



# Briefing note on Manchester Climate Change Framework, 2022 Update

## Introduction

This briefing note examines the 2022 update of the [Manchester Climate Change Framework 2020-2025](#) (hereafter the Framework), to be discussed at the Environment and Climate Change Scrutiny Committee on Thursday 21st July, 2022. It is produced by Climate Emergency Manchester and supporters, for the benefit of councillors and citizens.

## Why is the carbon budget so far off track?

The science based carbon budget for the city's direct emissions is way off track. To get back on track, emissions need to be reduced by 16% every year.

To achieve reductions on this scale moving forward, **we need analysis of why the city's emissions have not been sufficiently reduced over the last three years.** What has failed? What lessons have been learned?

**Recommendation:** the Agency should report on this and bring the report to the Environment and Climate Change Scrutiny Committee in late 2022.

## Why are there proposals to go further off track with the carbon budget?

To meet the carbon budget, **we need to get real about the scale of the emissions reductions needed.** The framework identifies a phased scenario with a 'green' line on page 5, where the city's emissions reduce by just 10% a year until 2025. Doing this creates the need for 29% annual reductions from 2025 to meet budget. Following this scenario would take us further off track, storing up bigger challenges for the second half of the decade. What is the point of this 'green' line scenario? Is there any evidence that 29% annual reductions are more feasible than 16%?

The graph would communicate better if instead of annual emissions on the Y axis, it presented cumulative emissions. That would give a clearer picture of the carbon debt already being built up against the budget and focus the alternative scenarios more clearly.

**Recommendation:** the Environment and Climate Change Scrutiny Committee should note the importance of following the 'blue' line scenario with 16% annual emissions reductions for the city.

## **What happens if we continue to fail and the carbon budget dies?**

If institutions do not confront the history of failure and the scale of the action required, and take action on the scale and timelines required, then it is likely that the science-based carbon budget will be dead in a few years, long before zero carbon 2038. We need a contingency plan for the death of the science based carbon budget limiting heating to 1.5C. What are the contingency plans for failure? Will the Agency be mandated to draw up a new carbon budget for some other target? Or will carbon budgets be abandoned entirely? Will there be a post mortem for the death of the carbon budget?

**Recommendations:** the Agency should draw up a contingency plan for failure and the blowing of the carbon budget, and present it to the Environment and Climate Change Scrutiny Committee.

## **Who is accountable in the Manchester Climate Change Agency and Partnership?**

The document identifies important actions, but the lines of accountability are not clear. Who is responsible for following up on actions and what are the consequences if they fail to do so?

There is much talk of engagement and surveys (p.45, p.49) but there is no proper strategy for getting buy-in or establishing delivery partnerships between sectors. For example, a delivery partnership with housing providers, retrofit specialists and power companies could be a plank in a fuel poverty strategy, with utility companies delivering warmth / cool rather than fuel (so incentivised to fund retrofit).

**Recommendation:** The Agency should bring back a revised Framework, indicating lines of accountability, and present it to the Environment and Climate Change Scrutiny Committee by the end of 2022.

The Environment and Climate Change Scrutiny Committee should request an options appraisal for sectoral deals, such as a delivery partnership with housing providers.

## **About Us**

[Climate Emergency Manchester](#) is a voluntary, non-partisan organisation connecting citizens and holding Manchester City Council to account. If you'd like to talk or to help, email [contact@climateemergencymanchester.net](mailto:contact@climateemergencymanchester.net) or find us on Twitter [@ClimateEmergMcr](#)