodstuff in good condition was then donated to Fallowfield and Withington Foodbank who cycled to all drop off points during the day(s) on an e cargo bike which became increasingly full of items which were then able to go to families in need, rather than going to waste. Alongside the food donated, 5470 bags of clothes, kitchen equipment and electrical items were donated diverting 44 tons of waste from landfill and raising £76,580 for British Heart Foundation.

4.6 *Homes and Energy*

4.6.1 Emissions from housing generate up to approximately a quarter of emissions in Manchester. The Neighbourhood Teams are well placed to support the achievement of the city's targets on energy and retrofitting, specifically through raising awareness and increasing understanding amongst the public of the scale of change required.

4.6.2 At the beginning of the year the Neighbourhoods Team, in partnership with Morgan Sindall, procured 9,075 LED lightbulbs. These bulbs were shared with ward teams in North, South and Central. Each halogen bulb replaced with an LED will reduce energy costs between £4 - £15 per year. Based on 9,075 bulbs, that's between £36,300 – £136,125 per year saved from people's energy bills. As each LED lightbulb has a typical life span of 20 years, the overall savings to households could be as high as £2.5m. Moreover, if the average house has 25 light fittings, then the bulbs could fully fit out up to 350 homes with each of these houses saving a 65kg of Co2 annually – or 22,750kgs in total each year.

- 4.6.3 On another level the bulbs are used as a tool at events and functions to enter conversations around retrofit. Our teams had 502 conversations with people on this topic since March 2023. In Gorton, the Neighbourhood Team are working with Groundwork and their retrofit team EnergyWorks to ensure that the bulbs were distributed to the neediest houses.
- 4.6.4 Ardwick, Longsight and Rusholme neighbourhoods' teams combined to financially support an innovative retrofit project at 442 Community Centre in Ardwick. Building on over £20k of funding received for installation of solar panels and Air Source Heat Pump heating system, Manchester Vinyard (442) were allocated NIF funding to install a system of batteries which allow them to store solar power during times when generation outstrips demand on site. From being run-down old youth centre a few years ago, the Victorian building is being brought back to life and is a shining example of how modern retrofit technology can still be applied in old buildings.
- 4.6.5 In October 2023, the South Neighbourhood team partnered with Wythenshawe Age Friendly Network to host an energy efficiency roadshow to coincide with Older Persons Day. Citizens Advice Bureaux were recruited to provide energy efficiency advice with MCC officers also providing LED lightbulbs to compliment advice and help makes homes more energy efficient and also help to save money for older residents. Five venues were visited in different wards. Neighbourhood Team staff are working with MCC Housing and supporting engagement on social housing decarbonisation programme in the north and east of the city and will continue this work as further programmes roll out across the city.

4.7 *Engagement, Raising Awareness and Influencing Change*

- 4.7.1 Our teams haven't been afraid to try things differently this year to engage Manchester residents about climate change. One method of this was using the "20 for 2025" challenge. The activity involves measuring your carbon footprint using the online World Wildlife Fund (WWF) calculator and then pledging to reduce it by 20% before the end of 2025. The was used to highlight some of most carbon intensive activities in our lives which make up the highest proportion of our footprints. Central Neighbourhood Team transported the materials for the activity using an electric cargo bike, removing the need for a car. During 2023 over 100 people have taken part in the challenge across the city. The average carbon footprint is 11.4 tonnes, if only half of people involved achieved the 20% reduction, then this would be a carbon saving of around 114 tonnes of carbon dioxide.
- 4.7.2 The North Neighbourhoods Team continues to support the delivery of the ongoing arts-led research project in Miles Platting and Newton Heath (funded by the AHRC - Arts and Humanities Research Council, 2020-2023). Creative Climate Resilience engages residents, charities, and service providers to identify and empower community knowledge and assets towards inclusive climate change action. In July 2023, a large-scale community pageant event was held in the ward in partnership with the Neighbourhoods Team. The event was hosted jointly at a local church, St Cuthbert's, and on MCC owned land

currently managed by social housing provider Jigsaw Housing. Residents of all ages engaged in crafting workshops in the months ahead of the event, helping to create large-scale puppets and masks that were used during the pageant performance which centred around climate change and overconsumption. Younger residents themselves also took part in the performance, which was musically accompanied by Stockport Youth Orchestra.

4.7.3 The materials created over the duration of this project will remain for community use in Miles Platting and a second community event will be planned and delivered in the ward during 2024, referenced in the Miles Platting and Newton Heath ward climate change action plan update. As the Creative Climate Resilience project concludes and to ensure lasting impact, a toolkit will be developed with MCC Neighbourhoods for use in wider community engagement. Separately through this project, a funding bid has been submitted with support from North Neighbourhoods Team to create an ecology focused art studio in Miles Platting for free residential use. The outcome of this bid is expected in early 2024.

4.7.4 A category has been added to the annual Be Proud Awards – Taking Neighbourhood Climate Action. This award recognises good practice at a neighbourhood level and celebrates groups, individuals and businesses delivering local action to help highlight and tackle the climate crisis. This provides another opportunity to celebrate the fantastic work that communities are taking forward and promote this to others. Last year's winner was the Ardwick Climate Action group whose work is mentioned elsewhere in this report. Nominations for 2024 are open until 1 December and numbers are already higher than last year.

4.7.5 During Summer 2023, Neighbourhood Climate Change Officers were trained in facilitating Climate Fresk workshops for communities. Climate Fresk is a French engagement tool aims to increase public awareness of climate change science and resulting effects on the physical environment and human impacts. Further Climate Fresk sessions are going to be held in partnership with MCC Libraries starting with a public session at Longsight Library on 5 December and a private group for homeschooled children at Moss Side Powerhouse.

5.0 Summary and Next Steps

5.1 Neighbourhood Teams have continued to deliver action across all areas of the city in the last 12 months to communicate and engage and promote learning and action in relation to local climate change activity at neighbourhood level. With strong alignment to the MCC Climate Change Action Plan 2020-2025 and the Manchester Climate Change Framework 2020-2025, the ward level Climate Change Action Plans provide a clear framework for local, deliverable objectives towards our goal to engage as many Manchester residents as possible in conversations and action.

5.2 A consistent structure is now in use for all plans with improved data collection against the activities delivered. Ward level Climate Change Action Plans for

every ward in the city have been published on the City Council website and will be shared in each ward through direct engagement to encourage residents, communities and organisations to play their part in working towards Zero Carbon Manchester. The plans will be published in this way at least once per year going forward. Straightforward KPIs have been established for 2023/24 and will be reported on in full in April 2024. The data collated will be used to set further specific, clear, measurable and ambitious KPIs for 2024/25 alongside further short- and long-term objectives.

- 5.3 Early in 2024, we will be reviewing the application process for Neighbourhood Investment Fund to ensure that Zero Carbon advice and support is properly embedded, with tailored advice on running sustainable events. Further training is planned for Neighbourhood Officers including specific sessions on air quality and climate risk and resilience this calendar year. Sharing of best practice across Neighbourhood teams has been established via our learning sessions and workshops and a shared resource via Microsoft Teams with best practice examples clearly outlined and the opportunity to follow up with individual staff who have led these pieces of work. These along with further learning sessions will continue to develop the skills, knowledge, and experience across the teams so we can develop further innovative engagement approaches to reach diverse communities across the city.

6.0 Recommendations

- 6.1 The Environment, Climate Change and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Committee is recommended to note, comment upon, and support the content of the report.

7.0 Appendices

Appendix 1 - Template for Ward CCAP 2023

Appendix 2 - Summary of GM Green Spaces Fund approved projects

Appendix 3 - Photographs of activity