

Mr Marc Hudson

By email marcmywords@gmail.com

City Policy Team

Sarah Henshall

Telephone: +44 7929823389

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Address: PO Box 532, Town Hall, Albert Square, Manchester M60 2LA

Date: 21st October 2022

Dear Mr Hudson

Re: Request for Information – Ref No: FOI/8282

Thank you for your request for information, which was received by Manchester City Council on 22nd September 2022 and has been considered under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (“the 2000 Act”).

I set out below your request for information:

...the Executive of Manchester City Council...admit that the "carbon budget" they set ...in 2018 is now in tatters.

1. Has an internal analysis for the cause of this failure been undertaken? If so, by who, when, with what result - please provide a copy of any documents that are relevant (requests from the Executive Member for the Environment, or the Leader.)

The city’s emissions data produced every year by the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) is analysed by the Manchester Climate Change Agency (MCCA) as part of the production of the Manchester Climate Change Annual Reports. In the progress report for 2021/22, it was noted that the emissions trend in the first three years of the carbon budget period show Manchester is not yet following the recommended pathway, meaning that the carbon budget is being used at a faster rate. The aim of refreshing the Manchester Climate Change Strategy (the Framework) was to identify the critical actions needing to be taken across the city to return to the trajectory required to stay within the carbon budget.

The Manchester Climate Change Partnership (MCCP) has the role of developing and facilitating the delivery of Manchester’s Climate Change Strategy to ensure it plays its full part in limiting the impacts of climate change. The Council’s Executive Member for the Environment and Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer are both members of **MCCP** representing Manchester City Council. MCCP and MCCA are provided with independent advice from academics and subject experts via the Zero Carbon Advisory Group.

The City Council, working with MCCA, also **procured Anthesis, an environmental consultancy, to support the development of the Framework and Implementation Plan** – this work was funded via the URBACT Zero Carbon Cities project, which Manchester led and a further financial contribution from the Council. As well as updates to Council Committee meetings, items on the 2022 Update to the Framework have been discussed at the Council’s Zero Carbon Coordination Group.



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Updates on the process of refreshing the Framework and progress, have been presented to Environment and Climate Change Scrutiny on several occasions throughout the past twelve months ([9th September 2021 - Item 16](#), [14th October 2021 - Item 22](#), [10th February 2022 - Item 43](#), [21st July 2022 – Item 58](#), [8th September 2022 – Item 63](#)).

There have been no further specific requests made to the MCCP or MCCA in relation to this work by the Executive Member for the Environment or the Council Leader.

2. If no internal analysis has been conducted, is any planned? By when?

See the response to question 1.

3. Has an external analysis for the cause of this failure been commissioned? If so, by who, when, how much were they paid with what result - please provide a copy of any documents that are relevant (requests from the Executive Member for the Environment, or the Leader to a consultancy) and the resulting unvarnished truth.

Manchester City Council, working with MCCA, procured Anthesis, an environmental consultancy, to support the development of the Framework refresh (including **engagement, consultation, data review and design work**) and the development of the Implementation Plan. This contract was funded by the European URBACT project, Zero Carbon Cities, which was being led by Manchester City Council. The total cost of this contract was £73,500 (MCC contributed £18,997.50 as match funding).

There have been no specific requests made to the MCCP or MCCA in relation to this work by the Executive Member for the Environment or the Council Leader.

4. If no external analysis has been conducted, is any planned? By when?

See the response to question 3.

5. How much money - in total, inclusive of wages, costs of recruitment, paperclips etc - has the Council spent on the Manchester Climate Change "Agency" since July 10 2019 (or backdate that to April 2019 if that makes your calculation easier).

Manchester City Council provide financial support to the MCCA to fund staff and operational costs. Since April 2019 (to date) the total amount of financial support provided to the MCCA by the Council is £788,857.

Financial Year	Total (£)
2019/20	155,128
2020/21	158,671



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2021/22	281,000
2022/23	194,058*
Total	788,857

*2022/23 figure is based on expenditure to date, which does not yet include the reimbursement from MCCA to cover the costs of a Deputy Director post, which is being funded through the M CCP.

6. What - if any - assessment has been made of the performance of the "Agency" in that time? Please provide copies?

MCCA reports to the **MCCP**, which the Council is a member of. Annual reports produced by MCCA provide a detailed overview of the progress made against the Framework and can be found on the [MCCA website](#). Annual reports are also **discussed** at the Council's Environment and Climate Change Scrutiny Committee, with the most recent one presented at the [Environment and Climate Change Scrutiny Committee on 13th October, 2022 \(item 5\)](#).

In addition to the annual reports, Manchester's climate change commitments and performance are also reported to and **independently reviewed by the Global Covenant of Mayors** (GCoM) and one of their technical partners CDP (previously the Carbon Disclosure Project). Manchester's GCoM/CDP reports are available [here](#).

The **Director of MCCA is jointly managed by the Council's Head of City Policy** and the Chair of MCCP with **objectives set annually** which are reviewed as per the Council's policy for the performance management of senior managers.

If you are not satisfied with this response you may ask for an internal review. If you wish to complain you should contact the Information Governance Manager, whose address is Democratic Services, Town Hall, Albert Square, Manchester, M60 2LA or email informationcompliance@manchester.gov.uk

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision.

The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF



MANCHESTER
CITY COUNCIL

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Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "S Henshall".

Sarah Henshall

Mobile: 07929823389

<http://www.manchester.gov.uk/zerocarbon>