

Climate Emergency Manchester (or other group)

Report for Information

Report to:	Necessary Extra Scrutiny and Capacity Building June 22 2020
Subject:	CEM's current status and future plans
Report of:	Climate Emergency Manchester

Summary

This report gives a brief overview of CEM's

- foundation in March 2019, its previous activities (a first petition, scrutiny of council, network building)
- current status (current projects, response to challenges of coronavirus)
- future plans (with focus on short-term - July to September 2020)

You are welcome to get involved in any CEM projects, at any level or frequency. Please email us at contact@climateemergencymanchester.net

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Committee:

1. Vigorously discuss the contents of the report
2. Come up with a series of concrete aims/plans/objectives that can be implemented soon to slightly slow down the inevitable and accelerating slide towards the apocalypse.

Wards Affected: All

Contact Individuals:

Name: Marc Hudson

Position: core group of Climate Emergency Manchester

Email: marc@climateemergencymanchester.net

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 online.

Check out our website - www.climateemergencymanchester.net

1.0 Introduction

1.1. Climate Emergency Manchester was formed in March 2019. This report covers its activity in its first year (section 2), its action under lockdown (section 3) and its plans for July to September (section 4).

2.0 Past activity

- 2.1 CEM was formed in late March 2019 when Marc Hudson and Calum McFarlane initiated a petition on Manchester City Council's website, calling on the City Council to declare a climate emergency and to include aviation emissions in its carbon budget.
- 2.2 In its first few months CEM's main focus was on the petition, networking with other groups and a public meeting, held in May 2019.
- 2.3 Following local pressure but also the risk of being the last big city Council to declare a climate emergency, Manchester City Council declared a climate emergency - with a list of specific actions it would take - in July 2019.
- 2.4 CEM continued with its petition, and also started producing "Hung Drawn and Quarterly" reports - based on Freedom of Information Act requests - about the Council's (lack of) progress on climate change.
- 2.5 CEM continued to work with other individuals and groups. Its core group grew from two, to three, to five, with many people working closely with CEM as well.
- 2.6 Frustrated at the short amount of time available for detailed scrutiny by councillors, and the lack of proactive information released by the Council itself, CEM launched a second petition in February 2020. This called on the Council to establish a seventh scrutiny committee, dedicated to climate and environmental policy, and investigate use of strategic reserves for climate action. This petition was going quite well. Then, coronavirus.

3.0 Present status

- 3.1 The coming of the coronavirus completely shattered two key CEM projects -
- the collection of signatures (online and on-paper) on a petition calling for a seventh scrutiny committee, dedicated to climate and environment policy.
 - Forcing climate further up the electoral agenda (we had planned local election survey and election hustings): the local elections due to take place in early May were cancelled
- 3.2 CEM has continued to meet online, and has held some small online events, such as book readings, film viewings and online meetings such as the 22nd June. This has enabled us to improve our skills around designing and facilitating online meetings. These skills will be of use even after the lockdown ends.
- 3.3 CEM has continued to strengthen its network, with core group members holding online and more recently socially-distanced face-to-face meetings with interested parties in Manchester.
- 3.4 CEM core group members have been active in writing about the emotions around climate activism. So far we have written about hope and fear (joy is next). These posts have proven relatively popular, and drawn interesting responses from CEM supporters. Other posts on emotions will be released over the coming months.
- 3.5 One project that CEM has begun during lockdown, and made relatively good progress with, is the development of an “Active Citizenship Toolkit”. This is a way for individuals and groups to assess what skills, knowledge and relationships (“elements”) they need in order to achieve their goals, what level they currently have these at, what are the absolute gaps and single points of failure. CEM has identified around 70 elements it needs to achieve its goals. It has found 11 absolute gaps, and around 20 single points of failure. It is beginning to close the gaps and make materials which can be used by other individuals (so, for example, it has recently published novices’ guides to budget processes, allyship and lobbying councillors, with many more to follow shortly.)
- 3.6 Recently, CEM has reluctantly taken a very public role in trying to get Manchester City Council to be more open and ambitious in creating pop-up cycle

lanes. This is not core CEM business, and has meant that other projects - including the 22nd June meeting - have not progressed as well as they might.

4.0 Future activity (July to September 2020)

- 4.1 We will continue to scrutinise Manchester City Council and other relevant bodies. We will do this via a series of reports about the Council's (lack of) progress, the core cities and also combined authorities. We will continue to encourage other individuals and groups to improve their skills at a) lobbying councillors and b) submitting Freedom of Information Act requests.

We will try to have an impact on the emergency budget process, which is due to take place in July.

The lead core group member for this is Chloe Jeffries, who can be contacted via chloe@climateemergencymanchester.net

- 4.2 We will continue to collect signatures - both online and on paper (providing it can be done safely) towards our target of 4000 signatures on the petition calling for a seventh scrutiny committee.

The lead core group member for this is Adam Peirce, who can be contacted via ap@climateemergencymanchester.net. He will work with fellow core group member Marion Smith, who can be reached on marion@climateemergencymanchester.net

- 4.3 We will continue to progress the Active Citizenship Toolkit. We will release the "Element Descriptors" and "Level Descriptors" for all the elements which are core for CEM, and others as appropriate. We will continue to close the 11 "absolute gaps" we have identified. We will also close as many of our single points of failure as we can by the end of September. We will work with willing guinea pigs to test the Toolkit and improve it further. If a grant application is successful, we will be creating website to support this project

The lead core group member for this is Marc Hudson, who can be contacted via marc@climateemergencymanchester.net

4.4 We will continue to post information, resources and guest posts on our website, and have an active social media presence (especially on Twitter). Two specific aspects of our broader work stand out. These are:

“Emotional literacy” - we will continue the blog posts (and guest blog posts) about various emotions, since emotional management/abyss-staring are going to be core skills for the future.

“Practical allyship” - we will continue to post regularly on intersectional environmentalism, and the ways in which an understanding of racism/white supremacy, patriarchy, speciesism and ableism (among others) are crucial for understanding the causes of the crisis we face, and for finding ways out of it (if any exist - which is of course very debatable).

The lead core group member for this is Calum McFarlane, who can be contacted via calum@climateemergencymanchester.net

4.5 Across all of these projects, we are primarily interested in building capacity and connection - partly our own, but also that of those people we work with who believe that Manchester’s response to climate change will be determined not by top-down edicts and publicity from people with a ten- year track record of failure, but by diverse networks of people from across the city.

5.0 Recommendations

What do you think? What would it take for you to get involved? Our email is contact@climateemergencymanchester.net