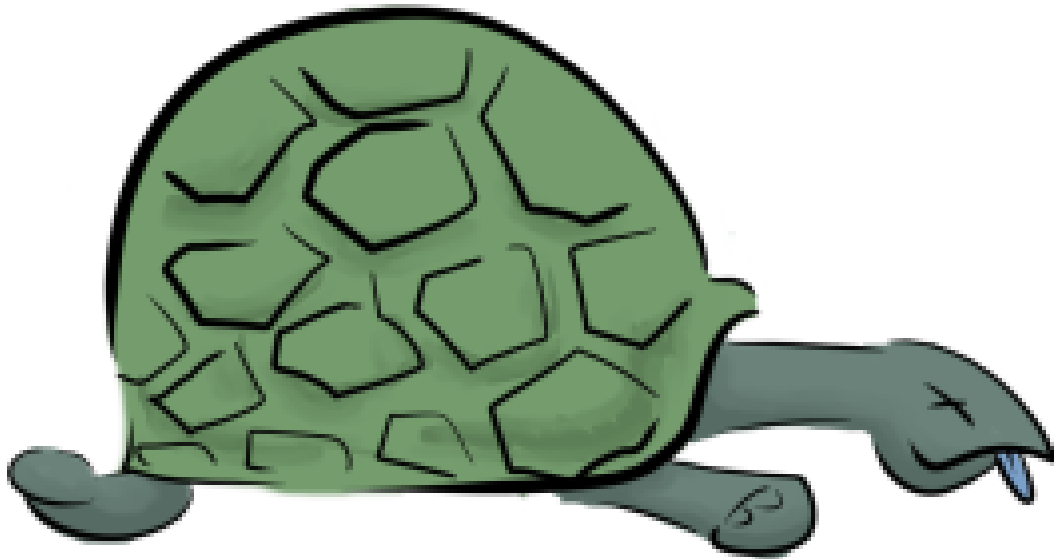


# **Hung Drawn and Quarterly #01: Dead Tortoise Society**



Manchester City Council and its  
performance on the Climate  
Emergency Declaration

July - October 2019



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## Acronyms

CED	Climate Emergency Declaration
CEM	Climate Emergency Manchester
FoIA	Freedom of Information Act
HMG	Her Majesty's Government
MCC	Manchester City Council
MCCA	Manchester Climate Change "Agency"
NESC	Neighbourhoods and Environment Scrutiny Committee
SMT	Strategic Management Team

## Thanks

This report has been put together by Climate Emergency Manchester's core group. The cartoons were kindly provided, at incredibly short notice, by Emma Judson. You can see Emma's work on Facebook at @Scribbles (Cartoon 'Ems - Commercial Illustration)

You can contact her at [info@thecanineconsultants.co.uk](mailto:info@thecanineconsultants.co.uk)

Her Patreon account is <https://www.patreon.com/foulmouthedfido>

Thanks to "X" for the logo!

We want to thank the bold new councillors on Manchester City Council who pushed for – and got- a climate emergency declaration. We hope that over the coming years they will come to occupy positions of responsibility within the Council. We will be watching, helping however we can, and, yes, scrutinising. Anything less would be a gross dereliction of our responsibilities as citizens.

This report is dedicated to three groups. Firstly, to the youth climate strikers in Manchester and all over the world. It is a matter of profound shame that you are having to take time out from your education to try to deal with the mess that generations of 'adults' have not stopped creating. We hope this report helps you understand how big and broad a struggle it will be to get fine words turned into deeds

Secondly to other species on this planet. Oops.

Finally, to the generations yet to come. You will, if you think about us at all, curse us. We are fighting for ourselves, and for you.

## Executive Summary

On July 10<sup>th</sup> 2019 Manchester City Council became one of the last of the big cities in the UK to declare a climate emergency. Its declaration contained 23 elements.

This report, based on Freedom of Information Act put forward by members of Climate Emergency Manchester, examines what the Council has actually done on each of the elements.

The Council has done very little or nothing to implement the actions in the declaration. In many cases it has merely continued existing activity (what we dub ‘tortoise’ actions). In some cases it has started new action, but very slowly (we dub these ‘slow tortoise’ actions). In far too many cases it has taken no action (dead tortoise).

For future reference: instances where the council makes brisk progress, we will be ‘hare actions’. Rapid transformation would be a hare with running shoes. We live in hope.

The Council has

- failed to allocate or seek any new resources to deal with climate change
- misinterpreted one of the core elements of the motion. Element 2 called on the Council to “*Explore the possibility of introducing a 2030 target in line with the IPCC report and request that a report on its viability be brought back to the Executive before the end of the year.*” Instead, the arms-length body controlled and funded by the Council, has requested that academics at the University of Manchester “*provide their advice on whether or not Manchester needs to update its zero carbon target in light of the latest science.*”
- taken no meaningful action on its own transport emissions, and has not discussed reducing air travel.
- held only one public meeting about the Climate Emergency Declaration, which many people left well before its official end.
- trained a mere 36 (out of 6,000) staff in ‘carbon literacy’

On the plus side it has...

- Created a ‘zero carbon coordination group’
- Er, that’s about it.

Most of the actions it says it has taken are primarily continuations of existing bureaucratic programmes, or things that the Council should have started doing almost ten years ago.

The report concludes that the City of Manchester is running the risk of a repeat of the period 2009-2013, where fine promises were followed by total failure. It is unlikely in the extreme that - without steadily growing citizen pressure on the Council from below- this pattern of low-ambition, low-urgency and secrecy will continue. It is up to citizens whether they accept business as usual. If they want a different future, they will need to organise, mobilise and, yes, movement-build for that future.

# Introduction

On Wednesday 10th July 2019, in front of a packed public gallery, Manchester City Council's 96 Councillors – 93 of them Labour, 3 Liberal Democrat - unanimously voted in favour of a motion to declare a climate emergency. Such was the fervour that an amendment from the tiny Liberal Democrat group that the Council should explore bringing forward the date of carbon neutrality to 2030, with a report to come to Executive by the end of the year, was also supported.

The declaration of an 'emergency' (hereafter CED - Climate Emergency Declaration) came against the backdrop of many other local authorities having already made such declarations, and a surge in protest by youth (Climate Strikes) and new groups such as Extinction Rebellion.

However, the City Council, almost exactly ten years ago, made similar commitments on climate change. The Manchester Climate Change Action Plan, agreed by the Executive in 2009, and the result of pressure from activist groups, made many commitments. The second headline goal of that Plan is worth noting, since it has palpably not been achieved.

*“To engage all individuals, neighbourhoods and organisations in Manchester in a process of cultural change that embeds ‘low carbon thinking’ into the lifestyles and operations of the city. To create a ‘low carbon culture’ we need to build a common understanding of the causes and implications of climate change, and to develop programmes of ‘carbon literacy’ and ‘carbon accounting’ so that new culture can become part of the daily lives of all individuals and organisations. Every one of the actions in our plan will contribute in some way to the development of ‘carbon literacy’ in the city. However, achieving a new low carbon culture – where thinking about counting carbon is embedded and routine – can only be delivered as a result of all the actions together, in an overall co-ordinated manner. Enabling a low carbon culture in the city will be particularly important if the challenge of meeting even more demanding carbon reduction targets between 2020 and 2050 is to be met.”*

Since that Plan was released in 2009 there have been conferences, relaunches, promises, hirings, firings, the abolition of the Environmental Sustainability Team etc etc. Activists have repeatedly had to resort to the Freedom of Information Act to extract the most basic information from the Council about its (lack of) performance.

Fearful that the past - promises made and largely ignored - will be a guide to the future, Climate Emergency Manchester has decided that it will produce, every three months, a quarterly report on how the City Council is performing against the promises made in July 2019. You are reading the **first of these reports**, and we would welcome your comments, criticisms, fact-checking and suggestions. If you want to get involved in making future reports better, please get in touch - [climateemergencymanchester@gmail.com](mailto:climateemergencymanchester@gmail.com) .

A fuller version of the history of Manchester City Council's (in)action on climate change can be found in another Climate Emergency Manchester document - Deeds not Words - released in July 2019. <https://climateemergencymanchester.files.wordpress.com/2019/07/cem-cdnw-2019-07-four-pager-1.pdf>

## Methodology

We examined most of the 23 elements of the Climate Emergency Declaration. For those where there was no publicly available information to clarify what was being done, we submitted Freedom of Information Act requests. For some of these, as you shall see, our questions were either not specific enough, or were sidestepped. We will get better at this.

Once we received the answers, we assessed what action had been taken. Given the atmosphere of the debate in which the motion was passed, we were hoping to find some speedy action, like a hare. We even hoped to find a hare lacing up athletics spikes. Instead, we found only tortoises, slow tortoises and dead tortoises.

Sadly, in this report we find that very little has been done about most of the elements of the declaration. There is either a wilful (?) misinterpretation of what Councillors called for (element 2), or else business as usual (the wheels of bureaucracy grind slowly) or a complete lack of any action. None of these seem in line with the declaration of an emergency.

*Why we have collated the report.*

We know from long experience that Manchester City Council is extremely reluctant to give timely and detailed updates against its promises on climate change. This is why taking matters into our own hands.

*Who we think will benefit from reading it.*

Citizens of Manchester (and beyond) who attended the debate or followed the CED and are now wondering: what next? Anyone who wants to see real action. If you like feel-good events and mild exhortations that 'we have to do better', then, well, maybe this kind of report is not for you.

*About the tone*

We are aware that the tone sometimes strays from the flat language of bureaucrats and the reports of other organisations. This is precisely because this language can be used to bury issues and evade actions. The tone will not be to everyone's liking. We know that the tone sounds angry, annoyed. This is because those compiling it (in their own time, unpaid) are indeed angry. Again, this is just the first of a series of publications and offers to join the editorial team are welcome.

*Format of the report.*

On the next page you can find the details of a FOIA about spending by the Council on the Climate Emergency since the July 10<sup>th</sup> declaration.

On the following two pages you find a summary of the 23 elements and our assessment

After that, we detail each of the elements for which we submitted FoIAs, and then list the questions we asked. We then supply the answers we received (with some light editing for concision – where we do this we are clear). We then make comments on what has been (not) said and (not) done by the council. We then give each element a verdict.

After that, we make some recommendations for action over the next three months.

Information about CEM and how you can get involved follow.

A list of some upcoming events concludes the report.

## **What new resources has the Council allocated and looked for?**

In early September a Freedom of Information Act request was sent to Manchester City Council. On 27th September the reply was received. The questions are in bold, the answers in plain text.

**What additional resources has Manchester City Council made available for environmental policy-making and implementation since the declaration of climate emergency on July 10th 2019? Please include any information on whether:**

**A) Existing staff have been seconded onto this work area**

No additional staff have been seconded to work on this area since July 2019. The Council has continued to second two members of staff to the Manchester Climate Change Agency to work on this agenda. These staff work closely with a number of city council staff who are taking forward different initiatives to deliver carbon reductions.

**B) Any budget or other resources have been made available which were not previously available, and from which other areas of Council budget they have been resourced**

Since the Climate Emergency was declared in July 2019 several member of staff have been requested to carry out work relating to climate change activity as part of their current roles. As such we do not hold any information regarding the specific value of this.


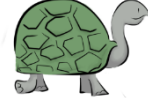
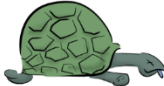
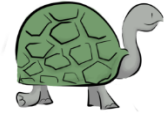


**C) What additional sources of revenue/support have been identified by the Council to support this work assuming the answer to C) is not 'no additional sources', then**







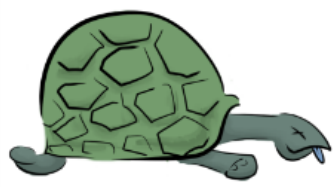
As above.

**D) Details of any bids submitted - to what organisations, and how much money/resources have been sought.**

No bids have been submitted since July 2019. We will continue to explore opportunities to bid for external funding where these would complement our work in this area. We are also engaged in a number of externally funded projects which are delivering results in Manchester from a carbon reduction perspective.


## The City Council's action & inaction since 11th July 2019

	<b>Commitment</b>	<b>VERDICT</b>
1	Declare a Climate Emergency.	<b>Completed</b> (by definition)
2	Continue working with partners across Manchester and GMCA to deliver the 2038 target, and determine if an earlier target can be possible, through a transparent and open review. Explore the possibility of introducing a 2030 target in line with the IPCC report and request that a report on its viability be brought back to the Executive before the end of the year.	<b>INADEQUATE</b> Council has ignored content of the motion, and appears not to be undertaking promised open and transparent review. The end of the year is now only 2.5 months away.
3	Become carbon neutral by the earliest possible date.	See above
4	Encourage involvement in all wards by April 2020 through meetings as part of the <a href="#">Our Manchester strategy</a> , to identify residents and partners who want to be actively involved in achieving the target, with provision for those who cannot attend. Ensure ward plans contain specific, measurable, achievable steps.	 To our knowledge, only one ward level meeting has been held, which did not allow participants to talk about the climate emergency declaration. 31 meetings will need to be held in the next six months.
5	Review all policies, processes and procedures to ensure the council can become carbon neutral	 <b>A start</b> has been made, but much depends on openness and transparency.
6	Present an action plan by March 2020 detailing how the city can stay within its carbon budget.	<b>N/A</b> The detail of the plan, to be published in February 2020, will be interesting.
7	Report back regularly to the NESC. (Neighbourhoods and Environment Scrutiny Committee)	
8	Review the corporate plan	 A start has been made, but much depends on openness and transparency
9	Work with the Tyndall Centre to review the actual emissions from aviation. Investigate the best way to include aviation in our overall carbon reduction programme in the long term.	<b>UNCLEAR.</b> There is no clarity from the Council about when this review will take place, how much it will cost, when the results will be released.
10	Make climate breakdown and the environment, an integral part of activity throughout the Council, including all decision making, ensuring key decisions take into account the impact on achieving the zero-carbon target and including an environmental impact assessment in all relevant committee reports.	<b>UNCLEAR.</b> The council did not provide an adequate answer to our FoIA, and we do not yet have the capacity to monitor all key decisions ourselves.
11	Ensure that everyone in the council receives carbon literacy training by the end of 2020. Make attendance easier by varying times and length of sessions.	 .Only 36 extra staff have been trained between July 10 <sup>th</sup> and early October. Given that the Council has 6000 staff, most untrained, this is a very slow start
12	Encourage all staff on council business to use the lowest carbon, appropriate, travel.	 The council has sent exhorting/guilt-tripping emails to staff, failed to investigate a bikeshare scheme, failed to improve the quality of its grey fleet, allowed further internal to UK flights (return trip to Edinburgh) and held no discussions about


		reducing air travel.
13	Investigate measures to ensure future procurement is carbon neutral. Increase the percentage of social value with an additional environmental element.	 (though actions cited may have begun before declaration)
14	Work with suppliers to green their supply chains, and support local production	 (actions cited may have begun before declaration)
15	Work with training providers to ensure Manchester residents can take on green jobs	
16	Investigate and introduce measures to help reach domestic zero carbon levels including addressing fuel poverty and retrofitting existing homes.	 Ongoing action is being dressed up as new action.
17	Investigate ways to ensure that future local plans place a mandatory requirement for all new development to be net zero carbon by the earliest possible date.	
18	Push GMCA to decarbonise public transport, heat and energy as early as possible.	
19	Through our role on GMPF, encourage divestment in fossil fuels as early as possible	
20	Call on the government to: Provide powers and resources to make the zero-carbon target possible including funding for big capital projects.	
21	Accelerate the reduction of carbon emissions from aviation.	
22	Accelerate the decarbonisation of the electricity grid, funding low carbon energy generation.	
23	Ensure that the <a href="#">UK prosperity fund</a> focuses on enabling the transition to a low carbon economy.	

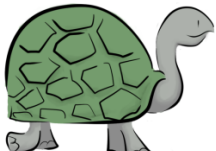


## The FoIAS, answers, comments and verdicts


Element 2	Continue working with partners across Manchester and GMCA to deliver the 2038 target, and determine if an earlier target can be possible, through a transparent and open review. Explore the possibility of introducing a 2030 target in line with the IPCC report and request that a report on its viability be brought back to the Executive before the end of the year.”
Question	What actions have been taken to “explore the possibility of introducing a 2030 target” by the Executive Member for the Environment and other responsible actors within the Council? Has Tyndall Centre Manchester been asked to undertake work for the Council? What budget has been allocated? When is a report to be produced - if indeed it is. Please provide copies of correspondence between the Council and Tyndall Centre Manchester about this. Is there to be a public consultation on this, since a 'transparent and open review' is called for. When and how will this public consultation be undertaken?”
Answer	Manchester City Council is aware, via its membership on the Manchester Climate Change Board, that the Manchester Climate Change Agency have asked the Tyndall Centre to provide their advice on whether or not Manchester needs to update its zero carbon target in light of the latest science and the city’s recent carbon reduction performance. The Tyndall Centre’s response will inform the development of the final Manchester Zero Carbon Framework, which the Manchester Climate Change Agency is currently developing. This work will be made publicly available once it is completed.
Comments	Council has ignored content of the amendment to the motion, and seems not to be undertaking ANY PART of the promised “open and transparent review” with a report to Executive by December. Presenting the results as a fait accompli is not transparent and open. Will be interesting indeed to see if Liberal Democrats respond to this, and how they do so.
Verdict	 <p>WORSE THAN USELESS. Immensely destructive of trust.</p>

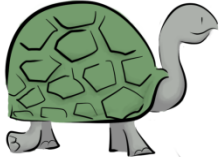
Element 4	Encourage involvement in all wards by April 2020 through meetings as part of the Our Manchester strategy, to identify residents and partners who want to be actively involved in achieving the target, with provision for those who cannot attend. Ensure ward plans contain specific, measurable, achievable steps.
Question	The fourth item within the motion says the Council must encourage involvement in all wards. Setting aside the fact that goal two of the original 2009 plan called for this; What efforts have been made so far by the Executive Member for the Environment to "encourage involvement of all 32 wards" in holding meetings. Please provide minutes of meetings between the Exec Member and relevant others (councillors, ward co-ordinator officers, other officers) at which the format and timing these ward-based meetings was discussed (or if minutes do not exist, dates and attendance). If the answer is 'no meetings', when will these meetings begin?
Answer	The Executive Member for Environment, Planning and Transport met with the Strategic Director - Neighbourhoods for monthly discussions on the following dates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 31 July 2019</li> <li>● 2 September 2019</li> <li>● 1 October 2019</li> </ul>

	Minutes of these meetings do not exist but the climate emergency and the Neighbourhood Services response was discussed. These discussions have resulted in <u>a report on neighbourhood activity which will be considered at the Climate Change Sub Group on 22 October 2019.</u>
Comments	Is it normal for meetings not to be minuted? Will members of NESC be invited to attend? To our knowledge, only one ward level meeting has been held, which did not allow participants to talk about the climate emergency declaration and was staggeringly white.
Verdict	

Element 5	Review all policies, processes and procedures to ensure the council can become carbon neutral
Question	The fifth item within the motion calls for a review of existing policies. Which policies, processes and procedures have been reviewed so far? If the answer is 'none', when will the review process start, and which policies will be the first to be reviewed?
Answer	All Council policies will be reviewed by the <u>Zero Carbon Coordination Group. The Group had its first meeting on 16 September.</u> To date no policies have been formally reviewed and a start date has not been set. A number of policies have been identified as priorities including staff and elected member travel, procurement and commissioning, capital and revenue gateway, and grants.
Comments	Oooh, a new Four Letter Acronym group. Some of us are old enough to remember the Environmental Strategy Programme Board, from a previous upswing of promising 10 years ago. Btw, a FoIA has been submitted about the membership, remit, regularity of meeting, possibilities of attendance as observers by public/councillors has been sent to the City Council. The reply will be posted on Climate Emergency Manchester's website when it is received
Verdict	

Element 7	Report back regularly to the NESC
Question	The seventh item within the motion calls for reports to the Neighbourhoods and Environment Scrutiny Committee, which meets ten times a year. No such report was made in September 2019, which some might consider somewhat alarming, albeit typical. Has a decision been made about how frequently the Executive Member will report back on progress to achieving the CE motion goals to the Neighbourhoods anEnvironment Scrutiny?
Answer	A climate change actions update report was provided Neighborhoods and Environment Scrutiny Committee on 17 July 2019. At this meeting it was decided that: a. The Committee recommends that a Subgroup of the Neighborhoods and Environment Scrutiny Committee be established to review and monitor the work related to Climate Change. b. The Committee recommends that the Chair of the Committee consult with the

	<p>Member proposing the Subgroup to consider the best options for progressing this and report back to the Committee.</p> <p>The first meeting of the Subgroup will be held on 22 October 2019.</p> <p>A Climate Change update report is <u>currently scheduled</u> to be brought to the Neighbourhoods and Environment Scrutiny Committee on 5th February 2020.</p>
Comments	<p>If this is an emergency, there would be monthly updates, and climate change would be a monthly standing item on the NESC but also the Executive. Less than quarterly would not even be 'regular', by the most generous definition.</p> <p>It is also amusing to remember that late last year the current Executive member for the Environment cancelled, with no consultation, the quarterly reports about the City Council's own carbon emissions.....</p>
Verdict	


Element 8	Review the corporate plan
Question	The eighth item within the motion calls for a review of the corporate plan. Has the review of the corporate plan begun? If so, who is doing the reviewing and how? If it has NOT begun, when will it begin, and how will the review be undertaken - who will be involved? What external-to-the- Council stakeholders will be involved, how?
Answer	<p>The review of the Council's Corporate Plan has commenced and will be discussed at the Council's Strategic Management Team (SMT) on 8 October 2019. James Binks, Director of Policy, Performance and Reform, is the lead officer for this work, but the Corporate Plan is a whole-Council priority for the whole of SMT.</p> <p>The review will involve engagement with a range of officers and services across the Council. The review is expected to give increased prominence to the Council's roles in delivering the zero carbon ambition for the city.</p> <p>The Corporate Plan is an internal document that describes the City Council's roles and priorities to deliver the ambitions for the city set out in the Our Manchester Strategy. The original plan was adopted in Autumn 2018. External stakeholders are therefore not directly involved in its production. External stakeholders are fully involved in the design and development of all the key strategies for the city, such as the recent Our Manchester Industrial Strategy, the Family Poverty Strategy, and the Our Manchester Strategy itself.</p>
Comments	Well, some progress <i>might</i> get made, but nothing has actually been done yet. We shall see.....
Verdict	


Element 9	Work with the Tyndall Centre to review the actual emissions from aviation. Investigate the best way to include aviation in our overall carbon reduction programme in the long term.
Question	The ninth item within the motion calls for the Council to work with the Tyndall Centre to review actual emissions from the airport. Has work with the Tyndall Centre begun to review the actual emissions? If so, when will this review be

	finalised? When will it be made public? If it has NOT begun, a) why not and b) when will it begin?
Answer	The Council are aware, through our role on the Manchester Climate Change Board, that the Manchester Climate Change Agency are in discussions with the Tyndall Centre about how best to represent emissions from the Airport. The findings of this work will be included in the final Manchester Zero Carbon Framework.
Comments	As per element two, this is a masterclass in evasion and secrecy, failing to provide any meaningful answer or transparency, thanks to arms-lengthing out to a board, and an agency, all of which are organisations funded by the Council.
Verdict	<b>UNCLEAR.</b> There is no clarity from the Council about when this review will take place, how much it will cost, when the results will be released.

Element 10	Make climate breakdown and the environment, an integral part of activity throughout the Council, including all decision making, ensuring key decisions take into account the impact on achieving the zero-carbon target and including an environmental impact assessment in all relevant committee reports.
Question	The tenth item within the motion calls for the Council to “make climate breakdown and the environment, an integral part of activity throughout the Council, including all decision making, ensuring key decisions take into account the impact on achieving the zero-carbon target”. Please provide a list of all key decisions that have been taken between 11 <sup>th</sup> July 2019 and 7th September 2019. If documentary evidence exists of climate impacts being actively considered in these decisions, please provide it. If no such documentary evidence exists, please explain when the Climate Emergency Declaration will start to have effect.
Answer	Key Decisions can be searched on the Council’s website: <a href="https://democracy.manchester.gov.uk/mgDelegatedDecisions.aspx?bcr=1&amp;DM=0&amp;DS=2&amp;K=0&amp;DR=&amp;V=0">https://democracy.manchester.gov.uk/mgDelegatedDecisions.aspx?bcr=1&amp;DM=0&amp;DS=2&amp;K=0&amp;DR=&amp;V=0</a> Executive papers from the 24 July 2019 meeting are available on the Council’s website below: <a href="https://democracy.manchester.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CI=147&amp;MI=617&amp;Ver=4">https://democracy.manchester.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CI=147&amp;MI=617&amp;Ver=4</a>
Comments	NOT an answer Probably need to do this ourselves. And focus on planning and highways committees??!
Verdict	<b>UNCLEAR.</b> There is no clarity from the Council about when this review will take place, how much it will cost, when the results will be released.


Element 11	Ensure that everyone in the council receives carbon literacy training by the end of 2020. Make attendance easier by varying times and length of sessions.
Question	The eleventh item within the motion calls for the Council to “ensure that everyone in the council receives carbon literacy training by the end of 2020. Make attendance easier by varying times and length of sessions”. How many carbon literacy training sessions have been held for councillors and staff since July 11th 2019? Please provide the names of councillors and members of the SMT who attended, and the raw numbers of other officers/employees who attended. What planning has been undertaken to ensure that all council staff and officers receive the day’s training by the end of 2020, since this is a huge task.
Answer	Manchester Metropolitan University ran a session on 25th July with the following members of SMT; Carol Culley, Bernadette Enright, Eddie Smith, David Regan,


	<p>Fiona Worrall, Joanne Roney.</p> <p>Two other sessions have been held and 30 staff have been trained since 11 July 2019.</p> <p>6 Council staff have been trained by MMU to be able to deliver Carbon Literacy Training. Training dates are being arranged for the rest of the financial year.</p> <p>The Neighbourhoods Directorate and specifically the area based Neighbourhood Team Officers will be a priority for future training.</p> <p>Presentations and workshops on climate change have been delivered to Neighbourhoods and Strategic Development Wider Leadership Team; Performance Research and Intelligence; Reform and Innovation; and a session is scheduled with City Centre Regeneration.</p> <p>A workshop with up to 70 senior managers is being delivered at the Council's Leadership Summit on 14 October 2019.</p> <p>A workshop on climate change has been developed for staff Listening in Action sessions and has been delivered at the two sessions in late September/early October and will continue to be delivered at future sessions.</p> <p>The documentary Before the Flood was screened to staff twice during the 20 September Climate Strike.</p> <p>A meeting between the Council's Deputy Chief Executive and Phil Korbel from Cooler Projects has been scheduled for 13 November 2019.</p>
Comments	<p>Three sessions, 36 people. In three months. No additional councillors</p> <p>Will there be a database of councillors or will CEM have to do that?</p> <p>Will there be a tabulation of staff or will CEM have to do that?</p>
Verdict	


Element 12	Encourage all staff on council business to use the lowest carbon, appropriate, travel.
Question	The twelfth item within the motion calls for the Council to "Encourage all staff on council business to use the lowest carbon, appropriate, travel". What actions have been taken in the last 2 months to encourage staff (and elected members) on council business to walk instead of taking taxis?
Answer	Sustainable travel information is available for staff on the councils Intranet site. All staff are regularly sent emails promoting sustainable travel. (three examples were attached)
Comments	Exhorting and guilt-tripping staff is not 'action'
Verdict	

Element 12	Encourage all staff on council business to use the lowest carbon, appropriate, travel.
Question	Is the council considering implementing a bike share scheme for its own staff?
Answer	See answer to question 1 above. The Council will consider a bike share scheme as part of our future climate change action plan activity.
Comments	Zero commitment to cycling, just vague and un-timed to 'consider'. It's all in the future!


Verdict	
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Element 12	Encourage all staff on council business to use the lowest carbon, appropriate, travel.
Question (FOIA)	In the past 2 months what actions have been taken to improve the efficiency of the City Council's grey fleet?
Answer	The definition of the grey fleet is personal vehicles used by staff to carry out their work duties. To date <b>no policies have been implemented to improve the efficiency of the grey fleet.</b> (emphasis added)
Comments	And this is a council that has talked about climate change for ten years
Verdict	

Element 12	Encourage all staff on council business to use the lowest carbon, appropriate, travel.
Question	Please provide a list of all flights - dates and destinations - taken by any elected member and staff for the period between 11th July and 7 <sup>th</sup> September. For flights taken by elected members and members of the Strategic Management Team, please also provide the name(s) of the individuals flying.
Answer	ONE RETURN FLIGHT TO EDINBURGH in August
Comments	Are we having an effect? Flying seems to be down MARKEDLY over the last couple of years.... Still, it's flight within the UK. WTAF.
Verdict	

Element 12	Encourage all staff on council business to use the lowest carbon, appropriate, travel.
Question	Please supply details of any minutes discussions held by the relevant elected members and SMT about instituting policies which would reduce the amount of air travel undertaken by Council staff/elected members.
Answer	To date no discussions have taken place between elected members and SMT regarding policies to reduce air travel. It is the Council's intention to develop a staff travel policy which will include guidance on all travel for Council business including by air.
Comments	Manchester City Council has been asked for YEARS about a policy that reduces air travel. Has always given the same answer (this one).
Verdict	


Element 12	Encourage all staff on council business to use the lowest carbon, appropriate, travel.
Question (FOIA)	Will the Council be creating an online database of flights its members and officers take on Council business that is updated on a weekly basis? If not, why not?


Answer	The Council does not intend to create an online database of flights. With limited resources and budgets we will be focusing on delivering actions to reduce carbon emissions as opposed to developing and maintaining an online database.
Comments	Looks like a job for a superhero. Is it a bird? Is it a plane (hope not). NO, it's "Monthly FOIA"
Verdict	

Element 13	Investigate measures to ensure future procurement is carbon neutral. Increase the percentage of social value with an additional environmental element.
Question	The thirteenth item within the motion calls for the Council to "Investigate measures to ensure future procurement is carbon neutral. Increase the percentage of social value with an additional environmental element." Since July 11th 2019 what investigations have been undertaken to ensure future procurement by the City Council is carbon neutral?
Answer	The Council are currently reviewing the feasibility of increasing the social value weighting on tenders to 30% with the additional 10% focussing on the environment. This is currently being trialled on two live tenders.
Comments	It is unclear (because we were not specific in the FoIA) whether this was pre-existing work. i.e. perhaps nothing new has been done since July 10 <sup>th</sup> ...
Verdict	

Element 14 & 15	14. Work with suppliers to green their supply chains, and support local production 15. Work with training providers to ensure Manchester residents can take on green jobs
Question	The fourteenth item within the motion calls for the Council to "work with suppliers to green their supply chains, and support local production". Since July 11th 2019 what work has been undertaken with suppliers to green their supply chains? The fifteenth item within the motion calls for the Council to "work with training providers to ensure Manchester residents can take on green jobs". Since July 11th 2019 what work has been undertaken with training providers to ensure Manchester residents can take on green jobs?
Answer	The Council facilitated a workshop event called 'Demand for Green Skills & Clean Growth: Zero Carbon Manchester' on Monday 22 July with Manchester organisations connected to the green economy to start conversations on the skills needed within the city's organisations for Manchester's 2038 zero carbon target to be achieved. Members of staff from the Council also attended a Clean Energy Skills Summit hosted by Manchester Metropolitan University on Friday 6 September which considered what skills will be required within the Green Economy to reach zero carbon targets, and how higher education can help support the development of that pipeline. The Council arranged a session with existing ICT suppliers on Tuesday 17 September which included a workshop on how suppliers can engage with the zero carbon agenda.





	The MCC Zero Carbon Action Plan, to be published in March 2020, will include specific objectives regarding work we will undertake to green the supply chain. (an answer for both)
Comments	Bravo- but should be seen in context of ten years of promises. The answer “to <i>start</i> conversations” is a tacit admission of total failure over the past decade.
Verdict	


Element 16	Investigate and introduce measures to help reach domestic zero carbon levels including addressing fuel poverty and retrofitting existing homes.
Question	The sixteenth item within the motion calls for the Council to “Investigate and introduce measures to help reach domestic zero carbon levels including addressing fuel poverty and retrofitting existing homes”. Since July 11th 2019, what investigations have been undertaken to introduce measures to help the city reach zero carbon levels from domestic properties, with relation to fuel poverty and retrofit? Who has undertaken those investigations? When will these be presented to a scrutiny committee/other relevant body?
Answer	The Family Poverty Strategy ‘Basics’ group continue to coordinate the response to addressing fuel poverty. The group is chaired by the Council’s Head of Housing and is attended by Registered Housing Providers and Citizens Advice. The Council continues to work with the GMCA to develop a domestic housing retrofit approach for Greater Manchester. The Council has recently supported the Solar Together project <a href="https://www.solartogether.co.uk/manchester/home">https://www.solartogether.co.uk/manchester/home</a> which promotes group buying of solar panels to reduce costs. Work is underway to assess the existing energy efficiency and retrofit offer for owner occupied, private rented and social housing properties. This work will inform the next version of the Climate Change Action Plan which will be considered by Neighbourhoods and Environment Scrutiny Committee in February 2020 and Executive in March 2020.
Comments	Council supported Solar Together? How? How much money? What success metrics? When will it be evaluated? (And yes, we’ve going to FOIA that) This answer is about a continuation (but not intensification) of existing work. No evidence of additional resources or urgency at all.
Verdict	

Element 17	Investigate ways to ensure that future local plans place a mandatory requirement for all new development to be net zero carbon by the earliest possible date.
Question	The seventeenth item within the motion calls for the Council to “Investigate ways to ensure that future local plans place a mandatory requirement for all new development to be net zero carbon by the earliest possible date”. Since July 11th 2019, what investigations have been undertaken into ways the Council can ensure local plans place a mandatory requirement for all new development to be net zero carbon by the earliest possible date? Who has undertaken those investigations? When will these be presented to a scrutiny committee/other relevant body?
Answer	The current timescales for the Local Plan are as follows. A report to the Council’s





	<p>Economy Scrutiny Committee is likely to be scheduled for late 2019.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Issues and Options – consult in autumn 2019</li> <li>● Prepare draft plan – consult in autumn 2020</li> <li>● Publication of Manchester Local Plan – consult in summer 2021</li> <li>● Submission to Secretary of State – submit in winter 2021</li> <li>● Examination of the plan – from spring 2022</li> <li>● Adoption of Manchester Local Plan – spring 2023</li> </ul>
Comments	Four years. Yep, seems like an entirely adequate and appropriate emergency response to us.
Verdict	


Element 18	Push GMCA to decarbonise public transport, heat and energy as early as possible.
Question	The eighteenth item within the motion calls for the Council to “push GMCA to decarbonise public transport, heat and energy as early as possible”. Please provide copies of any correspondence between the Executive Member for the Environment with GMCA/TfGM about decarbonising public transport that were sent after July 11th 2019, and the reply from GMCA/TfGM.
Answer	No such correspondence exists.
Comments	You guys are not even trying, are you?
Verdict	

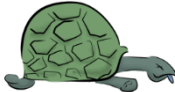
Element 18	Push GMCA to decarbonise public transport, heat and energy as early as possible.
Question	Since July 11th 2019, what representations has Manchester City Council made to GMCA about decarbonised heat? Who made the representations, when, how? What response, if any, has been received?
Answer	The Leader of the Council represents the Council at the GMCA meetings. This issue was discussed at the 27 September 2019 under item 19 below. <a href="https://democracy.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CIId=136&amp;MIId=264&amp;Ver=4">https://democracy.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CIId=136&amp;MIId=264&amp;Ver=4</a>
Comments	Nah, that’s just a meeting. And the item (19) about heat was introduced Councillor Andrew Western, Portfolio Lead for Green City Region. The reply says nothing about what representations MCC has made, which was what was in the FOIA.
Verdict	


Element 19	Through our role on GMPF, encourage divestment in fossil fuels as early as possible
Question	The nineteenth item within the motion calls for the Council through its “role on GMPF, encourage divestment in fossil fuels as early as possible.” Since July 11th 2019,, what representations has Manchester City Council made to GMPF about the earliest possible divestment from fossil fuels? Who made the representations, when, how? What response, if any, has been received?
Answer	In Cllr Stogia asked members of the Council’s SMT to contact GMPF to encourage

	divestment from fossil fuels. A response was received from the GMPF on 18 July 2019. A letter from Cllr Paul Andrews, Manchester City Council’s representative on the GMPF has been drafted to the Chair of the GMPF in response.
Comments	In the last three months there have been ‘contacts’ from the City Council’s Strategic Management Team. What does that even mean - is that a text – what emojis were used? a Tweet? a Tindr message? And a draft of a reply. In three months.
Verdict	

Element 20	Call on the government to: Provide powers and resources to make the zero-carbon target possible including funding for big capital projects.
Question	The twentieth item within the motion calls for the Council to “ask the government to provide powers and resources to make the zero-carbon target possible including funding for big capital projects.” Since July 11th 2019, what representations has Manchester City Council made to HMG about this? Who made the representations, when, how? What response, if any, has been received? (Please provide copies of all correspondence)
Answer	Sir Richard Leese, the Leader of the Council has signed a Core Cities Declaration to government which includes asks for a £1 billion Low Carbon City Investment Fund and an enhanced Clean Air Fund of £1.5 billion. The declaration will be published on the Core Cities website below on Monday 7 October. <a href="https://www.corecities.com/">https://www.corecities.com/</a>
Comments	The Core Cities make these sorts of declarations all the time. Can’t find the declaration on the Core Cities website, so it’s hardly a big item. MCC does not seem to have made any separate representation on this, though you can’t really blame them I suppose – I mean, it would be a waste of a second class stamp)
Verdict	

Element 21	Accelerate the reduction of carbon emissions from aviation.
Question	The twenty-first item within the motion calls for the Council to “ask the government to provide powers and resources accelerate the reduction of carbon emissions from aviation.” Since July 11th 2019, what representations has Manchester City Council made to HMG about this? Who made the representations, when, how. What response, if any, has been received? (please provide copies of all correspondence)
Answer	To date no representations have been made by Manchester City Council to HMG regarding this issue.
Comments	To be fair, given the current state of play in Westminster/Whitehall, the City Council probably thinks it would be a waste of a second class stamp?
Verdict	

Element 22	Accelerate the decarbonisation of the electricity grid, funding low carbon energy generation.
Question	The twenty-second item within the motion calls for the Council to “ask the government accelerate the decarbonisation of the electricity grid, funding low carbon energy generation. De-carbonisation of the electricity grid, funding low carbon energy generation.” Since July 11 <sup>th</sup> 2019, what representations has Manchester City Council made to HMG about this? Who made the representations, when, how. What response, if any, has been received? (please provide copies of all correspondence)
Answer	To date no representations have been made by Manchester City Council to HMG regarding this issue.
Comments	To be fair, given the current state of play in Westminster/Whitehall, the City Council probably thinks it would be a waste of a second class stamp?
Verdict	

Element 23	Ensure that the UK prosperity fund focuses on enabling the transition to a low carbon economy.
Question	The twenty-third item within the motion calls for the Council to “ensure that the UK prosperity fund focuses on enabling the transition to a low carbon economy”. Since July 11 <sup>th</sup> 2019, what representations has Manchester City Council made to HMG about this? Who made the representations, when, how. What response, if any, has been received? (please provide copies of all correspondence)
Answer	To date no representations have been made by Manchester City Council to HMG regarding this issue.
Comments	To be fair, given the current state of play in Westminster/Whitehall, the City Council probably thinks it would be a waste of a second class stamp?
Verdict	

# Recommendations for the next three months

## For individuals

- Identify other people who you live with/near, work with, pray with, study with who give a damn about climate breakdown. Ask them to work with you on some sort of joint project, ideally one focussed on forcing Manchester City Council to keep its fine promises
- Contact your local councillors and share this report with them. Explain that you're not happy, and you want to see real action, real fast, and that action includes things in your wards. Make sure that element 4 of this plan doesn't just get the usual tick-box treatment.
- We would urge people NOT give into the despair or nihilism.
- Get involved in functional groups that are interested in your skills, your knowledge (and want to help you increase them), and that understand the limitations on your time and energy (kids, sick parents, zero hour contracts, poverty, non-arrestability etc.)

We would *love* to have you get involved in CEM activities. There is a 'get involved' form on our website, or you can just email us on [climateemergencymanchester@gmail.com](mailto:climateemergencymanchester@gmail.com). But if it turns out CEM is not how you want to spend your pre-apocalypse years (or months), we will point you to other groups more to your liking. Some specific jobs and tasks that CEM is looking for people to take on.

Job 1: Adopt an element of this motion, and start to monitor progress towards it (we can help you with this)

Job 2: Form or strengthen relationships with people who live in the same neck of the woods as you, so you can approach your local councillors en masse and demand real/immediate climate action.

Job 3: Identify groups similar to CEM in the UK (i.e. groups trying to hold movement-build for local action (i.e. no car/train trips required), and hold local authorities to account). Supply their contact details to CEM so we can make common cause.

Job 4: Critique this report. What could be better for the next one, which will be released on or about January 10th 2020?

## For council

- Take element 2 seriously. Seriously.
- Improve the quality (and quantity) of the ward meetings (element 4).
- Start doing quarterly (or monthly) progress reports unbidden. This will be more transparent and also cheaper, since it is a pain in the ass for activists, and an expense for officers. Surely it is better to be honest and open than to continue to be seen as secretive and defensive?

## About CEM

Climate Emergency Manchester is a new(ish) group of concerned citizens. So far we have produced a detailed set of proposals about how the Climate Emergency Declaration of July 2018 could be more quickly implemented (“Climate Deeds not Words”), and also made concrete suggestions for the improvement of the scrutiny process at Manchester City Council. Alongside this we have given talks and run workshops at various locations in the city (thanks to those who have invited us, enabled us to do this!). We are also (still) collecting signatures on the climate emergency petition we started in March.

We are having intense internal discussions about our precise aims and goals. Watch our soon-to-be-overhauled website for more on this, but for now this will do: We want to work, supportively and collaboratively, with people and organisations in Manchester, especially beyond the ‘usual suspects’. We want to help make real, long-lasting and radical improvements in how the city reduces its environmental impacts (not just carbon dioxide) and prepares for the horrors to come. And we are going to do our best to hold our elected and unelected leaders to account for their promises and (in)actions.

### *Get involved*

You can get involved by emailing us and telling us who you are, what sorts of things you’d like to do. One of us will be in touch. You can look at the jobs and roles pages on our website too, to see if anything takes your fancy.

## Events coming up in next month

**Thursday 17<sup>th</sup>, 3-5pm** Manchester Environmental Education Network Ziferblat, 23, Edge Street, M4 1HW.

**Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup>, 10am** The City Council’s climate subgroup (see answer to element 7) has its first meeting. At 9am members of CEM will be at the Waterhouse pub on Princes St for a pre-meeting nerve-settler. You are very welcome to come meet us and then come to the subgroup meeting with us.

**Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup>, 6pm** Green Drinks at HOME

**Friday 25<sup>th</sup>, 12noon** Climate Strike. Gather outside the Central Library, Manchester.

**Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup>, 1.30pm** Tyndall seminar: “Community co-design for resilient infrastructure” by Professor Sarah Bell. Venuerom C1, George Begg Building, Sackville Street, University of Manchester

Next Hung Drawn and Quarterly report – early January 2020.