



Briefing note on the Clean Air and Climate Change progress update for Weds 22nd July 2020 NESC meeting.

by Climate Emergency Manchester and supporters, for the benefit of Councillors and citizens

This briefing note examines the Clean Air and Climate Change progress update to be discussed at Neighbourhood and Environment Scrutiny Committee, **Wed 22 July 2020**, item 6.

We welcome the improved readability and consistency of using tonnes CO₂ as a unit of measurement within the Appendices. We also appreciate the better evidence of corrections being made to annual emissions data and more transparent reasoning behind emission reductions within the council's estate to date. We note the honouring of the commitment to quarterly reporting. (We also note that these quarterly reports were in fact produced from 2014 to 2018, when they were unilaterally abolished by the Executive) . However, we are disappointed by the lack of quantified plans (in tonnes of CO₂) to demonstrate whether the council is on the trajectory mentioned in Appendix 2.

- It is difficult to identify **additional measures** that are being reported to previous scrutiny committee reports - especially in Appendix 4. Whilst we understand that the implications of COVID-19 have been a challenging time for the City Council, this was also a significant opportunity to accelerate work in this area.
- Whilst the RAG rating in Appendix 4 may be helpful to understand progress, it does not help understand **what the CO₂ reduction impact will be of the measures or actions listed**. This does not help readers understand whether the actions listed have been appropriately prioritised based on its CO₂ reduction potential.

Questions

- Appendix 4, Ref 1.7 and 1.8 (p5). Two actions are marked red - not started / missed mission critical milestones.
 - What action is being taken to address this?

- Appendix 4, Ref 1.12 (p6) on the new Manchester Local Plan notes that MCC will 'consider timetable for next steps in light of C19'.
 - When will a decision be taken on this new timetable and will the citizens who participated in the first phase consultation be notified?
- Appendix 4, Ref 2.6 (p11) on a revised city centre transport strategy includes an 'aim to launch a more detailed consultation in the summer'.
 - Is there any update on the timetable for this, given that this document is under discussion in late July?
 - What provision will be made to engage with residents for whom English is not their first language?
- Appendix 4, Ref 3.1 and 5.2 (p14).
 - Please provide a list of the projects in which the additional 10% social weighting was piloted
 - When will the additional 30% social weighting become mandatory, given that the trial has been deemed successful?
- Appendix 4, Ref 5.4 (pg24)
 - What research is being carried out by MCCA to reach out to communities? The "Agency" has had 5 years to conduct research. Has it done so in the past? What were the results? "Further research" may be being used to defer action.
 - How do the ward plans reference climate change? When will the ward plans be published and how many drew on meetings/consultation of ward residents?
 - One Neighbourhood Investment Fund project will have a climate change theme. How many NIF projects are typically supported? I.e. what would one NIF project represent as a fraction or percentage?
- Appendix 4, Ref 5.7 (pg25)
 - We have yet to receive a response to the Manchester Climate Change Partnership's offer of support to the City Council, which has concerns over the support offered in the letter, which did not appear to be clear or substantive.
- Appendix 4, Ref 5.9 (pg26)
 - The first bullet appears to contradict the actions seen from MCC. How has the recent refusal to install temporary cycle lanes and the decision to end its association with Levenshulme Bee Network accelerating active travel projects?

Ultimately, given the importance of the climate issue for the future of humanity, even quarterly reports to the Neighbourhoods and Environment Scrutiny Committee will not be adequate. There is an urgent need for a **seventh scrutiny committee**, devoted to climate policy, which examines the political, economic, health (mental and physical), biodiversity and other implications for both adults and children. Climate Emergency Manchester has set up a petition on the City Council's website calling for such a committee to be created. We urge all councillors to sign and share this petition, since it is in the best interests of themselves as politicians, as citizens, as mothers, fathers, grandparents that the response to climate change by the City Council and the city more generally is improved. Additional scrutiny is one small way of doing this.