

Neighbourhoods and Environment Scrutiny Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on 18 July 2018

Present:

Councillor Igbon – in the Chair

Councillors Chohan, Flanagan, Harland, Hassan, Hewitson, Jeavons, Lyons, Noor, Reid, Sadler, White and Wright

Councillor Akbar, Executive Member for Neighbourhoods

Councillor Stogia, Executive Member for Environment, Planning and Transport

Jonny Sadler, Programme Director, Manchester Climate Change Agency

Apologies: Councillors Hughes and Kilpatrick

NESC/18/31 Minutes

The minutes of the Neighbourhoods and Environment Scrutiny Committee meeting of 20 June 2018 were submitted for approval. Councillor Azra Ali requested that her apologies be recorded.

A Member sought confirmation that the report that had been scheduled for this meeting on the Draft Resident Parking Policy would be considered at the September meeting. The Chair confirmed that this item would be considered at the Committee's September meeting.

Decision

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 20 June 2018 as a correct record subject to the above amendment.

NESC/18/32 Manchester Climate Change Annual Progress Report

The Committee considered the report of the Deputy Chief Executive (Growth and Neighbourhoods) that provided Members with an update on progress being made towards the delivery of the city's ambitions to reduce carbon emissions. It included details of the citywide progress towards the interim target of a 41% reduction in carbon emissions by 2020 from a 2005 baseline. It also detailed the Council's contribution towards this target via the reduction in direct carbon emissions attributed to the Council's activities since 2009/10. The latest data showed that citywide emissions had reduced by 34% since 2005 and the Council's direct emissions had reduced by 33.8% from a 2009/10 baseline. The report also provided information about the city's transition towards being a zero carbon city.

Officers referred to the main points and themes within the report which included:-

- Information on citywide activity being coordinated by the Manchester Climate Change Agency (MCCA) and the Council to address climate change, including information on the engagement with schools, partners and businesses;
- A detailed breakdown of the reduction in the Council's direct CO₂ emissions; and
- An update on the ambitions for the city post 2020.

Some of the key points that arose from the Committee's discussions were:-

- What was being done to support local businesses and that consideration should be given to establishing a Business Charter and an accreditation scheme;
- More needed to be done regarding connectivity across the city, including repairing canal paths to encourage cycling in north Manchester;
- Council policies and strategies, such as planning, transport and health needed to align to the Climate Change Action Plan. In particular as a result of the increased number of construction sites across the city and the impact this had on congestion, traffic flow and emissions. The issue of Planning conditions in relation to housing developments was also raised;
- Residents needed to be engaged in this activity and good practice should be shared across all wards;
- Ward coordination should be used to effectively communicate this activity and share good practice across wards;
- A publicity campaign should be developed to increase awareness about climate change activity with residents, and this campaign should be appropriate for all residents;
- The Universities should deploy their student volunteers to other areas of the city to support local residents and not just concentrate on the south area of the city;
- What was being done to address vehicles idling;
- What was being done to support Eco Schools and what benefits has this programme delivered; and
- What was being done to promote alternative travel for Council staff.

The Programme Director, MCCA informed the Committee that the MCCA had recently launched their 2018 Annual Report, and the headlines from the report was projected to reduce its carbon emissions by 38% 2020 from a 2005 baseline, against the 41% target; that the low carbon sector employed 38,000 people in Greater Manchester and this sector was expected to grow by 11% year on year nationally. He further described that the connection between health and carbon reduction was increasingly well understood and work to address air quality, and link into wider policies and strategies, including measures to address fuel poverty, into this area of work was ongoing. He further informed the Committee that the MCCA and Manchester Climate Change Board had adopted the Tyndall Centre on Climate Change recommendations that Manchester had a 15m tonne carbon budget and to meet this Manchester would have to reduce its emissions by 13% year on year. The Agency and Board launched this as a proposal to the city at the Manchester Climate Change Conference on 17 July 2018. Three strands of work are now planned. Firstly, work with key sectors and partners to develop draft action plans by October 2018 and final action plans by March 2019. Secondly, for Manchester City Council to deliver a resident-focused communications programme with residents. And thirdly for the Agency and Board to work with Manchester City Council with a view to the

carbon budget being adopted as formal Council policy by end-2018, on behalf of the city.

He said that the MCCA sought to influence and support partners across the city to engage in climate change activity and reduce emissions. He said that they did support local businesses, and made reference to the good work undertaken by the Greater Manchester Growth Company, but acknowledged more needed to be done in this area. He said that the annual report that had been published contained examples of the work undertaken by schools around this agenda and schools were keen to engage with this agenda; however, resources remained a challenge to meet the demand from schools. He said that there were many good examples of community and resident initiatives across the city, and they were working with community and faith groups to replicate these in other areas across the city. He further informed the Committee that the Universities were key partners to influence the significant student population within the city and both Universities would be invited to formally join the Manchester Climate Change Board. He also acknowledged the comments made regarding the need for an effective and coherent communications campaign and commented that engagement of residents was central to the success of this activity and a communications strategy would be developed by Manchester City Council.

The Strategic Lead Policy and Strategy said that a modal shift for staff travel when on Council business was already being promoted and encouraged through the use of the Manchester Car Club, active travel and public transport. He said that future consideration would also need to be given to policies regarding electric vehicles and mileage payments. He also said that if the 15m tonne carbon budget was to be formally adopted by the Council all strategies and action plans would be reviewed to ensure that the targets and progress reflected this.

The Executive Member for Environment, Planning and Transport said that the Council sought to influence partners and lead by example in regard to reducing carbon emissions. She said this was demonstrated by the use of estates; applying social value to procurement and developing and implementing policies, such as the Green and Blue Infrastructure Policy. She said that the Council remained committed to working with Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM) and the Greater Manchester Cycling and Walking Commissioner to increase active travel and improve public transport across the city. She further commented that TfGM had directed that buses should not idle and the wider work around air quality would seek to address the issue of cars idling near schools.

The Executive Member for Environment, Planning and Transport further commented that the Universities in Manchester were key partners to drive this agenda and their students undertook a number of days of voluntary and activity days. She commented that work was ongoing with the Universities to address the issues regarding waste and fly tipping in student areas at particular times of the academic year. She informed the Committee that a Manchester Nature Festival would be organised to showcase the good work undertaken by local community groups and this would help establish links between groups and share experience and good practice.

In response to comments made regarding LED street lighting the Executive Member for Environment, Planning and Transport said that it was anticipated that the installation of LEDs would be completed by September 2019. She said that information was available on the Council's website where residents could find out when changes were scheduled to be made and report any issues.

Decision

The Committee recommend:-

1. To establish a Task and Finish Group, the remit and scope to be agreed and that an invitation to join the group be extended to all Members of the Council.

NESC/18/33 Improving Road Safety Around Schools

The Chair recommended that consideration of this report be deferred to the September meeting as Members felt there were inaccuracies within the data that had been provided within the report. Members requested that when this report was considered again that the Executive Member for Schools, Culture and Leisure and the Director of Education be in attendance.

The Chair requested that if Members had identified any inaccuracies recorded against their ward, or phase 1 schemes that members did not support, to notify her via email and this would be relayed to the Executive Member for Environment, Planning and Transport and relevant officers.

Decisions

The Committee:-

1. Agreed to defer consideration of this item to the September meeting of the Committee;
2. Recommended that Members email the Chair with any identified inaccuracies in the report recorded against their ward or phase 1 schemes that members did not support, and
3. Recommended that when this report is considered again that the Executive Member for Schools, Culture and Leisure and the Director of Education be in attendance.

NESC/18/34 Overview Report

The report of the Governance and Scrutiny Support Unit which contained key decisions within the Committee's remit and responses to previous recommendations was submitted for comment. Members were also invited to agree the Committee's future work programme.

A Member commented that as the 'Improving Road Safety Around Schools' report had been deferred to the September meeting that the 'Greater Manchester Clean Air Plan' should be moved to the October meeting. The Deputy Chief Executive said that enquiries would be made to see if this item could be moved to a later meeting.

Decisions

The Committee:-

1. Notes the report; and
2. Approves the work programme subject to noting the above comments.