

Manchester City Council Report for Information

Report to: Environment, Climate Change and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Committee – 11 January 2024

Subject: Manchester City Council Climate Change Action Plan Quarterly Progress Report: Quarter 3 (October – December 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 Council'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 3 2023-24 (October – December 2023).

Recommendations

The Committee is recommended to note and comment on the contents of the Quarterly Report for October – December 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 provide 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.

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. Full report can be found here - [Neighbourhoods Directorate Budget 2024_25.pdf \(manchester.gov.uk\)](#)

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.
[Neighbourhoods Directorate Budget 2024_25.pdf \(manchester.gov.uk\)](#)

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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.

- 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 3 2023-24 (October – December 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 October to December 2023. Emissions data relates to the previous quarter due to billing and data monitoring being quarterly in arrears i.e. July to September 2023.
- 1.5 This report highlights the positive action the Council is taking to embed zero carbon into Council operations, highlighting the progress made across the Action Plan, with Government funding secured to explore investment models for net zero actions, the decarbonisation of the National Cycling Centre, Executive approval of the Avoidable Single Use Plastic Action Plan and a range of community and resident engagement activity during the week of Carbon Literacy Day 2023.
- 1.6 The Quarter 3 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 Housing), which includes emissions from offices and fleet plus some energy use in communal housing areas – they do not include the domestic emissions of tenants.

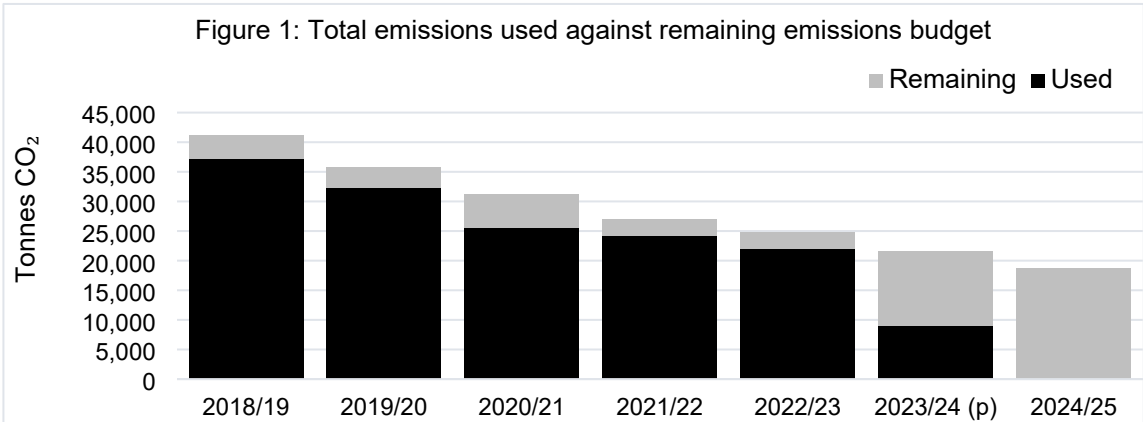
3.0 Key Messages from Quarter 3 Progress Report

- 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 for this quarter shows that the Council's total emissions in Quarter 2 (Q2) 2023-24 is 4,178, which is 3.1% higher than Q2 the previous year. However, a key factor in this is the increase in the change to the National Government's conversion factors. See section 4 for further details.

- 3.2 Since 2020, the Council has remained within its carbon budget each year and the Quarter 3 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 include awarding the contract for a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA), which will provide the Council with renewable energy from source, securing additional funding from Ofgem, the GMCA and Innovate UK to support the delivery of the CCAP and completing the installation of solar car ports at the National Cycling Centre, the publication of the Council’s Ward Climate Action Plans and Avoidable Single Use Plastic Action Plan and wide-ranging community engagement during Carbon Literacy Action Day 2023.

4.0 Carbon Emissions

- 4.1 We have used **62.3%** of our 2020-25 carbon budget so far (out of a total of 126,336 tonnes of CO₂ (tCO₂), which means the Council has made good progress to date and is on track to remain within this five-year carbon budget.
- 4.2 Emissions reported as part of the Quarter 3 report cover the previous quarter (Q2), in this case July to September 2023 due to energy billing being quarterly in arrears.
- 4.3 The annual carbon budget for the current year (2023-24) is 21,562 tCO₂. During the first two quarters (April – September 2023), the Council used **41.5%** of this annual carbon budget (emitting 8,943 tCO₂) which means the Council is currently on target. Emissions relate to Council buildings, streetlights, waste collection, operational fleet, and staff business travel.
- 4.4 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 currently remains within its science-based Carbon Budget which was set by the Tyndall Centre.¹



¹ Invoicing 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.

- 4.5 During Quarter 2 2023-24, our total carbon emissions have increased slightly by 3.1% compared with Q2 the previous year. However, despite this emissions increase, our overall energy usage across the Council during this quarter has in fact reduced².
- 4.6 To calculate the CO₂ emissions from our energy and fuel usage, we apply national Government's emission conversion factors, which are updated annually. Of note, this year is the electricity conversion factor, which reflects the mix of fuels (renewables, nuclear, natural gas, coal, etc) powering the National Grid each year.
- 4.7 As a result of the National Grid increasing the amount of natural gas and coal in the production of electricity over the last year, has increased the carbon intensity of the national electricity system by 7%, which in turn impacts our own emissions, via the conversion factor.
- 4.8 The Council has consistently 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 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.
- 4.9 By continuing to monitor our energy usage, progress our actions to reduce the Council's energy consumption and with securing a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA), which will produce renewable energy, this will minimise the impact of the emission conversion factor changes to our own emission reduction efforts and help us to continue to remain within our carbon budget working towards zero carbon by 2038.
- 4.10 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.

5.0 Key Achievements

- 5.1 Below provides a selection of key achievements during Quarter 3 and more of these are included in the main CCAP Q3 Report (Appendix 1)

² 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%, which in turn impacts our own emissions.

- 5.2 The Council has awarded the contract to purchase direct renewable energy supplies via a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA). This will provide a traceable renewable energy source to deliver CO₂ savings to the Council.
- 5.3 In addition to retrofit works previously reported, the Manchester National Cycling Centre has completed an installation of solar car ports. Delivered through the European Regional Development Fund, it is estimated the solar port installation will generate 172kWh of electricity annually with a projected carbon saving of 36 tonnes per annum.
- 5.4 The Avoidable Single Use Plastic (SUP) Action Plan was approved by Executive in December 2023. The plan outlines 79 individual objectives that support eradicating avoidable SUPs used by the Council by the end of 2024. Objectives span across multiple Council services including ICT (packaging), Integrated Commissioning & Procurement (stationery) and Facilities Management (cleaning products).
- 5.5 Successful recipient groups of the annual award of Our Manchester VCSFE Grants Programme funding completed a full day of Carbon Literacy Training. Content for two workshops for VCSFE sector leaders was developed and delivered to 35 represented groups by MCC Officers, in line with Carbon Literacy Day 2024 (4th December). Other MCC led Carbon Literacy Day activity includes delivery of carbon literacy taster activities for young people and two Climate Fresk workshops in libraries.
- 5.6 During the Cycle September campaign, over 10,500 miles were recorded by staff across the council cycling instead of driving or using public transport – this includes almost 4,000 miles from officers commuting to work. Manchester has also been successful in being named ACES European Capital of Cycling 2024
- 5.7 In early December all refreshed ward climate change action plans were made public on the MCC website, the plans can be viewed here - [Ward Climate Change Action Plans | Manchester City Council](#). All objectives within the plans are now SMART targets and will be reviewed and updated annually.

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 (October – December 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 Q3 Quarterly Progress Report October – December 2023