

# **Manchester City Council and Climate Change**



**A Guide for Beginners  
Version 2.0 April 2022**

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# Purpose of document

Local government is barely talked about in the media, never explained to you in school. The blizzard of committees, groups, panels, officers, members can be bewildering. This document, written by...

**Actually. Stop reading this right now. Go and check that you know who your councillors are. If you live in Manchester City Council's boundaries, you have three of them. You can find out who they are [here](#) if you enter in your postcode. This document will make a lot more sense once you know who they are. Go on, we will still be here when you get back...**

**Done? Great. Now, where were we?**

This document, written by 'non-experts', is an attempt to provide some basic facts for citizens and groups in Manchester who would like to engage as actively and persistently as they can with the democratic structure of the City Council and its climate change framework in order to understand and challenge the Council's progress against its climate emergency declaration to and its target to become net zero carbon by 2038.

This is the second version of this document and it is intended to be updated every so often, for as long as it proves to be a useful resource. **Skip to the end if you're ready for action – there are recommendations on what you can do.**

## Authorship of document

Cazz Ward, Marc Hudson, Chloe Jeffries, Adam Peirce, Hannah Jewell and some others who would prefer to remain anonymous. Attribution - some material has been lifted from Manchester Climate Monthly.

## Disclaimers

All facts are provided in good faith from both published information and Freedom of Information requests (FOIAs) to the City Council. However, Climate Emergency Manchester can accept no liability for any information that is not factually correct – we have researched and questioned to the best of our ability. If we have left out an important organisation/underplayed the importance of something/overplayed the importance of something else - we are on a learning curve. Let us know if you think we got something wrong.

## Thanks

To proofreaders, to fact-checkers and to people who will get involved after reading this report.



# Manchester City Council

## How the Council operates

The Council is composed of 96 elected councillors or members (93 Labour, 1 Green and 2 Liberal Democrat – most up to date info can be found [here](#)). Labour has had control (sometimes totally unchallenged) since 1972. The decision-making body of the Council is called the **Executive**. This is made up of 10 elected executive members who form the ‘Cabinet’ and are led by the council leader (leader of the largest political group on the Council). These members are accountable for the day-to-day decision making. Decisions have to be made in line with the Council’s overall budget and policies. From 1986, the leader was Graham Stringer (now a climate-denying MP for Blackley and Broughton). From 1996 to December 2021, Sir Richard Leese was leader (now chair of the newly created Greater Manchester Integrated Care Board). Following his decision to resign, Bev Craig was selected by the Labour Group to succeed him and, on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2021, she moved from her current role as deputy leader to take over the role of leader.

The day-to-day running and implementation of decisions of the Council is carried out by paid officers within the Council managed by the senior management team (SMT). Staff belong to departments called **directorates**.

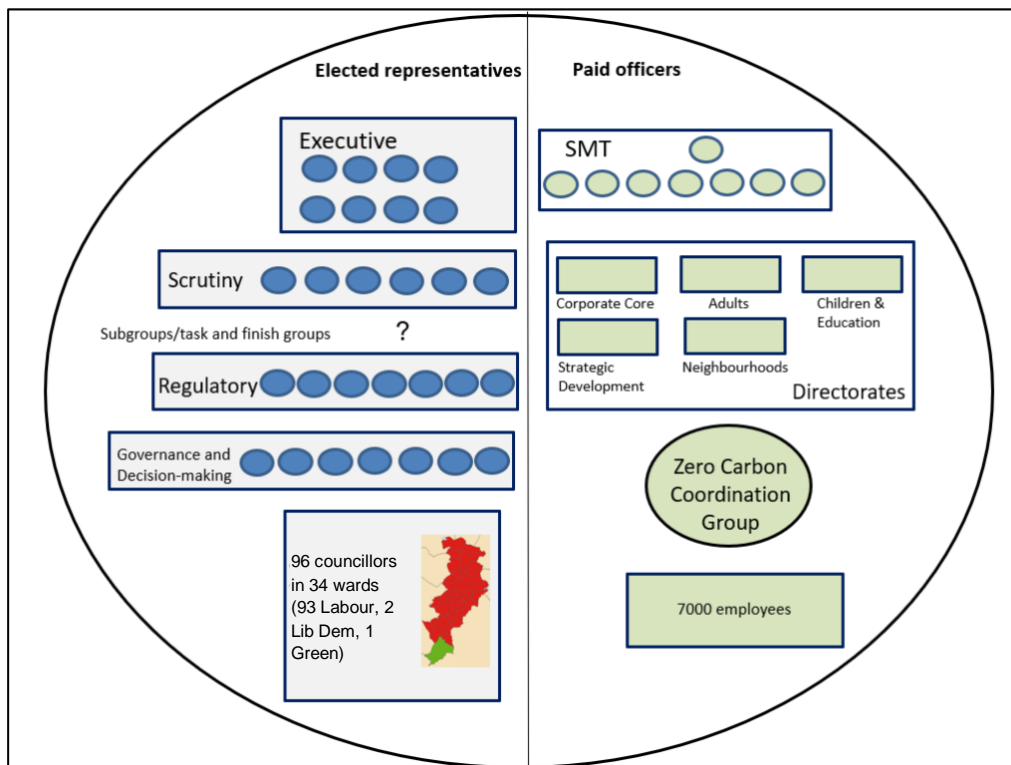


Figure 1: Simple representation of Council structure

## Executive

The [Executive](#) meets around 10 times a year. All 7 Executive members are Labour councillors. The Leader and two Deputy Leader places are 'permanent' (or until you die, lose the confidence of your colleagues, get deselected as a councillor or become embroiled in a scandal). The Leader is appointed by the full Council and the Leader then, in turn, appoints both their deputies and the other 5 executive posts.

The Executive has responsibility for a number of portfolios that are distributed amongst its members. These include Children Services, Health & Care, Environment, Finance & Human Resources, Adult Services, Schools, Culture & Leisure, Neighbourhoods, Housing & Employment. In recent years the number of Executive members has fluctuated, going down from 8 to 7 in 2021 after the Finance and HR portfolio moved into the Leader's brief. The Leader of the Council chairs the meetings of the Executive. There is also a Consultative Panel that has a standing invitation to attend these meetings. All but one members of the Consultative Panel are Labour. Of note is Councillor Tracy Rawlins who has been Executive Member for Environment since last year and has climate change within her portfolio. Her contributions in this role have been limited, although there have been recent more positive signs of action now that the distraction of COP26 is over.

The 5 non-permanent posts can be held for up to four years (Executive Members tend to get annually re-elected, unchallenged, by their Labour colleagues). However, after four years in one portfolio, they come off the Executive for at least one year and, if they want to go back on, it cannot be in the same portfolio.

Once a report makes it as far as the Executive, approval tends to be a rubber-stamping exercise as no Executive Member likes to interfere with another Executive's portfolio, and certainly not in public. This would be considered an extreme act of disloyalty/breach of Labour Party unity.

Members of the public can attend Executive meetings but can only speak if invited to beforehand by the Chair.

## Committees

Whilst the Council's Executive has full authority for decision making, they are still open to review by a number of scrutiny procedures and committees. These include the scrutiny and regulatory committees. Members of the public are allowed to attend committees but can only speak in them if this has been agreed beforehand, usually with the committee chair.

### Scrutiny Committees

The role of a Scrutiny Committee is to help develop policies and scrutinise the Council's work and decision making. They do not have decision making powers themselves. There are 6 Scrutiny Committees.

Name of committee and its remit	Chair details and officer details
Resources and Governance	Cllr Sarah Russell (Northenden) A new chair will be appointed in May 2022
Health	Cllr Joanne Green (Harpurhey)
Children and Young People	Cllr Julie Reid (Gorton and Abbey Hey)
Environment and Climate Change (Previously Neighbourhoods and Environment but renamed following petition led by CEM)	Cllr Lee Ann Igbon (Hulme) A new chair will be appointed in May 2022
Economy	Cllr Hannah Priest (Charlestown) A new chair will be appointed in May 2022
Communities and Equalities	Cllr John Hacking (Chorlton) A new chair will be appointed in May 2022

You can find out more about scrutiny committees [here](#).

Of note is the [Environment and Climate Change Scrutiny Committee](#) which deals with many of the Council's services that are most visible to residents - local communities, including waste and recycling, housing, carbon emissions and climate change. This committee also monitors the Council's climate change action plans. In theory, climate issues should also be examined in every scrutiny committee, to ensure deep scrutiny of climate issues connected to their brief.

The public can attend scrutiny committees and the meetings are webcast and uploaded to the Council's [website](#), along with any relevant papers or reports.

Two of the Scrutiny committees – Children and Young People’s Scrutiny Committee and Health Scrutiny Committee – include co-opted members from the relevant professional sectors (education and NHS respectively).

## Subgroups and Task & Finish groups

In the past, there have also been a handful of scrutiny subgroups which are set up to undertake more detailed reviews of specific areas. These were made up of a smaller number of councillors, usually from a single, or possibly two (or even more) scrutiny committees.

Subgroups can only make recommendations to Scrutiny Committees. They also usually have a limited life span. Their deliberations are NOT live-streamed, nor archived on the City Council’s website. However, the subgroups are filmed and footage can be obtained by request.

Since the onset of the pandemic in March 2020, there have been no active subgroups. There was an Overview and Scrutiny [Climate Change Subgroup](#) set up in October 2019, but only met twice before COVID-19.

## Regulatory Committees

Some types of decisions cannot be made by the Executive. For those, the Council has in place a number of Regulatory and Governance Committees. They are empowered by the Executive to make specific types of decisions such as planning and licencing permissions.

There are 7 of these: Employee Appeals Committee, Licensing and Appeals Committee, Licensing and Appeals Sub Committee Hearing Panel, Licensing Committee, Licensing Policy Committee, Licensing Sub Committee Hearing Panel and Planning and Highways Committee

For climate change purposes. the one that really matters is the [Planning and Highways Committee](#).

“The Council has delegated to the Planning and Highways Committee determines planning applications (however, in exceptional circumstances the Committee may decide not to exercise its delegation in relation to a specific application but to make recommendations to the full Council).”

Members of the public are able to attend and speak at these meetings if they have objected to a planning application. There is a database of planning applications and information on how to object on the [council website](#), and plenty of resources available online if you are interested in campaigning against planning decisions on climate or environmental grounds. The Friends of the Earth [guide to planning applications](#) is a relatively comprehensive starting point.

## Governance and Decision-Making Committees

There are 7 of these: Art Galleries Committee, Audit Committee, Constitutional and Nomination Committee, Health and Wellbeing Board, Personnel Committee, Schools Forum, Standards Committee. The Health and Wellbeing Board recently approved the establishment of a Health and Wellbeing Advisory Group to the Climate Change Agency, but both meetings and minutes for these meetings are closed to the public.



## Full Council

This meeting involves all 96 councillors, meeting around 6 or more times a year. Councillors are very much expected to attend. The purpose of Full Council is:

- Agreeing strategies and plans
- Setting budgets (that happens at 'Budget Council', in early March).
- Taking decisions on executive functions outside approved policy or budget framework
- Adopting and / or changing the constitution

In theory, it is also an opportunity for policy to be challenged although this is rarely the case, except by the opposition councillors.

The public can attend but they are not allowed to ask questions.

## Political arrangements

Manchester City Council has 96 councillors. There are 32 wards with 3 councillors per ward. Councillors are elected for a four-year term on a 'first-past -the-post' basis. Elections happen in 3 years out of 4 (the next local elections are on Thursday May 5<sup>th</sup> 2022).

From Council's website - *"Councillors are not paid a salary for their work, but they do receive [allowances](#). By law, all members of the Council are required to complete a declaration of interest form, the details of which are published."*

All councillors are paid a basic allowance of £17,525 a year and in our experience, many councillors work very hard for the money. The 7 members of the Executive, and the chairs of the various committees get a top up which brings them to at least £36K (with Bev Craig now presumably on an extra £43K, taking up to £61k) Further salary details can be found [here](#) but this has not been updated since the financial year 2020/21. Information on other pecuniary (paid) roles that councillors take on is declared in their register of interests, which you can find [on each councillor's page](#).

## Labour

Of the 96 councillors, 93 are Labour (plus 2 Liberal Democrats and 1 Green Party). There are 32 ward parties, each of which selects, reselects or occasionally de-selects its candidate for elections (and by-elections). The ward parties are clumped - five or six at a time - into constituency parties, which (mostly) match the boundaries for Westminster elections. Within the boundaries of Manchester City Council there are five Constituency Labour Parties (CLPs). These have a bigger role, as an upwards funnel for ideas around the manifesto and the direction of the party locally. There is, on top of this, there is a Local Government Committee known as "City Labour Party". This is made up of either members, delegates or 'anyone-who-is-in-Labour-who-turns-up'.

There is also "Labour Group" which is made up of all the elected Labour councillors. It meets the night before Full Council and the meetings, which are obviously not open to the public, often involve what is euphemistically called "a free and frank exchange of views" among the various councillors. There are various subgroups within the "Labour Group" including for backbenchers, women and LGBT+ members. Conspicuously absent is any subgroup related to members with a minoritized ethnic heritage.

## Liberal Democrats

Between 2004 and 2010, the Liberal Democrats grew in number on the Council, more or less (they benefited from a South Manchester protest vote against the Invasion of Iraq in 2003). In 2010, the Liberal Democrats, at a national level, went into coalition with the Conservative Party and voters in Manchester made their opinions clear. By 2014, they were all swept away. For several years, Manchester City Council was entirely without any political opposition.

In May 2016, John Leech, who had been an MP between 2005 and 2015 for Withington, won back a council seat (Didsbury West). Following the February 2022 by-election in Ancoats and Beswick after the [resignation](#) of Cllr Marcia Hutchinson citing racism and bullying, Alan Good was elected as a councillor.

## Green Party

The Greens has one council seat (Woodhouse Park), won in May 2021 and held by Rob Nunney. This is the first time the Greens have held a seat since 2004 in Manchester. Since joining the Council, it has proved difficult for a lone councillor from the party to have an influence. It is also worth noting that, following his election, he was denied his first choice preference to sit on the Environment and Climate Change Scrutiny Committee by Richard Leese.

## Other parties

The Conservatives had a councillor briefly about ten years ago (he had been elected as a Liberal Democrat but switched).

Independent candidates sometimes stand in by-elections and in 2020, an independent councillor briefly served in Clayton and Openshaw. He stood down after 7 months after sharing articles on social media that declared Covid-19 was a hoax.

## Officer arrangements

The day-to-day running and implementation of decisions of the Council is carried out by paid officers within the council managed by the senior management team. There are currently around 7000 employees of the Council.

## Senior Management Team

The Senior Management Team is led by the chief executive of the council (Joanne Roney) and 7 directors:

Name	Position	Comments
Joanne Roney	Chief Executive	
Carol Culley	Deputy Chief Executive & City Treasurer	Also chairs the Zero Carbon Coordination Group
Fiona Ledden	City Solicitor	

Bernadette Enright	Executive Director (Adult Social Services)	
Paul Marshall	Strategic Director (Children's & Education Services)	
Becca Heron	Strategic Director (Growth and Development)	
David Regan	Director of Population Health and Wellbeing	
Fiona Worrell	Strategic Director (Neighbourhoods)	Climate change falls under this directorate

Just below the SMT, there are a number of senior posts ('Heads of') whose work crosses a number of important portfolios and who often appear at Council scrutiny committees. These include Michael Marriot, Head of Environment, Planning and Infrastructure and Pat Bartolli, Head of City Centre Regeneration, as well as Julie Roscoe, who has been Head of Planning for a considerable time but will shortly be stepping down.

Prior to Joanne Roney, Sir Howard Bernstein was Chief Executive from 1998 to 2017 and worked closely with Sir Richard Leese, Leader throughout this period.

The Council is organised into 5 departments called directorates.

An [organisational chart](#) shows further information but is only updated once a year on April 1st.

## Council obligations and strategy

### Statutory obligations

The City Council has statutory obligations which it legally has to carry out and non-statutory things which people expect of them. Statutory obligations include the below, larger lists can be found [here](#).

- Protecting children and vulnerable adults
- Building and development control
- Council Tax and housing benefits.
- Elections.
- Homelessness
- Crime and disorder.
- Waste collection and recycling.
- Food safety and water sampling
- Health, safety and licencing

However, dealing with climate change does not fall under this statutory remit.

To meet these obligations, councils create a [Local Plan](#). These are usually created every 10-20 years. A new local plan is currently being created to replace the current one from 2003. As part of a consultative process, the Council invited citizens to comment and have their say up to 1<sup>st</sup> May 2020. The draft and comments from the consultation can be seen [here](#). There are a number of contradictions in these papers in relation to climate change such as suggesting to 'capitalise on the increased capacity' of the airport at the same time as ensuring 'our communities are protected from a changing climate' as well as 'be a zero carbon city by 2038 at the latest'. The final plan is not due for publication until 2023.

## Our Manchester

Since 2017, with the coming of the ["Our Manchester" strategy](#), individual Executive members have to report every six months to a Scrutiny Committee to explain how their work aligns with the "Our Manchester" Strategy which sets out the long-term vision for Manchester's future and describes how this will be achieved. The new Local Plan will replace or "refresh" the Our Manchester strategy.

## Budget

Briefly:

- Most of the City Council's budget comes from central government funding, known as the 'Local Government Finance Settlement'. Other income comes from council tax, fees and charges and business rates. The business rate retention scheme was introduced in April 2013 under which local authorities keep up to half of the local business rates revenue as well as growth on the revenue that is generated in their area. In November 2020, this was extended to further increase the amount of raised in business rates in their area. However, they also have agreed to forgo other funding streams in return for higher shares of business rates. For Manchester, this is the Revenue Support Grant from Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) and the Public Health Grant from DHSC.
- The Council does have a strategic reserve but is legally obliged to keep a certain amount in reserve.
- In addition, the Council owns 35.5% of Manchester Airports Group (or MAG, which owns Manchester, Stansted and East Midlands airport). Previously, the Group has been enormously profitable and Manchester City Council got a £70m dividend in 2019. However, the impact of the pandemic on passenger numbers has meant the opposite in 2020/21 and the Council, together with the other stakeholder councils were forced to bail out MAG with a loan of £260m.
- The latest budget was set in March 2022. Whilst the budget is, in theory, linked to the Council's zero carbon priority, spending isn't measured in each area against progress towards the zero carbon target. The most recent budget estimates that the current zero carbon programme has seen the development of a £192m investment programme in climate change mitigations, and promises an additional £800k per year investments, contributing directly to the Climate Change Action Plan 2020-25.

# Current council institutional arrangements

## Executive Committee

The Executive Committee meets 10 times a year. Climate change policy comes here to be rubber-stamped and is increasingly on the agenda. Climate change, both the City Council's response status and the City's, needs to be a standing item on the agenda, but that was unlikely in the previous leadership and has not been actioned by the current leadership.

## Executive Member for Environment

There has been an Executive member for the Environment since 2003, but never without other items in the portfolio (usually Transport and Planning). The most productive Environment Executive was the second - Neil Swannick. Jeff Smith (now an MP for Withington) introduced quarterly carbon reports on the Council's budget (something an earlier Executive member had been lobbied into promising). These were unilaterally abolished in late 2018. There are now not quarterly carbon reports, but [quarterly summaries](#) featuring highlights from the Climate Action Plan do now appear on the Council's website. Angeliki Stogia (Labour, Whalley Range) was the Executive Member for Environment, Planning and Transport from 2017 until 2021. She has now been replaced by Tracey Rawlins (Labour, Baguley). Councillor Rawlins is slowly becoming more active in her role but initial activity was slow. In fact, [a recent Freedom of Information Request to the council](#) confirmed that she has had no emergency meetings with any of her fellow executive members nor any business, faith or community leaders to discuss the city's failure to meet emissions targets.

## Neighbourhoods directorate

This directorate, one of the City Council's seven, has the responsibility for developing the ward plans (see element 4 of the [Climate Emergency Declaration](#)) 'working with residents/other partners at a neighbourhood level, to ensure they are proactively involved in achieving this target'. [A report on progress](#) was provided to the Climate Change Sub Group on 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2020. It was clear that, whilst this highlighted pockets of good practice, there was a long way to go to implement clear and robust plans climate action at a neighbourhood level for all 32 wards.

Since then, 3 climate change neighbourhood officers (north, south and central) have been recruited to support the creation of zero carbon action plans at a local level. In March 2022, these three fixed-term roles were made permanent. There is some activity at this level that can be evidenced, for example, in Hulme, Moss Side, Chorlton, Chorlton Park, Ardwick, Deansgate, Rusholme, Burnage, Didsbury and Whalley Range. The revised deadline for production of all ward plans was December 2021, but the plans are still being finalised and are yet to appear in a publicly accessible format. You can request a copy of your ward action plan from your local councillors.

## Environment and Climate Change Scrutiny Committee (ECCSC)

Of the six scrutiny committees, the ECCSC has climate responsibility. This committee has gone through various metamorphoses. In 2016, a previous chair of the committee managed to [get the name changed](#) from Neighbourhoods to Neighbourhoods and Environment.

Following a partially successful campaign and petition by Climate Emergency Manchester to "create a 7<sup>th</sup> Scrutiny Committee devoted to climate change of equal standing to the existing ones and to make

strenuous efforts to secure additional funding for climate action, including the use of some of its strategic reserves”, in May 2021 the name of the committee was changed from Neighbourhoods and Environment to Environment and Climate Change.

The new wording stated that this committee will cover ‘environmental issues concerning the city’, ‘the climate change strategy’ and ‘carbon emissions’ but there was [nothing](#) about its scrutinising role and its responsibility to hold other agencies and organisations in the city to account, in particular the Manchester Climate Change Agency and Partnership.

This Committee now receives quarterly updates on the Council’s climate action plan.

## Zero Carbon Coordination Group

This group, made up of Council officers rather than elected members, was set up to deliver the Council’s part of its Zero Carbon Framework 2020-2038 obligations. It is also responsible for the development and delivery of the Council’s own new Action Plan 2020-25 to be approved in March 2020.

It is chaired by Carol Culley (Deputy Chief Executive & City Treasurer). Membership of the group comprises senior officers from a range of different services but also the Executive Member for the Environment, Planning and Transport:

- Sarah Henshall, Zero Carbon Manager
- Janice Gotts, Deputy City Treasurer
- Jacqui Dennis, Deputy City Solicitor
- Fiona Worrall, Strategic Director - Neighbourhoods
- Jared Allen, Director of Capital Programmes
- Jen Green, Director of Communications
- Martin Oldfield, Head of Housing
- Richard Munns, Head of Corporate Estate and Facilities
- Julie Roscoe, Director Planning Building Control and Licencing
- Helen Grantham, Interim Director of HROD
- James Binks, Director Policy, Performance and Reform

Its role is outlined as follows:

- Overseeing the strategic response to the 10<sup>th</sup> July Climate Emergency Motion
- Ensuring that there is sufficient leadership on key programmes and projects that contribute to carbon reduction across the Council
- Attracting the funding that will be required to deliver this ambitious agenda
- Contributing to the Our Manchester strategy
- Providing challenges to key council projects and decisions
- Maximising influence over external partners and stakeholders at a local, sub-regional and national level including government
- Overseeing the development, delivery and implementation of the Council’s new Zero Carbon Action Plan which will be approved in March 2020

It has identified four themes that are being focused on are:

- Decision making, policies and standards
- Investment and delivery (finance for retrofitting the Council's operational estate and moving to electric vehicles)
- Activation (engaging staff in positive action)
- Increasing external influence with partners and national government

Reporting for the group is via the Environment and Climate Change Scrutiny Committee.

Elected members of the council can ask to attend this group, and the chair may or may not allow them to do so. Members of the public are not able to attend. Business groups get invited to present what they are doing/might do.

# Key climate change bodies in Manchester

## Manchester Climate Change Partnership/Board (MCCP)

The [MCCP](#) was set up as stakeholder group made up of businesses, voluntary sector and faith organisations and the public sector who together represent a significant proportion of the City's emissions (around 20%) or have reach to groups that do. It was established in February 2018 and replaced the [MACF Steering Group](#), which was in place from 2010- 2017.

It includes the following organisations and groups:

- Manchester Arts Sustainability Team
- Bruntwood
- Manchester City Council
- Manchester City Football Club
- Manchester Climate Change Youth Board
- Manchester Health and Wellbeing Board
- Manchester Housing Providers Partnership
- Manchester Metropolitan University
- Our Faith Our Planet
- University of Manchester

## Manchester Climate Change Agency (MCCA)

The MCCA is a community interest company set up with the support of the City Council, which provides operational and technical support to the MCCP. Together with the MCCP, they have been responsible for producing the Manchester Zero Carbon Framework 2020-25.

Mike Wilton was appointed as chair in November 2020 and Samantha Nicholson appointed as director in October 2021.

The Agency produces [annual reports](#) and presentations but they do not seem to be accountable for carrying out any action or achieving any target.

In May 2021 the Agency, in partnership with the environmental charity Hubbub, the Tyndall Centre, Amity CIC and Commonplace using funding from the National Lottery's Climate Action Fund, launched a climate change campaign in Manchester called "[In Our Nature](#)".

It led a [community assembly](#) in August/Sept 2021 across the 6 areas (Hulme, Rusholme, Moss Side, Levenshulme, Newton Heath and Miles Platting and Northern Quarter) to work with residents and communities to help understand climate issues and create action plans.

It aimed to support several communities across the city to develop community climate action plans and support communities and residents across the city to understand and act on climate change. However, activities were very much focused on individual actions to bring about change and published projects seem to be piggy backing on ongoing work in those areas, with no specified outcomes required.

## Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research

[The Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research](#) was established in 2000. It is an inter disciplinary research group based in 6 universities including East Anglia, Southampton and Cardiff. It is funded on a



project-by-project basis to develop sustainable responses to climate change, and deliver public and private consultations on how to respond to climate change.

The Centre has repeatedly been commissioned by Manchester City Council to produce various reports about emissions reduction.

During December 2019 to February 2020 the Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research at the University of Manchester completed a review of Manchester's climate change objectives and targets and produced a [series of reports and recommendations](#), most of which have not been taken forward.

## Manchester Zero Carbon Advisory Group

The Manchester Zero Carbon Advisory Group was established in 2019 to “ensure that Manchester's carbon reduction commitments are in line with the Paris Agreement and that the city has in place a mechanism for monitoring its progress”.

The group's current membership is:

- Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research at the University of Manchester: Dr Chris Jones
- University of Manchester: Dr Joe Blakey, Lecturer
- Manchester Metropolitan University: Prof. Paul Hooper, Head of Enterprise Development
- Anthesis Consulting: Matt Rooney, Principal Consultant / Simeran Bachra, Principal Consultant
- Manchester Friends of the Earth: Dr Ali Abbas
- Manchester Climate Change Agency: Sam Nicholson, Director
- Manchester Climate Change Agency: Richard Elliot, Interim Policy and Strategy Advisor

It includes an Aviation sub-group.

## Anthesis

[Anthesis](#) is a large international ‘sustainability’ consultancy, with offices in the U.S., Canada, UK, France, Ireland, Italy, Germany, Sweden, China, the Philippines and the Middle East. It has also previously been involved in producing climate change reports and scenarios for the MCCA and the Council. It helped produce the draft Manchester Zero Carbon Framework 2020-38 and the [SCATTER](#) greenhouse gas reporting tool for local authorities, which was piloted by GMCA with funding from BEIS. It is currently involved in the Manchester Climate Change Framework 2020-2025 “refresh” v2.0, which is due to be completed in Apr-Jun 2022 and launched in the summer (Jul-Sep 2022).

## Manchester Climate Change Youth Board

The MCCYB sits on the board of the MCCP and was established in November 2017 to ensure young people had a voice in tackling climate change. There have been two “Youth Climate Summits” (July 2019 and January 2020) and in the [latest MCCP annual report](#), it is mentioned that they have developed an ambitious Climate Action [manifesto](#). This consists of 7 priority areas and 35 actions, but it is unclear how those actions would be implemented and whether they have the resources to do so. During the [March 2022 ECCSC](#) Cllr Annette Wright (Hulme) raised a point that the MCCYB would have its funding ended and called for it to be continued. Previously the Council had declared 2022 to be a year focused on youth action with the name “Year of the Child”, but this has now been renamed “Our Year”. What this means for climate change is still unclear.

## Zero Carbon Business Working Group

The MCCP established this group in 2021, led by the CEO of GM Chamber of Commerce and includes representatives from the Business Growth Hub, Manchester City Council, the City Business Climate Alliance and the World Business Council for Sustainable Development. The MCCP states that it anticipates that the Working Group will evolve into an Advisory Group once the Zero Carbon Business Programme is launched in 2022. There is no indication that this group will be accountable for any actions (or inaction).

## Other relevant bodies and agencies in GM

### Greater Manchester Combined Authority

The Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) is the devolved combined authority of the 10 local authorities in Greater Manchester. It is made up of 11 members derived from the council leaders of Greater Manchester's constituent councils who sit as indirectly elected representatives of their borough, together with the directly elected Mayor of Greater Manchester.

It is a strategic authority with powers over public transport, skills, housing, regeneration, waste management, carbon neutrality and planning permission. Functional executive bodies, such as Transport for Greater Manchester, are responsible for delivery of services in these areas.

The Mayor of Greater Manchester (Andy Burnham) has far less power than the Mayor of London. He does not have any of the regulatory levers that give him the power to act. He has to largely lead by consent.

Climate change had been on the agenda since the 2000s (through the predecessor of GMCA - the Association of Greater Manchester Authorities) and various proposals for GM wide retrofit were developed. The Greater Manchester Climate Strategy was released in 2009, stating an ambitious target of 48% reduction in emissions for the region by 2020 with carbon literacy embedded into the culture of organisations. A delivery plan in 2011 was vastly undercooked.

There are four main relevant teams employed by GMCA:

- [Consumption and Production](#) – focusing on zero waste and recycling
- [Natural Environment](#) – focusing on biodiversity and sustainable development
- [Smart Energy](#) – focusing on renewables and retrofitting
- [Travel and Transport](#) – focusing on active travel, clean air zone and electric vehicle charging

Andy Burnham has held a “Mayor’s Green Summit” in 2018 and then annually since then, with the [fourth](#) summit happening in October 2021.

The second 2019 summit provided the backdrop for the launch of the GMCA’s new [5-Year Environment Plan for Greater Manchester – 2019-2024](#). Responsibility for overseeing the monitoring and delivery arrangements for this plan sits with the [Greater Manchester Green City Region Partnership](#) (formally known as the Low Carbon Hub and before that the Environment Commission). It involves key strategic leads in GMCA such as Mark Atherton (Environment Director, GMCA) and Sean Owen (Head of Low Carbon, GMCA). The elected representatives involved are Cllr Neil Emmott of Rochdale Council who has Environment portfolio and chairs committee, Cllr Alan Quinn of Bury Council and Cllr Mike McClusker of Salford Council as well as representatives from a number of organisations such as universities, the Environment Agency, TfGM and United Utilities.

These summits have broadly focussed more on target setting than action. One attendee at the 2019 summit, Associate Professor Hannah Knox wrote a [report](#) on the summit, stating “Last Monday’s Mayor’s Green Summit was the second round of what looks to become an annual ritual of green networking, target setting and back patting.”

Alongside the Environment Plan, GMCA have also produced a new [draft Greater Manchester Spatial Framework](#) – the plan for homes, jobs and the environment which has some greater emphasis on the environment than the previous version. Now known as ‘Places for Everyone’ after Stockport Council pulled out, there was a [consultation](#) on this up until October 2021, with a view to the final document being published in 2023.

The government has also instructed Greater Manchester to develop Clean Air Plans to bring levels of NO<sub>2</sub> (a harmful pollutant gas) on local roads within legal limits as soon as possible. A Clean Air Policy was finally published in June 2021, with Phase 1 of the [Clean Air Zone](#) being implemented across GM in May 2022 and Phase 2 in May 2023. However, GMCA have asked the government to pause the funding scheme for phase 2 because of supply chain issues and significant public backlash predominantly from taxi and van drivers.

There are multiple plans and initiatives underway but in some instances the status of these and the dependency on funding remains unclear.

## Other Greater Manchester local authorities

All 10 local authorities are listed below, including details on when they declared a climate emergency and their per capita CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.



Name	Population	Per year per capita emissions (Tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> ) (2017)	Climate Emergency? When?
Bolton	262,400	4.4	29 August 2019
Bury	189,628	4.5	10 July 2019
Manchester	547,627	3.8	10 July 2019

Oldham	235,623	3.5	11 September 2019
Rochdale	220,001	4.5	17 July 2019
Salford	254,408	5.0	17 July 2019
Stockport	291,775	4.1	28 March 2019
Tameside	225,197	3.8	25 February 2020
Trafford	233,288	6.6	29 November 2018
Wigan	326,088	4.1	18 July 2019

Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) also declared a climate emergency on 26<sup>th</sup> July 2019.

## Top polluters

Here are some details of the top carbon polluters in the boroughs from 2019:

Borough	Operator	kTCO <sub>2</sub>
Trafford	Carrington Power Ltd	1,488.96
Bolton	Suez Recycling And Recovery UK Ltd	654.00
Trafford	SAICA Paper UK Ltd	159.61
Trafford	Cerestar UK Ltd	145.78
Trafford	United Utilities Water Plc	74.00
Bury	Viridor Waste Management Ltd	43.50
Wigan	HJ Heinz Co Ltd	35.74
Trafford	Kellogg Co of Great Britain Ltd	32.66
Trafford	SCA Hygiene Products Tawd Paper Mill Ltd	31.10
Manchester	Scottish & Newcastle UK Ltd	30.27

Please see [National Statistics UK local and regional CO<sub>2</sub> emissions 2005-2019](#) for more information. This list doesn't include Manchester Airport as the aeroplanes using the facility are not included within their own carbon reporting data.

## Transport for Greater Manchester

Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM) is responsible for the Metrolink tram system (not buses) and 140-mile walking and cycling “Bee Network”.

In terms of transport, pollution is measured in grams of carbon dioxide produced for every passenger kilometre travelled. As this is much lower for trains and trams (44g and 54g) than buses and cars (99g and 123g), trams are important in reducing carbon emissions. Walking and cycling are effectively zero.

In January 2021, TfGM published its [5 year transport delivery plan](#), as part of the [2040 GM Transport Strategy](#), that states that by 2040 they want 50% of all journeys in Greater Manchester to be made by public transport, on foot or by bike, especially those shorter journeys around local neighbourhoods. It is still not clear how these aspirations are in line with GM’s zero carbon by 2038 targets especially if a significant portion of the 50% of journeys by car are still burning fossil fuels.

They have also published a [draft EV charging infrastructure strategy](#).

The city region was allocated over £1bn in October 2021 as part of the government’s annual spending review to spend on new Metrolink trams, bus corridors and the “Bee Network”. This will be largely managed by TfGM.

In addition, in September 2021, TfGM, on behalf of the 10 Greater Manchester districts, submitted a bid to government for a 5-year transport funding settlement under the £4.2bn Intra-city Transport Fund.

## Greater Manchester Pension Fund

The largest direct investments of Greater Manchester Pension Fund (GMPF) are with Shell and BP. At 31 March 2020, they had direct holdings of an estimated £863 million in fossil fuel companies, along with an estimated £100 million in pooled equity funds. This is almost £1 billion invested in fossil fuel companies, which is 4.4% of their holdings.

You can read more about the campaign by Fossil Free GM to persuade GMPF to divest in their [latest briefing](#) on GMPF response to calls to divest from fossil fuels.

## GMCA Waste and Resources (formally Greater Manchester Waste Disposal Agency)

Greater Manchester Waste Disposal Agency (GMWDA) and now known as Waste and Resources is the biggest waste disposal authority in England. Whilst it still has some responsibilities and owns a lot of waste infrastructure, it has subcontracted most of its services to the Suez Group since 2019, including the Saica paper and card recycling plant in Trafford.

## Manchester Airport

Manchester Airport (on the site of Ringway village) opened in 1938. It was funded by Manchester City Council and has remained in public ownership ever since. It is now part of the Manchester Airports Group (MAG) which also owns Stansted and East Midlands airports. It also has a substantial property business, with over £640 million of investment property assets across its airports. It has a 50% investment in the £1 billion Airport City development at Manchester Airport and is a major employer in South Manchester. There was a prolonged legal and [ultimately physical](#) battle over the construction of a second runway battle between 1991-1999.

Ever conscious of its environmental image, the Airport has been talking about its green “credentials” around climate change since 2008. In 2016 it became the first country to reach ‘Level 3+ carbon neutral status’ – an accreditation from the Airports Council International which allows airports to greenwash their image by buying carbon offsets, and does not include emissions from flights.

In 2013, in order to raise the finance to buy Stansted, the 10 local authorities, including Manchester, sold 35.5% to an Australian investment outfit, IFM.

Manchester City Council now owns 35.5% of MAG and the other 9 local authorities collectively own the remaining 29%. As stated previously, MAG generates £60m revenue for the City Council every year. However, the pandemic saw an 80% reduction in revenue to £178.6m during 20/21.

You can read more about this in this [report on aviation emissions and MAG](#), produced in December 2021 in response to [the report to the December ECC Scrutiny Committee](#).

### Who owns its emissions?

There are three sources of emissions from Manchester airport:

- Airport building services and operations emissions (these are included in the City Council carbon budget)
- Other such as staff and passenger journeys to and from the airport (largely included in GMCA targets)
- Emissions from planes taking off, taxiing, landing and cruising (not included currently)

You can find out some more information from the [draft report on Manchester aviation findings](#) produced in January 2020 by the Tyndall Centre for Climate Research.

# Sustainability and Climate Policy

## History or “These things can’t be done overnight”

### Pre 2009 - a forgotten history

Manchester City Council had to start taking “sustainability” (as opposed to local air quality/water quality issues) seriously when it hosted a now-forgotten sequel to the Rio Earth Summit - the “Global Forum 1994”. This meant that Manchester would be under the spotlight. Existing policies were rebranded and an overarching theme of Cities and Sustainable Development was set for the forum. It was not much of a success and neither Greenpeace nor Friends of the Earth attended.

Alongside this, the Rio Earth Summit had stipulated that local authorities everywhere should work with citizens to produce sustainability plans by 1996, known as “Local Agenda 21”, committing them to act as a catalyst and convener for practical action to improve the global environment. The agenda met with little success and the process was axed.

### 2008-2018 - early promise dashed

In 2008, the outgoing Executive Member for the Environment (Neil Swannick) managed to secure £1m for a Climate Fund, to establish a Green City Team and commit the Council to launching a climate strategy, after consultation with the public and business. However, the fund went unspent, the Green City Team got abolished in the mid 2010s, and the strategy never happened. Instead a desk study was commissioned from a London-based consultancy.

Their final report was published in January 2009 called “[Manchester Climate Change Call to Action](#)”. It was so uninspiring that a group of activists created an alternative “[Call to Real Action](#)” document in April 2009.

These two reports came together in late 2009, with additional work, into an uneasy synthesis known into a Manchester Climate Change Action Plan covering 2010-2020, also known as [Manchester - A Certain Future](#). It was approved in November 2009 by the City Council, with two headline goals - a 41% reduction in the City’s emissions by 2020 and the creation of a ‘low carbon culture.’ A stakeholder steering group was created (also known as [Manchester A Certain Future \(MACF\)](#)) with annual elections to it promised. The stakeholder steering group was supposed to hold annual day-long ‘stakeholder conferences’ to galvanise climate action, increase the number of people involved and support people to collaborate.

The elections were never held. One day-long conference was held (2010). Two half-day ones (2012 and 2013) and then unilaterally abandoned.

Meanwhile, the City Council abolished the Environmental Advisory Panel (2009-2012), abolished its Environmental Strategy Programme Board (a group of officers who were supposed to drive down the City Council’s emissions) and abolished the post of Director for Environmental Strategy. Promises like reporting on its own carbon footprint with a consumption-based metrics were simply not kept. Recommendations from the Economy Scrutiny Committee that all councillors should undertake carbon literacy training, were approved and then ignored.

The unelected stakeholder steering group, which would not allow members of the public to observe its meetings and had to be constantly reminded to publish minutes (even though it had money from the



Council to do this) was abolished in 2015 and replaced with a 'Manchester Climate Change Agency' - see below.

In 2015, [after lengthy delays](#), an additional '[green and blue infrastructure](#)' strategy and action plan was produced to cover outdoor spaces. Although an Executive Member at the time claimed hundreds of citizens had been consulted, the actual number was [fewer than fifty](#).

In 2016, the Council committed to the city being zero carbon by 2050 but provided no roadmap and no indication of where the money for this would come from.

## 2019 - Zero Carbon by WHEN? And what IS "zero carbon"?

In November 2018 the date for zero carbon for direct emissions was brought forward to 2038.

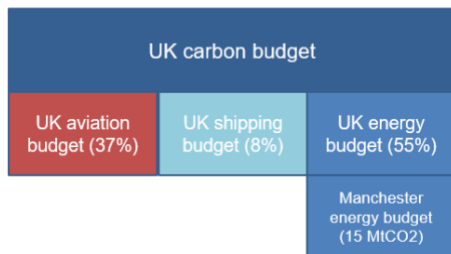
Based on the [Playing Our Full Part](#) proposal developed by the MCCA and submitted to the City Council in October 2018, citywide 'science based' targets for direct CO<sub>2</sub> emissions were adopted by Manchester City Council on behalf of the City as follows:

- Emit only 15 million tonnes (Mt) CO<sub>2</sub> during 2018-2100 – the available 'carbon budget'
- Reduce emissions by at least 13% year-on-year
- Become a zero carbon city by 2038, at the latest

There are three main types of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions:

- Direct (energy-related): from homes, workplaces and ground transport activities inside the city
- Aviation: from flights taken by Manchester residents and organisations, from Manchester and other UK airports. Also recognising that we have a responsibility to work with UK Government, UK airports and others to ensure that emissions from all flights from Manchester Airport are in line with the Paris Agreement
- Indirect / consumption-based: from the things that we buy and ultimately dispose of, for example, food, clothes, phones, electrical equipment, furniture, construction materials, many of which are produced outside of the city.

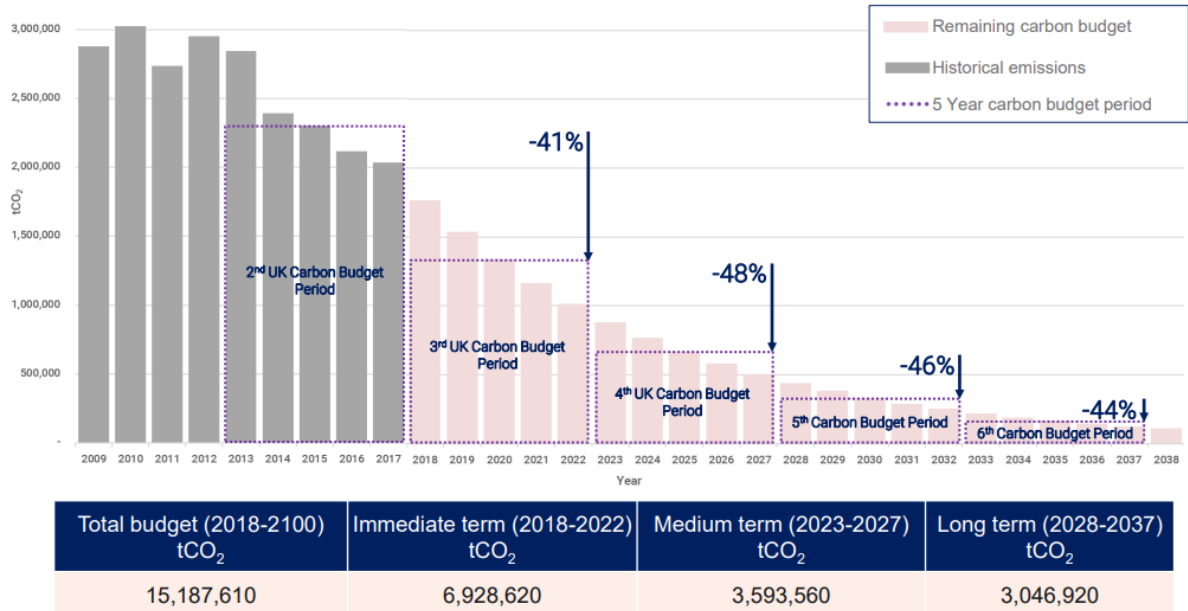
Understanding what zero carbon and the zero carbon date means is somewhat complicated. The zero carbon date is defined as the date at which Manchester has 5% of its 15 Mt budget remaining. This budget only relates to direct CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. No Manchester wide or city council specific targets are set for indirect or aviation emissions at this time (although the Tyndall Research Centre is proposing to put together a report on these types of emissions – however this has not been progressed since [early 2020](#)).



The proposed budget for direct emissions for the whole of Manchester was based on five yearly interim carbon budget periods and proposed an emissions reduction pathway with an average annual reduction rate aligned to the "well below 2°C" Paris agreement and then a final small budget from 2038 onwards. This was set out in the [draft Manchester Zero Carbon Framework 2020-2038](#):



## Manchester's Carbon Budget to 2038



The proposal allocated 20% of these emissions to specific organisations and sectors, who between them represent over 5Mt CO<sub>2</sub> per year, which is over 20% of Manchester's total emissions. This group of organisations is represented by the Manchester Climate Change Board (now known as the [Manchester Climate Change Partnership](#)). Each of these 10 groups were to set out their priority action plans for 2019/20.

The document was scrutinised by the then Neighbourhoods and Environment Scrutiny Committee (now Environment and Climate Change) and the end result was that the officers were to come back a year later, having done a lot more work, and worked with partner organisations to present a final Zero Carbon Framework 2020-2038 and also a plan for 2020-2022.

Following the publication of the Draft Framework, the Agency established a [Manchester Carbon Reduction Advisory Group](#), a group of climate scientists who were to 'ensure that Manchester's commitments are in line with the latest science and the Paris Agreement and that the city has in place a mechanism for monitoring its progress'.

## Climate Emergency Declaration of July 2019

On 10<sup>th</sup> July 2019, Manchester City Council declared a climate emergency. The motion was put forward by Cllr Annette Wright (Hulme) and seconded by Cllr Eve Holt (Chorlton). Cllr Richard Kilpatrick also tabled an amendment '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'.

The motion was unanimously passed including the 23 recommendations<sup>1</sup> and the amendment, together with an agreement that an implementation plan would be put together by the end of the year.

## Further development of the Framework

Between December 2019 and February 2020, the Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research were asked to review all climate change objectives and targets set out in the Framework, in advance of the next iteration of the Framework being produced.

As a result of this, certain recommendations were made:

- [Direct emissions](#): Following the production of an improved understanding of the impacts of global warming of 1.5°C and 2 °C on natural and human systems by the IPCC, Tyndall revised its methodology and reset the budgets. This actually resulted in a higher available budget for Manchester. However, Tyndall recommended staying with the previous targets and budget to stay with previous ambition. They were also asked to show the impact of moving the net zero date from 2038 to 2030. Their response to that was basically to advise that reductions were needed in the early cycles regardless and that should be the focus.
- [Aviation emissions](#): A limited carbon budget of 6.6 Mt CO<sub>2</sub> from Manchester residents' flights from all UK airports in the period 2020 to 2100 was proposed. Emissions were estimated to be 0.2 MtCO<sub>2</sub> (2017 data) so the budget is equivalent to this remaining static between 2020 to 2030, then declining to zero by 2075. However, no proposed budget was set for all aviation emissions coming from the airport.
- [Indirect emissions](#): Existing studies of consumption based emissions in the UK and the wider C40 cities group should be used to indicate likely hotspots of imported emissions – food and drink, construction, manufactured goods and water. On this basis, studies should be undertaken of hotspot areas of imported consumption to develop sustainable consumption strategies that enable and incentivise waste reduction and supply chain engagement to lower the carbon emissions associated with the provision of goods and services.

Following this, in February 2020, the [Manchester Climate Change Framework 2020-2025 v1.0](#) was produced. This was endorsed by Manchester City Council's Executive Committee and Full Council in March 2020. This reiterated a lot of the information and the previous framework and alluded to the fact that time had moved on but not a lot had been achieved so urgent action was required. It also introduced the objective of climate adaption and resilience to identify actions required to protect Manchester residents from the impacts of climate change.

The Framework also included '[action plans](#)' for each of the MCCP's 10 partners. Each was of this is underdeveloped and lacks meaningful detail.

MCCP were due to produce a 'Recovery Annex' and a plan for refreshing the current Framework by the end of 2020. This would be followed by the production of a draft Framework 2.0 by September 2021 and final version by March 2022. However, these have not yet been published. There is a [report](#) available from October 2021 on the plan. It is now expected that the Framework is to be 'launched' by Jul-Sep 2022.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://democracy.manchester.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?AllId=2950>

## Progress to date

There is a [climate change action plan](#) for the city council emissions which has some level of detail of how emissions will be reduced.

Following this, in the absence of any progress reporting from the Council, Climate Emergency Manchester started to produce quarterly reports on progress against the recommendations using FOIAs to obtain information. These reports known as Hung Drawn and Quarterly were produced [seven times](#), tracking progress against the 23 elements of the climate emergency declaration.

Eventually the City Council started to produce their own reports from April 2020 onwards on a quarterly basis. A number of progress reports are produced:

- The [Zero Carbon Advisory Group](#) for MCCP produce an [annual report](#)
- A [quarterly report is](#) provided to the Environment and Climate Change Scrutiny Committee by the city council's [Zero Carbon Coordination Group](#), alongside [an annual report and workplan](#)
- An [annual report](#) is also provided to CDP, the technical partner of the Global Covenant of Mayors (GCoM)

Understanding progress to date requires a huge amount of patience and brain power, following reports that link to reports each of which seems to regurgitate the same information, focusing mainly on targets rather than actions. There is no one location that sets out in easy-to-understand terms what the targets are across the city, what actions are proposed to meet those targets and how progress is being made. In many cases, this is because this data simply does not exist. It is also worth noting that the reports presented to the scrutiny committee do often contain more information than what is provided on the council's website.

## Where are we now?

On 9<sup>th</sup> September 2021, [various reports](#) were presented to the Environment and Climate Change Scrutiny Committee to review annual progress. A key point raised by the committee that "if we accepted that climate change was such an important and immediate issue why some targets were listed as still 'to be confirmed' in relation to projected CO<sub>2</sub> emissions reductions" and also questioning the capacity and ability of the MCCA to lead and deliver on such an important issue for the city.

The [November 2021 report](#) from MCCP still shows a concerning lack of progress for the city. Targets have primary be met because of pandemic related reductions in emissions. For example, according to Dr Chris Jones of University of Manchester, Manchester's direct energy use carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions fell by 3% between 2018 and 2019. A provisional estimate for 2020 suggests that emissions may have fallen by a further 11% in the past year due to Covid-19 restrictions. However, this still does not match the rate of mitigation needed to get Manchester onto the emissions pathway to stay within the carbon budget. An average reduction rate of 16% per year would now be required to stay within the budget based on an even distribution of the budget. The report also provides some vague level of detail of progress towards zero carbon for the 10 partners but more detail is needed.

Whilst there have clearly been some attempts at change within the organisational structure of the Council to address climate action, how these different officers with responsibility for zero carbon work together to deliver the climate action plan and how they report to elected members is unclear. As a result of past failures to take sufficient action, the scale of the challenge is now increasingly severe. With a new council leader in position, there is opportunity for change. Whilst Bev Craig has stated "you'll see some more ambitious plans as to how we" "fix the future", she has not provided any information as yet as to how she

intends to make this happening, speaking in vague terms about the imminent challenge and the need for leadership and for social justice.

But the gap between rhetoric and delivery is increasingly stark. Without substantial change to operations, Manchester faces the prospect of destroying its science-based carbon budget within the next few years, well before the hallowed, seemingly long-off target date of zero carbon by 2038.

The most recent developments or scrutiny moments of this year have included discussions of the airport in both the Environment & Climate Change and Economy scrutiny committees, and a commitment from the Health Scrutiny committee to hear a quarterly item on climate change and health. Coverage and briefing notes on these issues are available on [the CEM website](#).

## Opportunities for citizen scrutiny/participation

This is no longer the time for declarations, reports, targets and plans – we need to see real and sustained action supported by adequate investment if we are going to have any chance of meeting our zero carbon targets.

It is vital that we challenge the City Council to be more ambitious in its plans and to treat the climate emergency with the urgency that it requires. A joined-up approach with both partners across the city and wider across GM is needed, with far more transparency and engagement with citizens. There are a number of ways in which you can help to push forward this agenda.

## Scrutiny, Regulatory, Governance and Decision Making Committees

Members of public can attend committees. If you want to address the committee on a particular agenda item, you need to ask permission to speak beforehand. However, there is no guarantee that it will be granted as it is at the discretion of the Chair of the Committee.

You can find more information about agendas, minutes, webcasts and dates of committees [here](#).

## Freedom of Information Act requests (FOIAs)

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the Council must respond to any information request you put forward if it has been recorded by a public authority. These are free to make by sending an email to [informationcompliance@manchester.gov.uk](mailto:informationcompliance@manchester.gov.uk)

You must state in the email “please consider this a request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000” and supply your name and address.

Usually a FOIA must be responded to within 20 working days.

If you do want to submit a FOIA:

- Make it specific
- Look for the information first - it may already be public domain
- Blog/write letters about what you find out

## Lobbying individual councillors

If it is about something in your ward, you have to go to your ward councillors. That is not to say you cannot approach others about more general issues.

Contact details for all councillors can be found on the council's [website](#).

Lobby your councillors about how they are going to involve their constituents in the creation of their ward climate action plan. Let them know if you have concerns about the draft plans and their lack of transparency and engagement. Make them aware that targets need to be set out in a way that citizens can understand. Encourage the Council to make adequate investment to progress this agenda at the pace it needs to go.

Councillors usually hold surgeries, but people attending those often have immediate emergencies so it may be better to contact your councillor in the first instance by email.

## Complaints procedures

You can make these either an elected member or an officer (there are different procedures) which you will find on the Council website. You should only use this option as a last resort.

# Recommendations

Knowledge is not power. Power is power. If we are going to change the things that need changing (and that's a lot of things), then we need to be clear about what we want to change. These recommendations below are a start, but they are not the last word.

## For Council

- We need deeper climate scrutiny. Climate change should be a standing item on all Executive meeting agendas.
- All executive members should report at least every six months on what progress against smart targets in their portfolios
- Climate change should be a standing item on Full Council
- Every scrutiny committee should receive and properly consider at least two reports about the connections between the climate emergency and their committee's remit
- Zero Carbon Coordination Group should proactively invite elected members and allow members of public to observe proceedings except for items which would in a scrutiny committee also involve exclusion of the public. This is not the usual way officers operate but this is an emergency.

## For Councillors

- There should be a climate champion per ward
- Councillors should hold regular meetings about climate change in their ward using the approaches in Chorlton Park, Chorlton and Moss Side as a blueprint
- Councillors should lobby the Executive to do more and scrutinise its actions vigorously
- CEM has three simple asks for all councillors and wannabe councillors:
  - Remind people about progress against the city's carbon emissions budget, whenever they mention the aim of the city to be "zero carbon by 2038"
  - Lobby for all scrutiny committees to receive and properly consider at least two reports in 2022 about the connections between the climate emergency and their committee's remit?
  - Push for a standing item at Executive so that senior councillors will discuss actions taken in response to the climate emergency at every meeting?

## For members of the public/civil society

- Keep learning, keep connecting, keep sharing your knowledge.
- Get involved, stay involved. Get your friends involved. Join groups, take action. You can get in touch if you want to [get involved](#) with CEM – [contact@climateemergencymanchester.net](mailto:contact@climateemergencymanchester.net).
- Write to your councillor, ask them to agree to the three simple asks. Keep in touch with them, keep asking for more from them,

# Appendix A - Climate Emergency Declaration Text (Manchester City Council 10th July 2019)

This Council notes:

- The serious risks to Manchester's people, of climate change/global heating affecting economic, social and environmental well-being, supply chains – including food security, financial systems and local weather, among many others;
- That in 2008 the 'Principles of Tackling Climate Change in Manchester' were agreed as a call to action to engage people from all
- walks of life in climate change action and, build support for a new way of thinking about climate change;
- Work with training providers to ensure Manchester residents can take on green jobs
- The recent and welcome upsurge of action by the young people of Manchester, exemplifying the radical traditions of which Manchester is proud.

This Council agrees (or to the extent that the below concern executive functions, recommends to the Executive) to:

- Declare a Climate Emergency
- 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
- Become carbon neutral by the earliest possible date
- 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
- Review all policies, processes and procedures to ensure the council can become carbon neutral. Present an action plan by March 2020 detailing how the city can stay within its carbon budget. Report back regularly to the NESC. Review the corporate plan
- 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
- 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
- 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
- Encourage all staff on council business to use the lowest carbon, appropriate, travel
- Investigate measures to ensure future procurement is carbon neutral. Increase the percentage of social value with an additional environmental element
- Work with suppliers to green their supply chains, and support local production
- Work with training providers to ensure Manchester residents can take on green jobs

- Investigate and introduce measures to help reach domestic zero carbon levels including addressing fuel poverty and retrofitting existing homes
- 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
- Push GMCA to decarbonise public transport, heat and energy as early as possible
- Through our role on GMPF, encourage divestment in fossil fuels as early as possible
- 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

The Council calls on the government to:

- Provide powers and resources to make the zero-carbon target possible including funding for big capital projects
- Accelerate the reduction of carbon emissions from aviation
- Accelerate the decarbonisation of the electricity grid, funding low carbon energy generation
- Ensure that the UK prosperity fund focuses on enable the transition to a low carbon economy