



MANCHESTER CITY COUNCIL
**CLIMATE CHANGE
ACTION PLAN**

2025–30



MANCHESTER
CITY COUNCIL

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FOREWORD

The world continues to face significant and growing environmental challenges that can only be tackled by collective and sustained action. Like all councils across the country, we have an important role to play via direct delivery and citywide leadership. We need to rapidly reduce carbon emissions from our buildings, the way we travel and the things we buy. We are committed to taking action and to meeting **our target for Manchester to be zero carbon by 2038**. This means a commitment to further reducing the Council's carbon footprint, supporting a reduction in the city's emissions and ensuring that we are better prepared to manage the impacts of our changing climate to protect our people, buildings, economy and environment.

Our target is ambitious and is not easy to achieve, but we are extremely proud of the hard work that has helped reduce our carbon emissions over the past 15 years. **We have reduced the Council's operational carbon footprint overall by 64% (44,344 tonnes of carbon)** over this time by moving to cleaner energy in our buildings, vehicles and street lights. We know we need to maintain this momentum and accelerate wherever possible. We also know that the effects of climate change, such as extreme heat and flooding, are already being felt by Manchester's communities, as well as people and countries across the world.

The Our Manchester Strategy 2025–35 (OMS) was developed during 2024, and over 10,000 people responded to the consultation to shape the final priorities. It is the overarching strategy for the city, which a number of plans contribute to, including this Climate Change Action Plan. In the consultation, our communities told us that climate change is one of the most urgent challenges facing Manchester, so the OMS sets out our **commitment to adapt to a changing climate and rapidly reduce carbon emissions**. It is clear that taking action on climate change will also support delivery of the other long-term priorities we have collectively set, including improving our

neighbourhoods, housing, transport and growing our economy. Manchester must continue to reduce emissions and adapt to a changing climate to ensure we are a place where people want to live, and where businesses want to base themselves to continue to create good-quality job opportunities for our residents.

Our goal is to create a more sustainable city – one that's fair and considers the challenges our residents are facing, such as their health, work and the cost of living. Tackling climate change is fundamentally about improving the day-to-day lives of people. **This will ensure that everyone in the city will benefit from cleaner air, reliable public transport, attractive public spaces, warmer and cheaper-to-run-homes, improved skills and job opportunities, and a healthier environment.**

Climate change is a global challenge, but it requires local action through co-operation and partnership with the Government, Greater Manchester Combined Authority, other regional partners, residents, community organisations, private businesses and other public sector organisations.

This Climate Change Action Plan 2025–30 sets out the actions that the Council will take over the next five years to keep reducing its carbon footprint and further embed zero carbon into the day-to-day operations of the organisation. It also sets out the actions the Council will take to support delivery of Manchester Climate Ready: The Plan 2025–30 (the next five-year plan for tackling climate change in Manchester), alongside our partners across the city. **Both plans will deliver a number of additional benefits for residents.**



Councillor Tracey Rawlins

Executive Member for
Clean Air, Environment
and Transport

IMPACT FROM 2020 TO 2025

Manchester has been taking climate action since 2010. Over the past five years, significant progress has been made to reduce the Council's carbon emissions, and action has been taken to make Manchester greener and more sustainable, improving lives and making positive impacts across the city. Key progress is displayed below.



We kept within our carbon reduction target

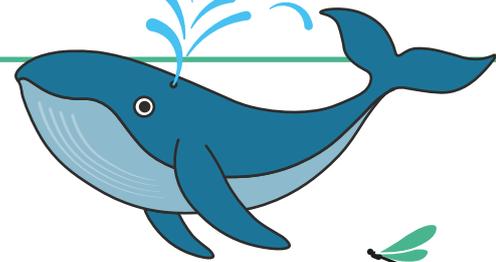
15,000+ trees,
32 orchards
and **6km** of
hedgerow planted



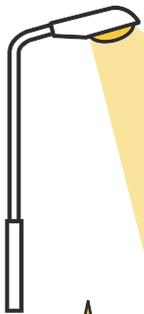
£600,000+
invested in community
climate-change activities

38,000+
plastic bottles saved
by **400+** water refill points

That's the same length
as 265 blue whales
nose to tail!

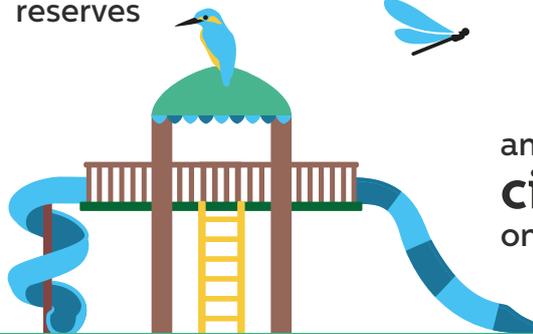


55,000
street lights upgraded
with LED bulbs

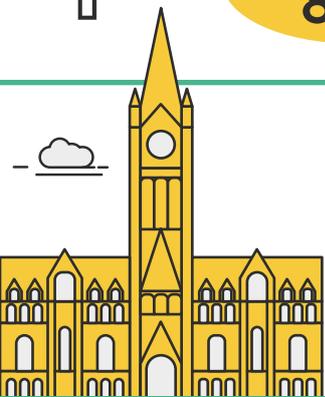


reducing emissions by
86%

3
new nature
reserves



and a new
city centre park
on an old brownfield site



40
Council buildings
retrofitted to
lower emissions



19,000+
children and teachers
joined eco-schools

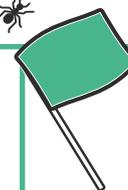


10%
of procurement
evaluation score
dedicated to
zero carbon



Carbon
Literate
Organisation
Gold

7
Green Flag Awards
for parks and
green spaces



OVERVIEW OF THE COUNCIL PLAN 2025–30

The Council will take action on **place and infrastructure** (across buildings, transport and the natural environment). This will:

- reduce carbon emissions from buildings
- increase use of renewable energy
- support the transition of Manchester’s energy systems
- reduce carbon emissions from the Council’s operational vehicles
- help people to choose low-carbon transport and access electric vehicles
- improve and increase access to green spaces.

Explore ‘place and infrastructure’ actions

The Council will take action to make sure **people and communities** are fully engaged on the zero carbon by 2038 target. This will:

- upskill the Council workforce in climate change and climate action
- help residents to reduce their carbon emissions
- support education providers to reduce emissions and deliver climate education
- improve climate awareness training opportunities for residents
- support grant-funded organisations to reduce emissions.

Explore ‘people and communities’ actions

The Council will take action to support a **green and circular economy**. This will:

- influence the environmental practices of the Council’s suppliers
- develop understanding of the Council’s Scope 3 (indirect) emissions and reduce them
- reduce waste and increase reuse, repair, sharing and recycling
- minimise negative environmental impacts from events, including world-class sporting and cultural events, and a diverse range of community events
- influence a more sustainable food system in the city.

Explore ‘green and circular economy’ actions

Wider benefits of climate action:

- retrofitted homes are warmer and cheaper to run
- energy security improves with the increase of renewable energy, reducing costs and our reliance on fossil fuels
- reliable transport gets you where you want to go, quickly, cheaply, safely and cleanly
- improved public health through cleaner air and reduced climate-related risks
- environmental protection is strengthened through increased biodiversity, cleaner waterways and sustainable land use
- quality of life is improved through more walkable neighbourhoods, increased green spaces, and sustainable design that enhances comfort and safety for all residents
- increased resilience to extreme weather and other climate change impacts
- economic growth driven by green jobs
- a green economy helps to attract new businesses to the city.



BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

Manchester’s leadership on climate change dates back 15 years with the launch of Manchester: A Certain Future alongside the Council’s first Climate Change Action Plan. The Council has continued to evolve its approach in responding to new international evidence and targets, including the Paris Agreement in 2015.

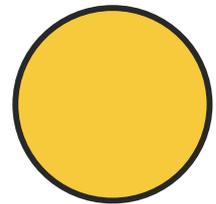
More recently, the Council declared a climate emergency in July 2019 and developed a Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP) for the period 2020–25, which included science-based carbon reduction targets for the organisation to meet.

The Council successfully delivered the plan, significantly reducing its carbon footprint and moving towards meeting its long-term 2038 objectives. Progress reports are available on the Council’s website, where progress and challenges have been regularly reported from 2020 to 2025.

[Learn about progress in the final year of the last CCAP \(2024/25\).](#)

The 2025–30 plan has been developed with input from across the Council and with advice and support from a range of external partners and advisers, including Manchester Climate Ready (formerly Manchester Climate Change Agency) and the Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research.

A number of factors have been considered, including the local context and performance in delivery of the CCAP 2020–25 and the Manchester Climate Change Framework 2020–25. National and regional policies and delivery contexts have also been considered, beyond the city level.





THE LOCAL MANCHESTER CONTEXT

The 2025–35 Our Manchester Strategy (OMS) sets the city’s overarching priorities for the next ten years, created through consultation with over 10,000 residents. One of 12 priorities for the city over the next ten years is to **adapt to a changing climate and rapidly reduce carbon emissions**, acknowledging that climate change is one of the most urgent challenges facing Manchester.

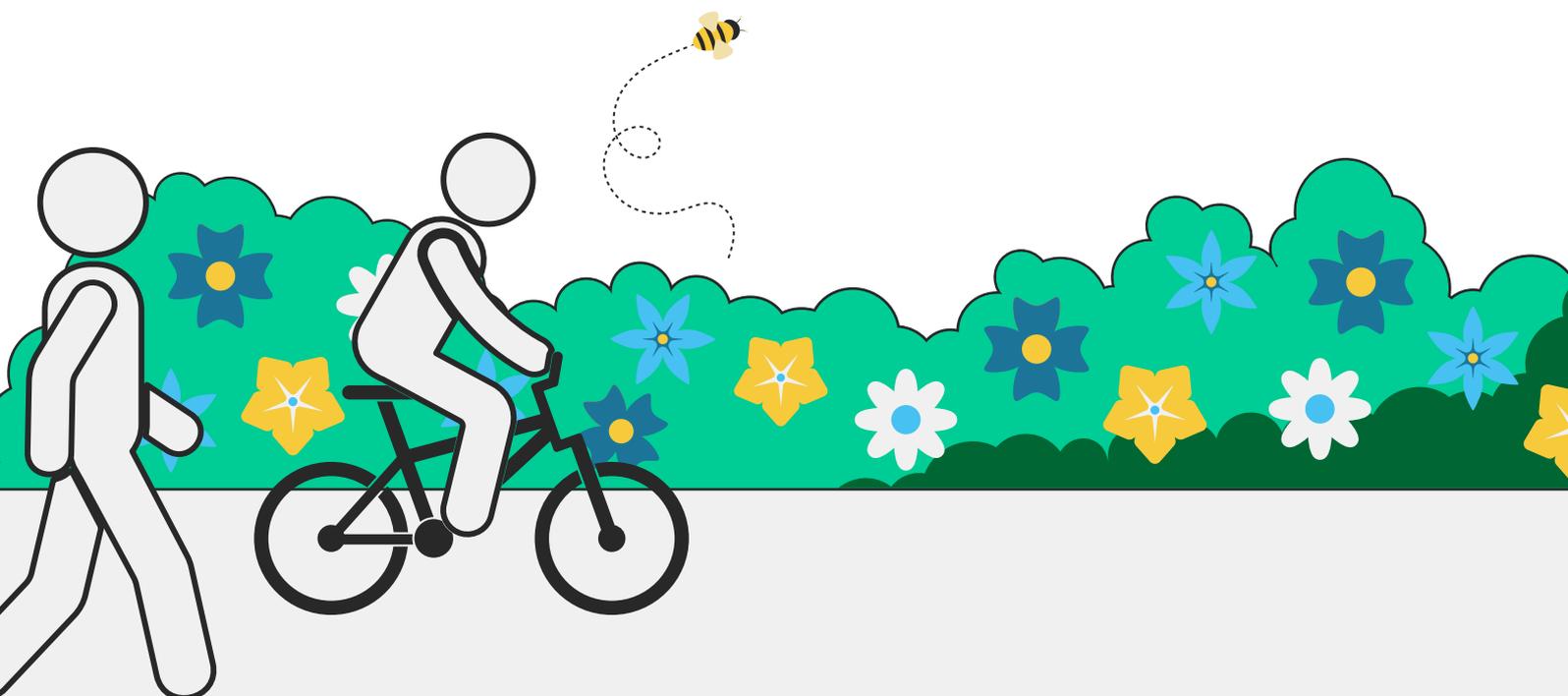
This new CCAP sets out the specific actions the Council will take in responding to this priority by 2030, and ensuring it is on track to deliver its zero carbon 2038 target. The priorities of the OMS are not intended to be addressed in isolation and the approach for zero carbon work is no different. Adapting to a changing climate and reducing carbon emissions can also support delivery of good-quality, genuinely affordable homes, improved green spaces, a growing economy that provides jobs and equal opportunities for everyone, and reliable transport that gets people where they want to go, quickly, cheaply, safely and cleanly.

The Council has adopted robust science-based targets developed by the Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research to ensure its actions are driven by climate science. This approach reinforces

Manchester’s commitment to playing its full part in addressing the global climate crisis and reducing emissions in line with the 2015 Paris Agreement. **The Council has stayed on track for its first science-based carbon budget – it now needs to stay within a carbon budget for the next five years in order to stay on track for zero carbon by 2038.** [Learn about the Carbon Reduction Programme and carbon budgets for the Council.](#)

Representatives of Manchester Climate Ready (formerly Manchester Climate Change Agency) have provided expert input and challenge during the development of the Council’s CCAP 2025–30. This reflects their role in ensuring that all members of Manchester Climate Ready: The Partnership are fully contributing to the city’s response to the climate emergency.

Manchester Climate Ready (MCR) is a registered community interest company. It is responsible for setting and overseeing the city’s climate change targets and plan, championing collaborative action, reporting progress and positioning Manchester as a leading city for climate action.



THE GREATER MANCHESTER CONTEXT

The Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) launched a Greater Manchester Five-Year Environment Plan (2025–30) in December 2024, after delivery of their first five-year plan from 2019. The Council was consulted by GMCA during this development process, and the new CCAP 2025–30 has been developed within the context of that wider Greater Manchester plan.

The eight aims of the Greater Manchester Five-Year Environment Plan broadly align with the Manchester City Council CCAP approach in terms of areas of focus. These are energy, buildings, transport, natural environment, circular economy, adaptation and resilience to impacts of climate change, air quality, and economy.

THE NATIONAL CONTEXT

By law, the UK must stop adding to the total amount of planet-warming greenhouse gases in the atmosphere by 2050. This is known as ‘net zero by 2050’. The new CCAP ensures that the Council takes action and uses the influence at its disposal for Manchester to play its full part in meeting those national commitments.

To accelerate the UK to net zero, the Government has set out plans to make Britain a clean energy superpower using at least 95% clean power by 2030. The Government has announced funding up to 2029 for renewable energy generation, energy efficiency, green technology, hydrogen networks and public transport, along with research and development on low carbon.



WORKING TOGETHER

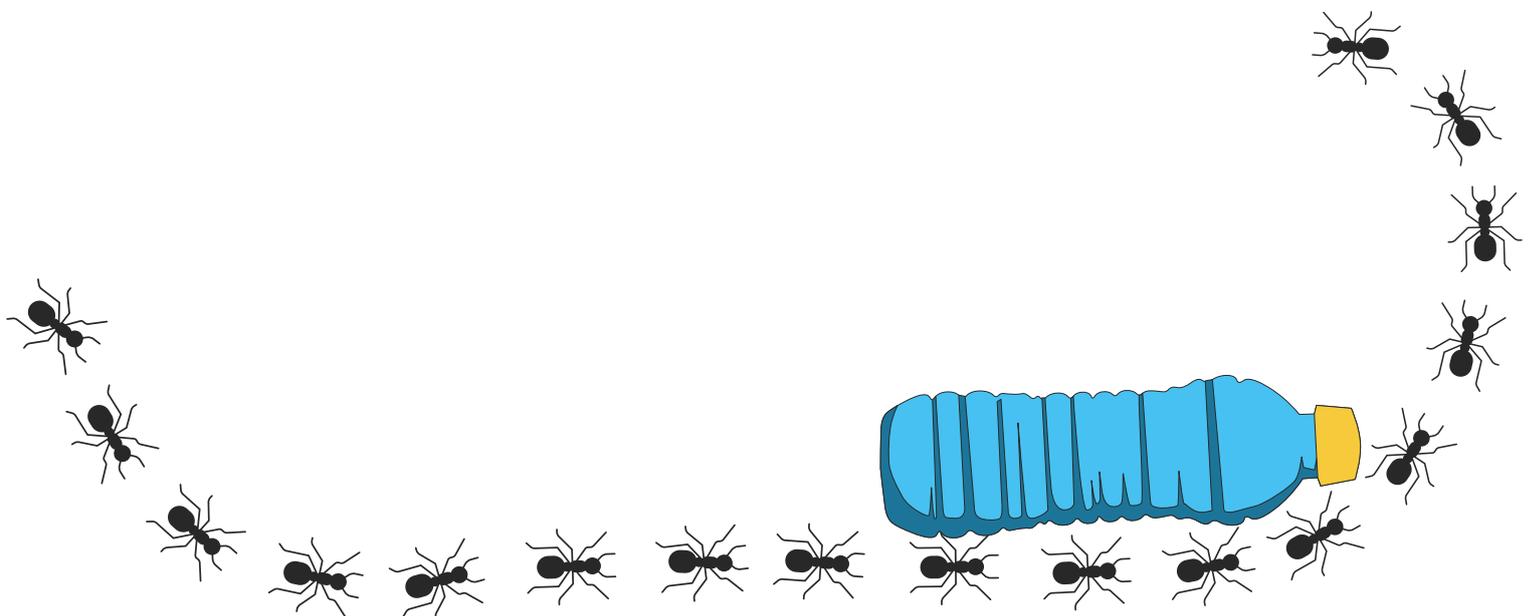
One of Manchester's greatest strengths is its people and the partnerships they create. Manchester is a city built on working together, where individuals, groups and organisations collaborate to tackle challenges and seize opportunities.

What makes Manchester unique is its ability to build relationships that cut across different sectors, communities and perspectives. It's not just about having strong organisations, businesses, charities and residents; it's about how they work together to achieve common goals. These partnerships aren't passive. They're active, hands-on and rooted in Manchester's trademark approach of working pragmatically to get things done.

Manchester City Council was a founding member of the Manchester Climate Change Partnership, now Manchester Climate Ready: The Partnership. It brings together organisations from across the city that have committed to taking urgent action on climate change. This underpins the city's response to the climate emergency.

Manchester Climate Ready have developed a new citywide plan for 2025–30. It sets out the city's climate change targets and plan, aligned to best practice and designed to ensure Manchester plays its full part in meeting the goals of the Paris Agreement. It includes actions for all with a stake in the city's future, from private sector companies, residents and community-based organisations, to schools and universities, and the local public sector, plus GMCA, Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM), regional infrastructure providers and the Government.

Over the next five years, the Council will harness its strong communication channels with residents and partners to highlight opportunities that address climate-related challenges.



DELIVERING THE COUNCIL PLAN 2025–30

The Council’s climate change mission is to make Manchester a healthy, green and socially just city – one where everyone can thrive. The target is to become a zero-carbon city by 2038 at the latest.

The scale and urgency of the climate emergency requires environmental sustainability to be embedded across core Council work, as well as delivering focused climate action, and ensuring all Council staff understand the role they play in delivering the commitment. The Council’s approach is to ensure that there is a clear and comprehensive action plan that is embedded within services across the organisation and driven forward by senior leadership. Actions have been developed to directly influence two key areas: the Council and the city.

Actions to influence the Council

These outline how the Council will reduce its own direct emissions, and further understand its indirect emissions, in order to take actions to reduce them, along with actions to further embed zero-carbon activities within the Council.

Actions to influence the city

These set out how the Council will influence climate action across Manchester with the city’s organisations, businesses and residents, along with how the Council works with others regionally, nationally and internationally. These actions support delivery of Manchester Climate Ready: The Plan 2025–30.

Delivery of actions is split into three core themes led by senior officers, who are best placed to lead on embedding zero carbon into the organisation. The Zero Carbon Co-ordination Group, chaired by the Deputy Chief Executive, provides strategic oversight on delivery of the plan.

It is of vital importance that delivery of the CCAP aligns with other strategic and operational priorities to deliver the maximum additional benefits. Delivery of the CCAP isn’t just about reducing emissions; it’s about energy-efficient homes, access to good-quality green space, affordable and reliable public transport, and a growing economy providing great job opportunities.

The CCAP includes ‘mitigation actions’, which are aimed at limiting emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases in order to slow down climate change. It also contains ‘adaptation actions’, which are aimed at adjusting to the future and current impacts of climate change.



The three core themes in the CCAP are:

1. Place and Infrastructure
2. Green and Circular Economy
3. People and Communities.

Three cross-cutting themes support delivery of the core themes:

- Policy and Influence
- Finance and Investment
- Communications.

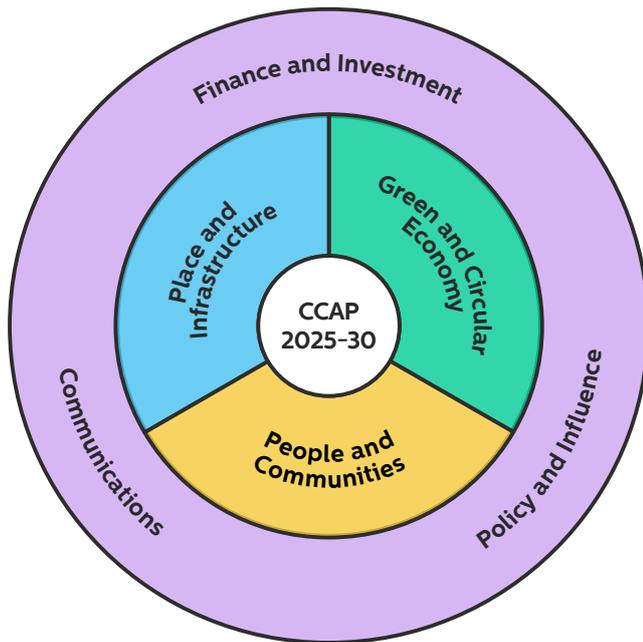


Figure 1: Themes of the CCAP 2025–30

Each theme will drive progress, promote cross-departmental collaboration, and ensure a cohesive response to climate action.

[Explore the full list of actions and outcomes for the CCAP.](#)

Actions show whether they will have influence at a Council level (Council actions) or a city level (city actions).

CROSS-CUTTING THEMES

Policy and Influence

The Council's role in creating the policies and strategies that influence action at local level, including involvement of others in climate conversations and policy making.

These actions influence the city to catalyse action at a local level, involving others at regional, national and international levels.

Finance and Investment

The Council's role in unlocking and targeting investments into accelerating Manchester's fair and socially just transition to a zero-carbon, climate-resilient city.

Council action here sets out implementation of carbon accounting, based on local government best practice.

City actions relate to a green financing strategy and exploring innovative funding models.

Communications

The Council's role in engaging, inspiring and enabling everyone to act and understand local zero-carbon activity.

Council actions include internal communications and workforce engagement, ensuring staff are informed and involved in the delivery of the CCAP. This is essential to the successful delivery of both this action plan and the wider plan.

City actions cover how the Council will communicate on its zero-carbon journey and align with local neighbourhoods' engagement activity to influence.

PLACE AND INFRASTRUCTURE

This theme includes actions across buildings, transport and the natural environment.

Council actions aim to ensure the Council’s operations are delivered in a low-carbon way – through operation of its buildings (and the energy needed to heat, light and cool them), its operational vehicles, and maintaining the natural environment on its estate.

City actions set out the Council’s role in transitioning Manchester’s energy and transport systems, its buildings, its digital infrastructure and its natural environment, reducing emissions and increasing our resilience to climate change, making Manchester a smart, connected, accessible place.

PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES

Council actions relate to Council workforce engagement and ongoing development to ensure zero-carbon behaviours are truly embedded.

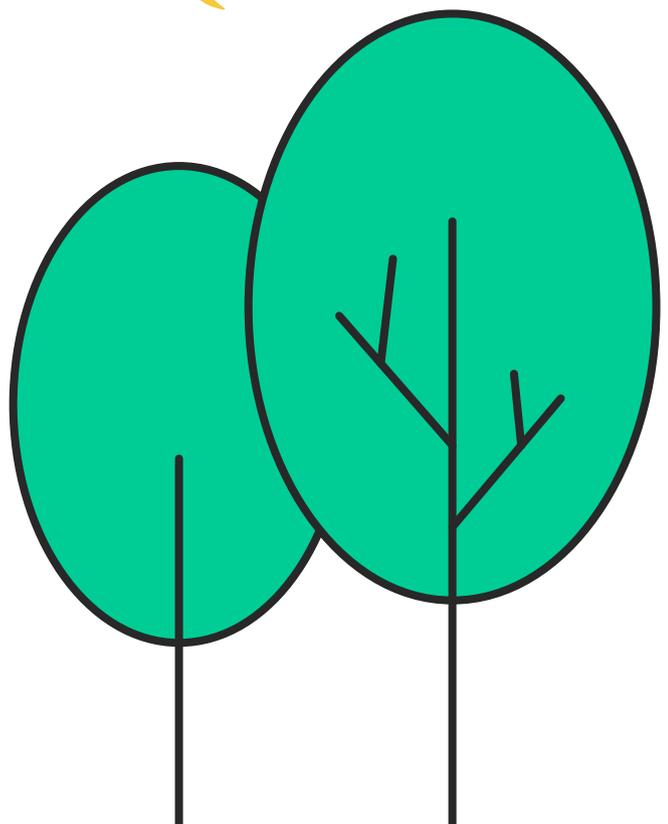
City actions set out the Council’s role in inspiring and enabling residents and communities to reap the economic, social and health benefits of climate action and reducing their exposure to environmental risk, working with people where they live (neighbourhood based) or supporting them via the communities they associate with. This includes supporting and enhancing ongoing climate-awareness opportunities for residents.



GREEN AND CIRCULAR ECONOMY

Council actions set out how the Council buys things and reduces waste to promote a circular-economy approach and indirectly reduce its emissions. The Council also has a role to play in assessing, and then reducing, its Scope 3 emissions, which could be more than double the organisation’s footprint.

City actions set out the Council’s role in supporting a shift to a circular economy, where resources are valued and waste is minimised. This includes the Council’s work with the visitor economy (including events) and with businesses across Manchester to promote low-carbon practices. Actions also support the growth of good green jobs for local people. Efforts to reduce the Council’s Scope 3 emissions, especially when working in collaboration with key partners, are expected to contribute to reductions in citywide and global emissions.



JUST TRANSITION

Achieving a socially just transition to a zero-carbon, climate-resilient city means that people, equity and inclusion are central to climate change action. Our goal is to ensure that this CCAP is delivered in a way that is fair and considers the challenges our residents are facing, such as their health, work and the cost of living. There are clear justice challenges to be addressed across the UK, including fuel poverty and the rising cost of living, affordability of low-carbon technologies (such as purchasing an electric car or retrofitting our homes), unequal impacts of extreme weather and poor air quality across communities, as well as job security and workers' pay in high-polluting industries.

The Making Manchester Fairer Action Plan was published in 2022 and was developed in partnership with the public, private, academic and voluntary sectors. The plan recognises that Manchester is a great city, but not all residents have the same opportunities to be healthy, well or to reach their full potential. The CCAP 2025–30 has been shaped by the plan's eight themes, which set out how health inequalities will be tackled in Manchester. This includes the theme **Improving our environment and surroundings in the areas where we live, transport, and tackling climate change**, which provides a framework to ensure that Manchester's transition to a zero-carbon economy is fair and equitable.

As part of the development of the CCAP, an equality impact assessment has been completed to identify the impacts of climate change on people with protected characteristics and Manchester's priority groups. This ensures that climate actions are inclusive and responsive to local needs. The findings from this assessment will be used as a tool for individual action leads to carry out project-specific equality impact assessments, to embed equity throughout delivery of this plan.

A socially just transition underpins the CCAP, aiming to maximise opportunities to create a better city for all residents. This means delivering real benefits for residents: warmer energy-efficient homes, tackling fuel poverty, cleaner air, reliable and affordable public transport, great job opportunities and reducing health inequalities.



CHILD FRIENDLY CITY

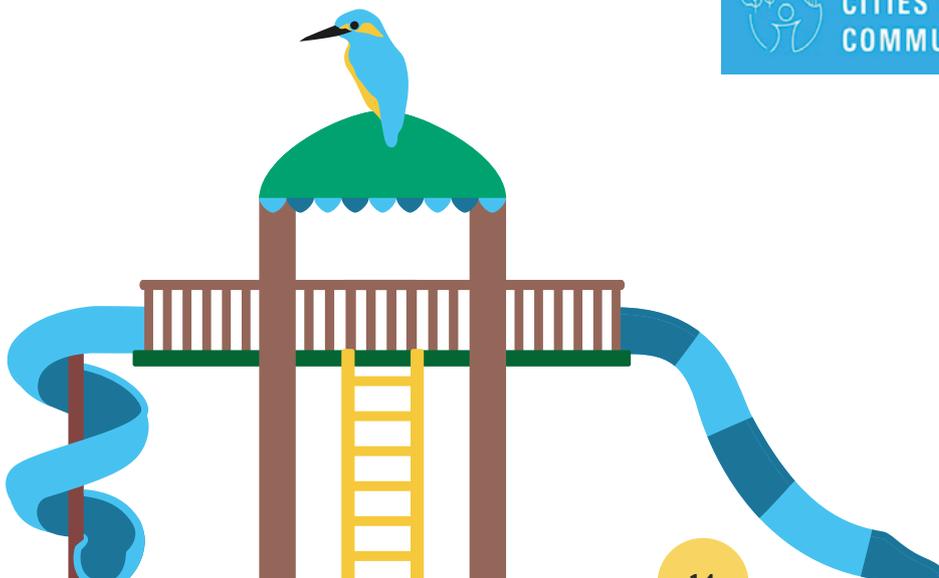
Manchester City Council is committed to being a Child Friendly City, meaning that children’s rights are at the heart of all the Council’s work. As part of the Council’s commitment to achieve UNICEF Child Friendly City status, a Child Rights Impact Assessment has been completed to ensure that the CCAP actions were developed with the best interests of children in mind.

Young people in Manchester face specific challenges, including poverty and health inequalities, and can be especially vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. Achieving Manchester’s zero-carbon ambition will help ensure that children benefit from better living conditions, cleaner air, safer roads, and more green space for outdoor play.

The declaration of a climate emergency in 2019, and subsequent development of the CCAP 2020–25, was a direct response to calls from Manchester residents, including children and young people, to take meaningful action on climate change. Their voices were heard through demonstrations, such as the School Strike for Climate in 2019. The CCAP 2025–30 further develops the Council’s work on climate change.

Extensive consultation was carried out as part of the Our Manchester Strategy, where the views of children and young people were captured as part of the consultation process. The consultation results have been drawn on when developing this new CCAP.

Climate action positively impacts the future of children and young people. It supports better mental health and wellbeing through access to nature, creates new learning and skills opportunities through environmental education, and unlocks future green job pathways. It also helps protect children from the long-term risks of climate change, building a more resilient and fairer city for the next generation.



LINKS TO OTHER PLANS

A range of other local plans and strategies are also important for delivery of this CCAP. As outlined earlier, the Our Manchester Strategy 2025–35 provides the overarching vision and priorities for the city over the next ten years. Other plans and strategies are also important in the Council’s response to climate change and are developed in partnership with a wide range of stakeholders. These include environmental bodies such as the Environment Agency, Natural England, charities such as Canal & River Trust, Groundwork, the National Trust, as well as community groups, housing providers, universities, and research institutes.

Figure 2 (below) shows a range of documents that provide further detail on plans for the economy, health, housing, skills, transport, and green and blue spaces of the city, as well as specific work on digital, food and energy. The actions in this CCAP are designed to complement and align with these plans. [Explore the range of documents the CCAP aligns with.](#)

[Explore the Greater Manchester Five-Year Environment Plan \(2025–2030\)](#) for context on regional strategies and policies.



Figure 2: Other plans and strategies the CCAP 2025-30 aligns with (grouped into the three OMS priorities)

CARBON REDUCTION PROGRAMME

Manchester has taken a science-based approach to setting targets on reducing its carbon emissions, supported by the Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research in 2018/19. As a result, the Council was allocated a ‘carbon budget’. This is the total amount of carbon the Council can emit from its direct operations, based on making a fair and equitable contribution to wider national and global emissions targets – the Paris Agreement. The Council was allocated a carbon budget of 336,012 tonnes of carbon dioxide (tCO₂), which could be emitted between 2018 and 2100.

Alongside the carbon budget, the Tyndall Centre produced an ‘emissions pathway’, which laid out a route to deliver on this carbon budget, and set out a ‘zero carbon’ target date of 2038. Figure 3 shows the emissions pathway. Note there are residual emissions allowed between 2038 and 2100 (that is, emissions will not be absolute zero), but the focus of the CCAP is on delivering the Council’s zero carbon 2038 target.

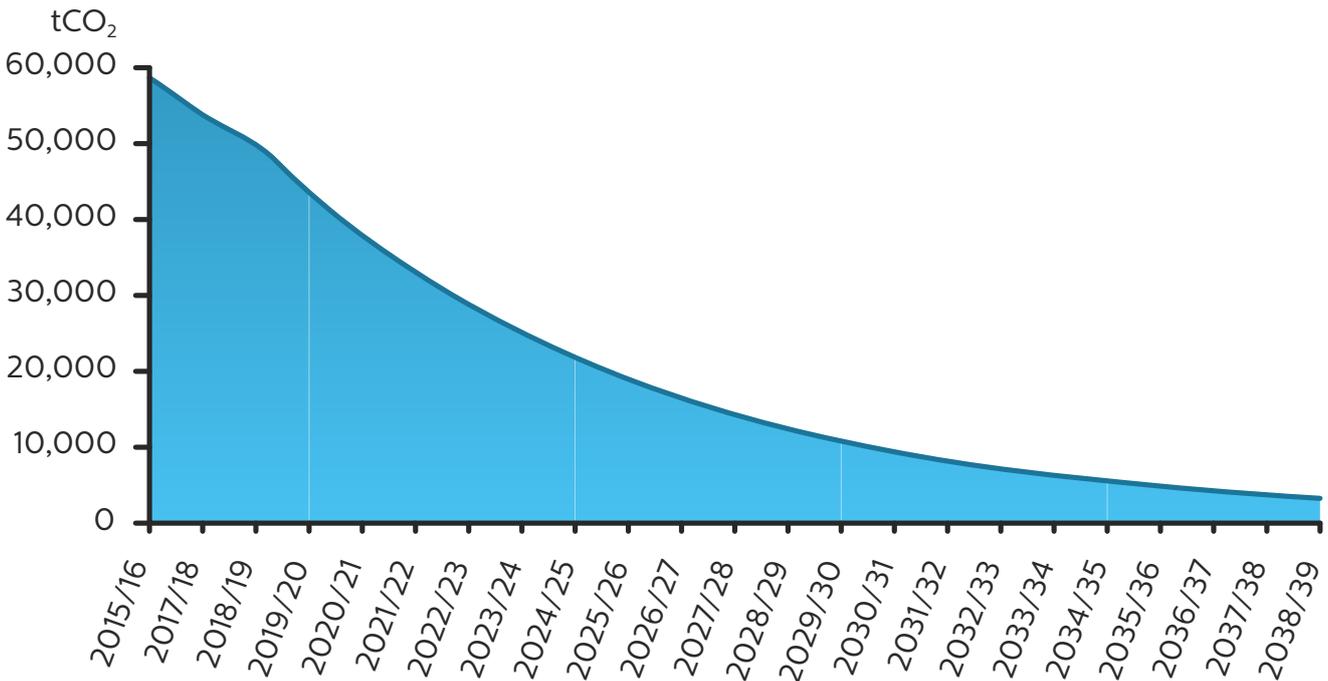


Figure 3: Manchester City Council emissions pathway

CARBON BUDGET 2020–25

The carbon budget for the period 2020–25 was 126,336 tonnes of carbon dioxide (tCO₂). The Council **successfully remained within its carbon budget for 2020–25**, total emissions over the five years being 122,000 tCO₂.



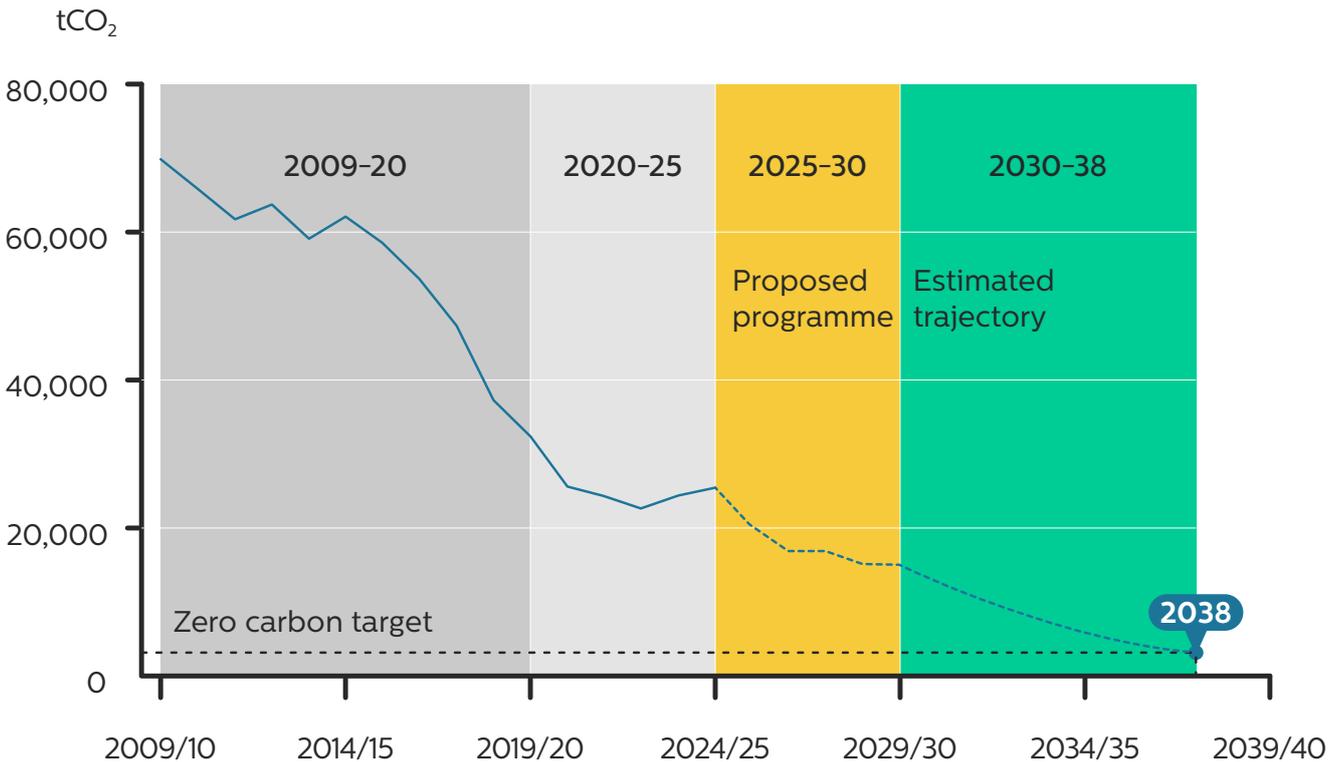
CARBON BUDGET 2025–30

The 2025–30 carbon budget is based on the emissions performance in 2020–25. The science-based target for the CCAP 2025–30 is to **emit no more than around 79,300 tCO₂ within the period 2025–30** to remain within the carbon budget.

Based on projected emissions for the period 2025–30, this means that **the Council needs to reduce its emissions by at least 41,500 tCO₂ (approximately) to remain within the 2025–30 carbon budget.**

Key to these future carbon savings is the removal of fossil fuels from the Council’s operations, such as gas used in the heating of its buildings, and petrol and diesel used to fuel Council vehicles.

A carbon reduction programme across Council operations has been developed through extensive engagement with relevant services throughout the organisation and includes external expertise and validation. This covers areas such as fleet decarbonisation, an estates roadmap and an overall assessment of the proposals by the Tyndall Centre, which supports the programme as necessary and appropriate to remain on track for the Council’s 2030 target and beyond to 2038.



The 2025–30 proposed programme may be reviewed in 2025/26, when billing changes for 2024/25 are taken into account. 2030 onwards estimated trajectory assumptions:

- There will be an average decrease in usage of 12% per annum following adherence to the 2025-30 CCAP proposed budget period.
- Based on a 35GW PPA per annum ongoing
- A detailed programme of carbon reductions will be developed by 2030, and delivered between 2030 and 2038.

Figure 4: Council’s actual emissions to 2025 and projection to 2038

The Council's 2025–30 carbon reduction programme is set out below.

Emissions action	Emissions reduction target (tCO ₂)
Power purchase agreement (PPA)	17,600
Street lighting	3,030
Manchester Energy Network	3,000
Fleet decarbonisation (waste and operational vehicles)	12,011
Estates zero carbon roadmap	6,730
Housing (communal/shared spaces in Council-owned)	TBC
Staff travel	500
Total tCO₂	42,871

Regarding the housing target, direct emissions for the Council's carbon reduction target only arise from communal areas of Council stock where the Council pays the energy bills, not from emissions related to energy use by residents. Development of a Housing Retrofit Strategy will inform the programme and target. Given the small number of properties within the Council's scope of reporting, it is likely that the identified savings options will be relatively small.

The proposed programme of **carbon reductions of 42,871 tCO₂** is made on the basis that:

- the programme provides assurance that the **minimum target of carbon reductions of 41,500 tCO₂** (approximately) can be met, while recognising the current financial challenges of delivery within the wider Council budget position and, currently limited, external funding options.

- by adding the additional contribution of reductions in emissions on the **National Grid of 2,000 tCO₂** (estimated) the Council has a degree of contingency in its programme should any of the direct interventions be delayed or prove undeliverable.

While the Council's carbon reduction programme has been carefully compiled, tested and validated to ensure it is realistic and informed by best available options and data, at this time delivery of this programme is subject to a number of factors outside of the Council's control, including:

- Local government financial settlements** – financial commitments for the next four years of the CCAP (2026/27 to 2029/30) will be subject to future years' financial settlements from the Government.
- Levels of Government funding for public sector decarbonisation** – including Public Buildings Retrofit Funding (PBRF), are outside of Council control.
- National policy on grid decarbonisation** and the carbon savings expected to be realised by this.
- Growth in the city impacts Council emissions** – additional demand or use of services could affect many of the emissions areas, such as street lighting, the waste collection fleet and the operational fleet.
- Supply chain considerations** – there may not be capacity in the market to deliver to the Council's specific needs and required timescales.

Recognising that this is a five-year programme with external factors outside of Council control, a mid-programme review of the CCAP 2025–30 will be carried out in 2027/28, including a review of emissions reductions commitments. This mid-programme review will allow recalculation of targets and refinement of actions and commitments as needed, to ensure the Council's plan remains relevant, ambitious and on track to meet the 2030 target.

GOVERNANCE AND REPORTING

Delivery of the CCAP 2025–30 will continue to be led through the Council’s **Zero Carbon Co-ordination Group**, chaired by the Deputy Chief Executive, and delivery of actions across the theme will be led by Theme Leads who are all senior Council officers.

The structure shown in figure 5 has provided senior leadership for effective delivery of the CCAP 2020–25 to date and will continue to be used for CCAP 2025–30.

The Council’s Zero Carbon Team will provide programme leadership, co-ordination and reporting for the CCAP, supporting the delivery of actions by staff across the Council and with Council partners.

The Council will report regularly on progress in delivery of the CCAP 2025–30. Annual progress reports and six-monthly carbon emissions reports will be produced and made available on the Council’s website.

Regular reports will be made to the relevant Council scrutiny committee(s) and the Council Executive.

A mid-programme CCAP refresh will be carried out in 2027/28 to ensure the CCAP remains up to date and aligned with the national and regional policy context. This will ensure actions remain relevant, with realistic targets and timescales.

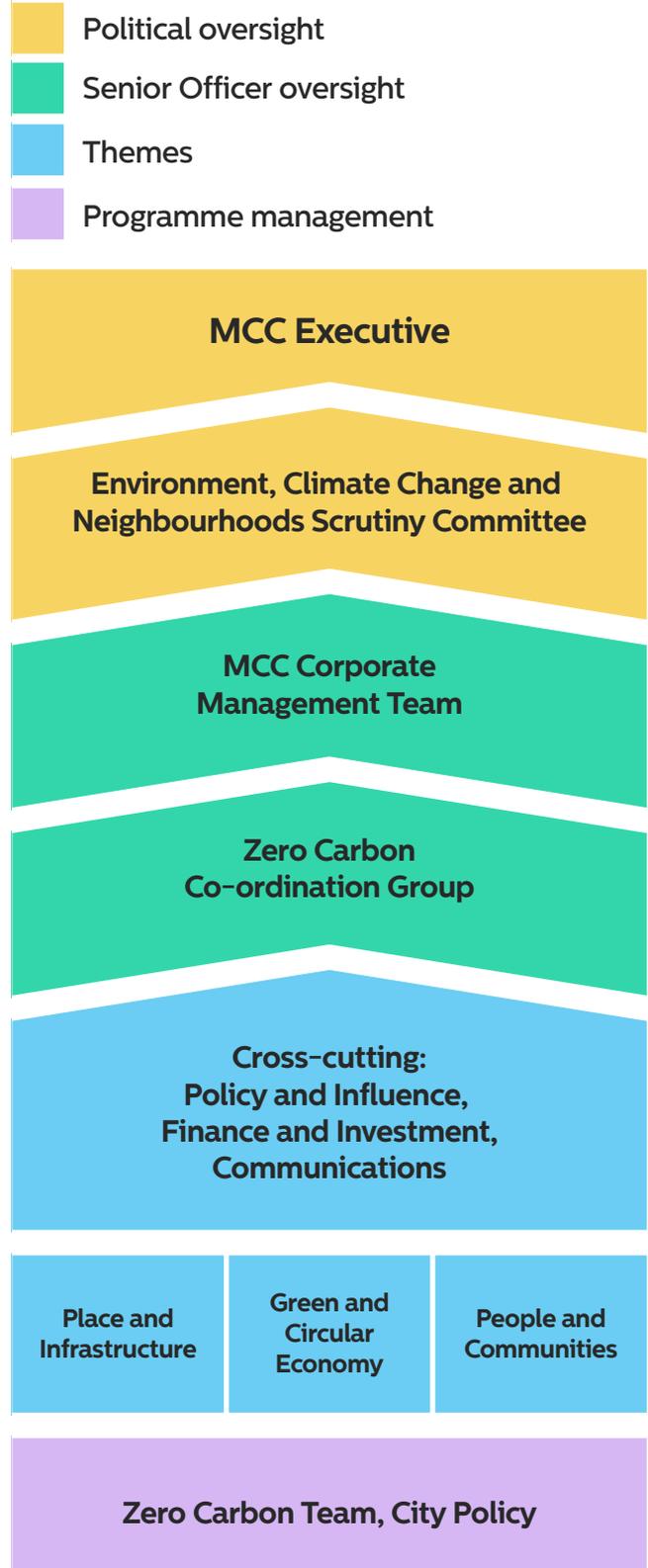


Figure 5: CCAP governance and reporting structure

OUTCOMES AND ACTIONS OF THE COUNCIL PLAN

This section sets out the actions for each theme in the CCAP 2025–30, starting with the cross-cutting actions. Above each set of actions, the intended outcomes are listed.

Where the timescale is given as 2030, this means the action is expected to happen over the lifetime of this CCAP. All actions will be reviewed regularly against milestones and reported on annually. In 2027/28, the mid-programme review of the CCAP will ensure all actions remain relevant with realistic targets and timescales.

Want to know more about our goal to be zero carbon? Check our progress, find case studies and info on how to get involved at www.manchester.gov.uk/zero-carbon.

DIRECT EMISSIONS

The overall aim of the plan is to reduce the Council’s organisational emissions to remain within the Council’s science-based carbon budget.

Given its importance, it is listed as a stand-alone action.

Those actions that contribute to this are marked with this symbol.



Action

Reduce the Council’s direct emissions

- To remain within the Council’s science-based carbon budget to 2030. This ensures the Council stays on the pathway to be a zero-carbon organisation by 2038.

Due by
2030

Led by
Manchester City Council

Influence
Council

CROSS-CUTTING THEMES

POLICY AND INFLUENCE

The policy and influence theme will achieve the following outcomes.

- Zero carbon continues to be a key consideration in Council decision-making (alongside wider benefits such as cost savings, sustainable economic growth, improved health outcomes and a just transition).
- Support Manchester Climate Ready to continue to promote citywide climate action via Manchester Climate Ready: The Partnership to achieve the zero-carbon 2038 target.
- Influence over key city stakeholders accelerating their action to reduce citywide carbon emissions.
- The Government responds to help unblock challenges in delivery of national net zero ambition at a local level.
- Knowledge gained from other cities' climate action used in developing Manchester's approach. Where possible, this will be supported by external funding.

Actions

Context: Zero carbon is a priority within the Our Manchester Strategy 2025–35, a core element of the corporate plan and embedded within all service plans. Staff and elected members are asked to consider zero carbon in all work and decision-making, such as the capital and revenue approval process and inclusion in all Scrutiny Committee, Executive and Full Council papers. Tools such as Carbon Literacy training (compulsory for all staff and elected members) and inclusion in the Good Manager Guide support this.

Over the next five years, the progress made to date in embedding zero carbon in decision-making will be reviewed and refined

- Ensure zero carbon continues to be fully embedded into staff development, training and decision-making.

Due by
2030

Led by
City Policy

Influence
City

Continue to provide funding to support Manchester Climate Ready (MCR)

- Enable them to promote climate change action for the city through a range of activities, including convening MCR: The Partnership and catalysing collaborative action between and across sectors; setting Manchester's climate change strategy and targets; and tracking progress towards those targets. In addition, bringing best practice from other cities to Manchester, and positioning Manchester on the global stage as a leader in climate action
- Work with MCR to attract additional funding from Partnership members, the Government and grant-funding bodies in the UK and beyond, to enable delivery of the activities outlined above, and to support implementation of the city's climate change strategy, helping to accelerate the pace and scale of action.

Due by
2030

Led by
City Policy

Influence
City

Influence local and regional stakeholders to take action that delivers Manchester Climate Ready: The Plan 2025–30

- Including GMCA/TfGM, Greater Manchester Pension Fund, Oxford Road Corridor, joint venture projects.

Due by
2030

Led by
City Policy

Influence
City

Influence and lobby the Government to maintain national ambitions and provide appropriate local support and resources to facilitate the net zero transition in Manchester

- Including GMCA/TfGM, Greater Manchester Pension Fund, Oxford Road Corridor, joint venture projects.

Due by
2030

Led by
City Policy

Influence
City

Use the Council's national and international relationships to support Manchester's zero-carbon work

- Learn from good practice and access funding opportunities to help deliver the actions in this CCAP.

Due by
2030

Led by
City Policy

Influence
City

FINANCE AND INVESTMENT

The finance and investment theme will provide the following outcomes.

- A sustainable investment plan to underpin climate action across the Council.
- Strengthened decision-making around carbon investment.
- New funding models supporting investment in improved green infrastructure across the city.

Actions

Develop a green financing strategy to identify specific actions across the lifetime of the CCAP to be progressed. This will consider carbon interventions and their financing in the context of existing Government frameworks

- Consider and review alternative financing strategies, including local climate change bonds
- Build upon early research into Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures requirements, in the context of existing local authority reporting requirements, to potentially develop approach to implementation
- Consider how non-financial outcomes can be used to support the green financing strategy, and how such outcomes can be used to attract investment.

Due by
2026

Led by
Finance

Influence
Council and City

Based on local government best practice, identify, adopt and implement a carbon accounting tool

- Develop financing approaches across all categories of financial intervention, including recognising where the financial model requires external support
- Inclusion of carbon outcomes in capital investment business cases.

Due by
2030

Led by
Finance

Influence
Council

Attract new funding for Green & Blue Infrastructure (G&BI) and explore new innovative funding models

- Build on the successful approach to Managing Manchester’s Trees to develop new funding for trees using an evidence-based approach to guide investment, maximising available internal and external funding, and developing new investment models for both capital investment and ongoing revenue costs
- Utilise the support and investment of external partner organisations to deliver G&BI objectives using Council resources to stimulate investment where relevant.

Due by
2030

Led by
Finance

Influence
City

COMMUNICATIONS

The communications theme will achieve the following outcome.

- Raised awareness of progress made in delivering climate action in Manchester so far, along with the need for increased action over 2025–30.

Action

As part of the overall communications approach, complete the following:

- Work with Manchester Climate Ready to co-create and co-deliver citywide communications campaigns to ensure factual, relevant messaging is shared with target audiences
- Regular communications activity, internal and external, to continue to raise the profile of the Council’s journey to zero carbon by highlighting key projects, achievements and milestones, as outlined in the CCAP
- Behavioural change communications for residents, supported by local neighbourhood engagement activity
- Communications linked to Manchester Climate Ready: The Plan 2025–30.

Due by
2030

Led by
Communications

Influence
Council and City

PLACE AND INFRASTRUCTURE

BUILDINGS AND ENERGY

The buildings and energy theme will achieve the following outcomes.

- Reduced carbon emissions from the Council’s operational estate.
- Accelerated decarbonisation across non-domestic buildings.
- Reduced carbon emissions from new developments and building projects under the Council’s direct control.
- Reduced carbon emissions from Council-owned homes.
- Increased number of energy-efficient homes in the city.
- The Local Plan ensures that future development appropriately supports the city’s zero-carbon commitments.
- Learning from best practice in the built environment informs future developments that balance the needs of people, nature and the climate.
- Reduced carbon emissions from street lighting.
- Reduced carbon emissions through use of a traceable renewable energy source via a power purchase agreement (PPA).
- Reduced carbon emissions from the Manchester Energy Network.
- Clear heat network zone plans in place for Manchester, which will mean certain buildings and low-carbon heat sources will be required to connect to a heat network.
- Increased renewable energy (and capacity for energy storage) across the city.
- Identification of opportunities for energy generation and storage, heat networks, transport infrastructure improvements, and domestic and non-domestic retrofit opportunities at a neighbourhood level.
- Identification of opportunities for digital technology and infrastructure support reduction in citywide emissions.
- Climate resilience is incorporated into the development and retrofitting of existing buildings and energy infrastructure.

Actions

Deliver an estates carbon reduction programme



- Deliver an ongoing programme of building sustainability measures (including both adaptation and mitigation) following surveys undertaken across the estate during CCAP 2020–25
- Develop and implement a building operations strategy with clear guidelines for facilities management/building managers to operate buildings and maximise efficiency of low-carbon infrastructure.

Due by
2030

Led by
Corporate Estates

Influence
Council

- Engagement with staff to share and embed best practice to maximise benefits.

Due by
2027

Led by
Corporate Estates

Influence
Council

Collaborate with partners to maximise scale and pace of non-domestic retrofit across the city, including

- Share good practice/learning to maximise opportunities to decarbonise the public sector estate in Manchester, including unlocking new finance, aligned to the scale of opportunity across Greater Manchester.

Due by
2030

Led by
Corporate Estates

Influence
City

- Support work to accelerate retrofit of commercial office buildings in the city centre, working with Manchester Climate Ready and GMCA.

Due by
2030

Led by
Development and
Investment Estate

Influence
City

- Support schools to understand retrofit opportunities and funding, along with sharing knowledge to accelerate action to decarbonise schools.

Due by
2030

Led by
Corporate Estates/Education

Influence
City

Where the Council is in direct control of a development, it will seek to prioritise retrofit first and implement high net zero standards for new builds

- Adopt a retrofit-first policy
- Seek to implement high net zero standards for new builds in line with recommendations from industry group/the Partnership 'City Challenge' report 2024.

Due by
2030

Led by
Capital Programmes

Influence
Council

Reduce emissions from sheltered housing and communal areas within scope of the Council carbon emissions reporting

- Develop an investment plan for energy-efficient Council-owned housing stock, including maximising opportunities via Greater Manchester Devolution Trailblazer settlement and Housing Revenue Account.



Due by
2030

Led by
Housing Operations

Influence
City

Complete a refresh of the current Housing Strategy

- Complete a refresh of the current Housing Strategy to more accurately reflect the pathway to zero carbon for housing across the city.

Due by
2026

Led by
Strategic Housing

Influence
Council and City

Note: A full review is needed due to ongoing challenges with alignment with national policy and funding. The refresh will outline and set targets for:

- how the Council plans to retrofit and decarbonise its own domestic properties
- how the Council can influence retrofit of all other housing (owned by registered providers, private landlords and owner-occupiers).

At present the pathway to a retrofit strategy sits across three phases: affordable homes (27% of homes), owner-occupied homes (32% of homes) and private rented sector (41% of homes) This could be revised depending on the Government policy/funding.

There are a significant number of challenges to delivery, including financial (both cost increases and capital availability), skills shortage, competing priorities (eg. damp and mould), age of properties (presenting technical difficulties), type of property (eg. significant number of flats and terraced properties so difficult to retrofit in isolation).

In the development of policies in the draft Local Plan, the Council will seek to implement highest possible net zero standards for new builds and retrofit first policy

- Inclusion of new net zero standards and retrofit-first policy in the Local Plan (subject to viability assessment of the draft policies), in line with recommendations from industry group/the Partnership city challenge report 2024.

Due by
2027

Led by
Planning

Influence
City

Identify good practice in recent strategic regeneration projects led by the Council

- Carry out work to review recent best practice (working with Manchester Climate Ready).

Due by
2026

Led by
Major Regeneration

Influence
City

- Support wider adoption of low-carbon, climate resilience and biodiversity enhancements in future regeneration schemes.

Due by
2030

Led by
Major Regeneration

Influence
City

Maximise efficiency of the street lighting system

- Monitor carbon emissions as part of the Council's carbon-reduction programme.



Due by
2030

Led by
Highways

Influence
Council

Implement power purchase agreement (PPA) for renewable energy supply for the Council



- Power purchase agreement (PPA) supply commences.

Due by 2026	Led by Commercial Governance and Corporate Energy	Influence Council
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- Undertake regular energy reforecasting, ensuring that zero-carbon interventions being implemented across the corporate estate are taken into account, which will inform the Council’s energy purchasing activity.

Due by 2030	Led by Commercial Governance and Corporate Energy	Influence Council
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Decarbonise the Manchester Energy Network



- Implement the decarbonisation strategy for the Manchester Energy Network.

Due by 2028	Led by Commercial Governance and Corporate Energy	Influence Council and City
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- Ensure the Manchester Energy Network is prepared for the introduction of the UK Heat Network Zoning Policy.

Due by TBC	Led by Commercial Governance and Corporate Energy	Influence Council and City
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Note: The implementation of the UK Heat Network Zoning Policy is being led by the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) and is underpinned by the Energy Act 2023. While the overarching framework is now in place, the detailed regulations and secondary legislation required to implement zoning are still under development. As such, the exact timescales remain subject to Government decision-making and legislative processes

Support delivery of heat networks across the city

- Support the delivery of the strategic heat zoning programme, as published in DESNZ heat zoning plans (September 2024) under provisions within the Energy Act 2023, which will mean certain buildings and low-carbon heat sources will be required to connect to heat networks
- Engage with key stakeholders for the delivery of new heat networks, in conjunction with GMCA and the heat network zoning work, including the private sector and potential anchor load customers
- Identify and explore the feasibility of large- and small-scale heat networks in Manchester
- Explore next options for the Wythenshawe Heat Network based on the completed feasibility study.

Due by
TBC

Led by
Infrastructure and
Environment

Influence
City

Note: The implementation of the UK Heat Network Zoning Policy is being led by the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) and is underpinned by the Energy Act 2023. While the overarching framework is now in place, the detailed regulations and secondary legislation required to implement zoning are still under development. As such, the exact timescales remain subject to Government decision-making and legislative processes

Support the increase of renewable energy generation and battery storage across Manchester in line with Local Area Energy Plan principles, Manchester Climate Ready: The Plan 2025–30 and Greater Manchester’s Local Area Energy Plan

- Working with GMCA and Manchester Climate Ready, further develop a pipeline of renewable energy generation projects following on from the Local Net Zero Accelerator programme across schools, public buildings, voluntary, community and social enterprise sector and the private sector, including development of community energy projects
- Co-ordinate contact and share information between Electricity North West and the Council to align strategic goals and investments to benefit of city energy supply and growth
- Understand Manchester’s future energy demands in collaboration with key partners including GMCA, Electricity North West and Manchester Climate Ready
- Work with GMCA and other partners to ensure the Regional Energy Strategic Plan (RESP) is aligned with Manchester’s strategic growth ambitions.

Due by
2030

Led by
Infrastructure and
Environment

Influence
City

Support decarbonisation across Manchester and at a neighbourhood level by:

- Producing a pipeline of net zero projects (including renewable energy generation and storage, domestic and non-domestic building retrofit, heat networks and transport mobility)
- Completing delivery of the Local Net Zero Accelerator programme (funded by DESNZ), which will develop a net zero neighbourhood blueprint.

Due by
2026

Led by
Infrastructure and
Environment

Influence
City

Review opportunities where digital technology and infrastructure can support delivery of the CCAP in reducing citywide emissions

- Identify actions in CCAP where digital can inform decision-making and response to climate risks.

Due by
2030

Led by
Digital Strategy Team

Influence
City

Play our full part in delivery of the Citywide Adaptation Plan

- Supporting the uptake of retrofitting measures by residents (private sector and homeowners) and encouraging developers to consider climate resilience and green infrastructure in all planning, retrofitting and development to improve resilience of current and planned infrastructure.

Due by
2030

Led by
Multiple services

Influence
City

TRANSPORT

The transport theme will achieve the following outcomes.

- Reduced carbon emissions from the Council vehicles (referred to as Council fleet in actions).
- Reduced carbon emissions from staff travel.
- Increased number of staff commuting to work by sustainable methods.
- Improved transport infrastructure that promotes low-carbon modes of transport.
- Increased road safety and mode share of cycling and walking in Manchester.
- Increased electric vehicle charging infrastructure across the city to meet the needs of our residents.
- Reduced emissions from the airport across ground operations and emissions from flights (in line with national targets and guidelines).
- Improved air quality in Manchester in line with the World Health Organization (WHO) Air Quality Guide.
- Climate resilience is incorporated into the development and maintenance of transport infrastructure.

Actions

Develop and implement a Fleet Decarbonisation Strategy for the remainder of the Council's waste and operational fleet to transition to low-emission vehicles



- Development and ongoing review of Fleet Decarbonisation Strategy and action plan.

Due by
2030

Led by
Fleet Services

Influence
Council

Continue to embed the Council Staff Business Travel Policy within the Council to reduce emissions



- Refresh the current staff business travel policy every three years to reflect infrastructure, initiatives and incentives, while continuing to deliver staff travel engagement.

Due by
2026

Led by
HROD&T

Influence
Council

- Review staff business travel to identify opportunities to reduce carbon emissions (prioritising taxi users, taxi contract review and grey fleet).

Due by
2027

Led by
HROD&T

Influence
Council

- Produce elected member sustainable travel guidance and ensure it is included in elected members' induction.

Due by
2025

Led by
HROD&T

Influence
Council

Share best practice with our workforce on commuting options to promote low-carbon travel

- Develop and communicate incentives and resources to promote low-carbon travel.

Due by
2030

Led by
HROD&T

Influence
City

Refresh the Statutory Local Transport Plan (Greater Manchester Transport Strategy), embedding Council priorities in the underpinning policies that will prioritise future investment into strategic transport infrastructure

- Publish a Local Implementation Plan to set out the Council’s citywide strategic transport principles and commitments and our pipeline of known projects and interventions to ensure the Council’s priorities are articulated and align to Greater Manchester-wide investment priorities
- Develop our strategic approach to the development and delivery of new transport infrastructure in the city centre
- Publication of a citywide Parking Strategy that describes our approach for the provision and management of parking supply and kerbside spaces.

Due by
2026

Led by
Infrastructure and
Environment

Influence
City

Implement commitments in the Manchester Active Travel Strategy and Investment Plan

- Implementation of cycle hangars pilot to provide secure on-street cycle parking in residential areas.

Due by
2025

Led by
Infrastructure and
Environment

Influence
City

- Publish complete Network Plan for the whole city, to generate a prioritised pipeline of active travel schemes, including protected cycle tracks, quietways, traffic-free routes, crossing and junction improvements, and greening/public realm improvements to put forward for funding
- Reduce the default speed limit in the city to 20mph, and reduce 40mph speed limits to 30mph, where justified and consistent with overall road safety.

Due by
2026

Led by
Infrastructure and
Environment

Influence
City

- Implement at least 32 School Streets
- Increase accessibility to public ‘destination’ cycle parking, in line with ambitions set out in the Active Travel Strategy.

Due by
2028

Led by
Infrastructure and
Environment

Influence
City

Build data-driven implementation plan for electric vehicle charging infrastructure delivery across Manchester that includes small-scale and large-scale projects that aim to be equitable and affordable

- Increase deployment of electric vehicle charging infrastructure year on year. Engage residents in the transition with regular and engaging comms and events.

Due by
2030

Led by
Infrastructure and
Environment

Influence
City

Work with Manchester Airport Group (MAG) to reduce emissions from its operations

- Ensure Manchester Airport is on track to achieve net zero emissions for ground operations (scopes 1 and 2) by 2038 at the latest by developing joint decarbonisation projects and partnerships and using the Council's shareholding stake in MAG
- Work with MAG, Manchester Climate Ready: The Partnership and other local and national partners, such as universities and other local authorities, to support the decarbonisation of aviation emissions from Manchester Airport as part of delivering the Government's Jet Zero Strategy.

Due by
2030

Led by
City Policy

Influence
City

Help improve Manchester's air quality

- Produce an updated Air Quality Action Plan to identify Manchester's role and remit for supporting air quality improvements in Manchester.

Due by
2026

Led by
Infrastructure and
Environment

Influence
City

- Deliver the updated Air Quality Action Plan
- Continue to engage key stakeholders, including GMCA and TfGM in relation to regional Clean Air Plan-related activity.

Due by
2030

Led by
Infrastructure and
Environment

Influence
City

Play our full part in delivery of the Citywide Adaptation Plan

- By understanding shared risk between infrastructure types to identify mitigating actions that can be implemented collaboratively and improve resilience of current and planned infrastructure.

Due by
2030

Led by
Multiple services

Influence
City

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

The natural environment theme will achieve the following outcomes.

- Improved and increased G&BI across the Council’s estate.
- A joined-up approach across services to deliver the Green and Blue Infrastructure (G&BI) Strategy.
- Improved G&BI across the city.
- Increased street tree coverage in areas of highest need.
- Ambitious G&BI targets included in all significant highways projects.
- Ambitious G&BI targets included in all new Strategic Regeneration Frameworks.
- Clear understanding within the Council and its partners of how climate risk and resilience are incorporated into the built environment and the development and retrofitting of infrastructure.

Actions

Adopt an evidence-based approach to improving the quality, and where appropriate seek to increase G&BI on Council-owned land and assets

- Use national and local climate change evidence to inform G&BI decisions and investments on Council-owned land and assets
- Focus on making the case for early action and intervention to manage future challenges beyond 2030 to address surface water, flooding and urban heat island effects.

Due by
2030

Led by
Planning

Influence
City

Direct delivery of G&BI

- Address the imbalance between the funding, skills and delivery of green infrastructure compared to grey infrastructure by building knowledge and capacity within key delivery services such as Housing, Highways and Capital Programmes
- Develop an understanding within and between directorates to identify where the skills gaps are. These may include understanding of the importance of GI for climate adaptation and resilience, design and specification of GI, and physical installation.

Due by
2030

Led by
Planning

Influence
City

Use new policy levers to drive an evidence-led approach to improving the quality and where appropriate to increase G&BI across the city

- Adopt an evidence-based approach to decision-making around G&BI for climate, adaptation and resilience alongside health inequalities
- Maximise the benefits of biodiversity net gain from new developments, with a focus on mitigating the impact of climate change through the creation, restoration and improvement of habitats and green and blue spaces
- Embed new policy levers within the Manchester Local Plan to improve and increase the provision of green infrastructure, including exploring the adoption of an Urban Green Factor
- Work with GMCA to develop and deliver a Local Nature Recovery Strategy to improve Manchester’s G&BI.

Due by
2030

Led by
Planning

Influence
City

Increase appropriate street tree coverage in urban areas, suburban district centres and other areas outside of parks and green spaces

- Increase street tree coverage with appropriate trees and green infrastructure in suitable locations, to help the city increase adaptation and resilience to the impacts of climate change.

Due by
2030

Led by
Grounds Maintenance and
Highways

Influence
City

Ensure green infrastructure is considered on significant highway projects and is implemented wherever possible

- Further standardise and develop the design of Highways Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) and green infrastructure
- Improve processes (supported by a corporate recognition of the associated financial liability) to ensure the upkeep of SuDS and green space is effectively maintained long term.

Due by
2030

Led by
Highways

Influence
City

Embed and mainstream G&BI across Council-led projects and programmes

- Incorporate ambitious G&BI objectives into all Strategic Regeneration Frameworks from the start to guide development in strategic areas of change across the city
- Use the Council's Joint Venture initiatives (for example Victoria North and Wythenshawe Civic) to push for the highest possible provision and standard of G&BI
- Deliver new and improved G&BI across the city by working in partnership with organisations from all sectors.

Due by
2030

Led by
Growth and Development

Influence
City

- Identify and embed new ways of working within and between directorates to ensure that new Local Plan policy approaches (eg. around tree planting and Urban Green Factor) can be successfully delivered.

Due by
2030

Led by
Highways

Influence
City

Play our full part in delivery of the Citywide Adaptation Plan

- By identifying shared infrastructure risks and collaborative solutions, encourage Council services and infrastructure partners to measure and value the benefits of nature as part of business planning and increase Manchester's G&BI.

Due by
2030

Led by
Multiple services

Influence
City

GREEN AND CIRCULAR ECONOMY

The green and circular economy theme will achieve the following outcomes:

- Influence over the environmental practices of suppliers used by the Council to reduce indirect emissions from goods and services the Council buys.
- Reduced carbon emissions from the ICT systems and infrastructure used by the Council.
- Positive environmental impact through delivery of social value policy will be maximised.
- A clear plan on how to quantify and reduce the Council’s Scope 3 (indirect) emissions.
- Guidance and support available for other organisations to increase emissions reductions across the city and beyond.
- Reduce waste across the Council’s estate and facilities, which will also reduce associated carbon emissions.
- Increased recycling rates across the city.
- Reduction in waste and increase in reuse, repair, sharing and recycling.
- Minimised negative environmental impact of events held by the Council and on Council land, and carbon reductions quantified where possible.
- Reduction in carbon emissions from power usage at events on Council land.
- Council workforce have tools to deliver indoor events to a consistently high sustainability standard.
- Increased support available for businesses to support reduction in their carbon emissions.
- Increased promotion of low-carbon behaviours and reduced promotion of high-carbon products and activities on outdoor advertising screens.
- Influence the transition to a more sustainable food system to help reduce the city’s carbon footprint.
- Businesses understand climate risk and the benefits of action, and businesses are supported to incorporate adaptation and resilience into their operations.

Actions

Maximise the impacts of the 10% weighting for environmental impact in all Council procurement and commissioning processes

- Develop and launch tools for staff and suppliers to support them in their carbon-reduction efforts. This includes the launch in 2025/26 of a new toolkit for staff, new foundation e-learning for staff, and a new toolkit for suppliers
- Provide, and regularly update, a high-quality support and training offer for commissioners on how to embed zero-carbon priorities to commissioning (from service design to contract monitoring)
- Carbon/environmental questions are included in all tenders and embed environmental KPIs to the specification and contract management processes
- Use contract management system to regularly review and report on environmental performance; to promote a performance management culture in relation to carbon reduction (this also supports the Council’s work on Scope 3 emissions).

Due by
2027

Led by
Integrated Commissioning
and Procurement

Influence
Council

- Consider options for the use of sustainable (low-carbon) materials and incorporate these into major projects where viable, and develop a standard palette of materials that integrate low-carbon alternatives.

Due by
2030

Led by
Highways, Capital
Programmes, Major Regen

Influence
Council

- Introduce comprehensive and appropriate sustainability questions into two pilot ICT projects, including expectations across a range of factors, eg. carbon, water use, and circularity. Learnings are then used in future procurements.

Due by
2026

Led by
ICT

Influence
Council

Align the Council's social value strategic priorities and approach with the CCAP 2025–30 outcomes – using social value as a mechanism to reinforce and further our zero-carbon aims

- Focus the environmental aspect of social value on supporting delivery of agreed actions within the CCAP 2025–30. Also, encourage suppliers to share their zero-carbon expertise with the Council and wider partners across the city in support of delivery of the CCAP.

Due by
2030

Led by
City Policy

Influence
Council

Complete a clear baseline of the Council's Scope 3 (indirect) carbon emissions to reduce emissions

- Develop a plan with targets for future reduction, prioritising areas where the Council has greatest control and influence.

Due by
2026

Led by
Integrated Commissioning
and Procurement

Influence
Council

Share learnings and best practice on maximising the impact of environmental weighting (10% in addition to 20% social value) in all Council procurement and commissioning processes

- Share learnings with other public sector organisations, the private sector, and the voluntary, community and social enterprise sector.

Due by
2026

Led by
Integrated Commissioning
and Procurement

Influence
Council

Review waste and recycling provisions and collections of the Council’s own operational waste to ensure compliance with legislation, and maximise segregation, while assessing the potential to reduce overall waste and carbon emissions

- Monitor total waste produced across the estate with the aim of reducing overall volume, increasing recycling and reducing carbon emissions (Scope 3).

Due by
2030

Led by
Waste and Recycling, FM,
Markets, Parks, Grounds
Maintenance, Highways,
Bereavement Services

Influence
Council

- Promote best practice to reduce waste and improve recycling across the Council’s estate

Due by
2030

Led by
Communications

Influence
Council

Continue to work with GMCA on delivery of the Greater Manchester Waste Strategy to ensure compliance with legislation and make it easier for residents to recycle, including:

- Supporting residents through education awareness programmes and communication campaigns
- Collaborating with Waste Disposal Authority on range of waste streams collected
- Assessing opportunities to provide collection points for other materials not collected by standard domestic recycling service, such as electricals.

Due by
2030

Led by
Waste and Recycling

Influence
City

- Promote best practice to influence other organisations in the city to achieve compliance with legislation in waste and recycling, along with reductions in waste across schools, businesses, the voluntary, community and social enterprise sectors, and events.

Due by
2030

Led by
Work and Skills, Education,
Markets

Influence
City

- Ensure compliance with legislation and promote and influence waste reduction and recycling across our parks and events in public spaces.

Due by
2030

Led by
Parks and Events

Influence
City

Support the shift to a circular economy

- Further embedding into procurement processes where relevant.

Due by
2030

Led by
Integrated Commissioning
and Procurement

Influence
Council

- Engaging with partners and residents, and promoting best practice, including in focus areas of:
 - **Plastics** – ensure the Council’s Single Use Plastics Policy continues to be used across the organisation and shared with partners; continue to promote and support the uptake of refillables
 - **Construction** – aligned with GMCA developing work in this area
 - **Textiles** – aligned with GMCA developing work in this area
- Ensure a consistent message to businesses from all Council services to connect local companies to good-quality advice and support, including the GMCA Circular Economy and Business Platform.

Due by
2030

Led by
Integrated Commissioning
and Procurement

Influence
City

Deliver sustainable Council events and support the delivery of sustainable events on Council land (outdoor events in parks and public spaces), focusing in particular on energy, waste, and food and drink

- Continue to contribute learning and experience from best-practice work in Manchester to the development of a national set of guidelines – including the Green Events Code of Practice
- Engage all events using a self-assessment tool for event sustainability to measure and track progress, carrying out targeted work with all small and medium-size events.

Due by
2027

Led by
Events and Parks

Influence
Council and City

- Engage major events in consideration of emerging national practice in live music events.

Due by
2028

Led by
Events and Parks

Influence
Council and City

- Continue to gather targeted carbon footprint data to measure and report on impact.

Due by
2030

Led by
Events and Parks

Influence
Council and City

Implement the Power Rewired Project

- Install power infrastructure to enable outdoor events and filming to run on grid power from Council energy supply, reducing use of diesel generators (at identified locations).

Due by
2028

Led by
Events and Parks

Influence
City

Continue to promote delivery of sustainable indoor events to staff

- Share guidance and best practice with the workforce regularly, including delivery of engagement events for Council staff.

Due by
2030

Led by
HROD&T and City Policy

Influence
Council

Deliver a refreshed Manchester Work and Skills Strategy with a Green Skills Plan

- Increase the number of businesses supported and taking up zero-carbon activities, including buildings retrofitted by working with Business Growth Hub Green Economy team to ensure businesses are supported and made aware of opportunities
- Use research and intelligence to ensure information about future job opportunities is shared with Manchester residents, schools, colleges and other learning/training providers
- Use Labour Market Intelligence to promote green skills and jobs with schools and colleges using resources from Every Job a Green Job (commissioned by the Council) with careers, education, information and guidance staff across the city
- Work with employers and training providers in the green sector to support their delivery of careers education activities.

Due by
2030

Led by
Work and Skills

Influence
City

Maximise communications and engagement opportunities with businesses on climate change

- Establish a working group to identify opportunities.

Due by
2026

Led by
Work and Skills and City
Policy (and others)

Influence
City

- Provide a consistent message on climate change for businesses across all Council services.

Due by
2028

Led by
Work and Skills and City
Policy (and others)

Influence
City

Lobby the Government to develop a definitive list of high-carbon products to be added to the Code of Advertising Practice and enforced by the Advertising Standards Authority

- Commit to using the Council's allocation on advertising screens to promote climate change behaviour campaigns and to showcase successes.

Due by
2030

Led by
City Policy

Influence
City

Embed the Food for the Planet actions from the Manchester Food Strategy across key Council service areas, including Neighbourhoods, Public Health, Integrated Commissioning and Procurement, and Growth and Development, through service plans and decision-making

- Promote sustainable practices such as local and seasonal food production, promoting less and better meat consumption, and waste reduction.

Due by
2030

Led by
City Policy

Influence
City

Play our full part in delivery of the Citywide Adaptation Plan

- Deliver targeted awareness campaigns for businesses on climate risks and opportunities. Encourage businesses to develop climate action plans that address adaptation alongside wider sustainability goals. Explore local finance and policy to support business and build the skills required for a climate-resilient economy.

Due by
2030

Led by
Multiple services

Influence
City

PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES

The people and communities theme will achieve the following outcomes.

- A knowledgeable workforce that can embed learnings on approaches to zero carbon into its everyday working.
- Direct engagement with residents to help them reduce their carbon emissions.
- Education providers supported to help them reduce their carbon emissions and share learnings, along with supporting delivery of climate education to children and young people.
- Improved climate-awareness training available to residents across the city to support climate action and green skills development.
- Grant-funded organisations supported to help them reduce their carbon emissions.
- Communities are equipped to effectively play their part in preparing for and responding to climate risks, and effective systems are in place to protect people during extreme weather events.

Actions

Deliver a comprehensive learning and development offer on zero carbon for our entire workforce, with enhanced support for areas with the highest level of impacts

- Further embed ownership and accountability of zero-carbon action into services and service delivery.

Due by
2030

Led by
HROD&T

Influence
Council

Enable Manchester communities to take action on climate change in their neighbourhoods

- Neighbourhood teams to refresh and publish ward-level Climate Change Action Plans describing local action for every ward in the city each year across all the themes in Ward CCAPs, including nature and biodiversity, homes and energy, transport, food, children and young people, and things we buy, use and throw away
- Progress against the priorities identified in Ward CCAPs and report regularly against the agreed set of targets
- Neighbourhood teams to directly engage with at least 6,000 people on climate change in Manchester every year, using data to prioritise resources on engaging as diverse a range of communities as possible
- Neighbourhood teams to ensure that at least one Neighbourhood Investment Fund grant awarded in each ward each year is focused on engaging residents in activity relevant to CCAPs and building community partnerships.

Due by
2030

Led by
Neighbourhood teams

Influence
City

Deliver a programme of work to support and engage education providers as outlined in the Education Climate Change Action Plan to progress or commence climate action. This has four areas: Campus, Curriculum, Culture and Community

- **Campus, Curriculum, Culture and Community**
 - Support every education setting to have a climate change action plan, which includes carbon reduction targets and ways to adapt to impacts of climate change
- **Curriculum**
 - New curriculum framework lobbying and implementation to deliver improved zero-carbon and environmental education for students (under 18)
 - Delivery of climate assemblies
 - Support and promote delivery of Carbon Literacy in schools
- **Culture and Community**
 - Continue to facilitate and expand both the Green Schools Networks and Resource Hub to provide zero-carbon support for education settings
- **Culture, Community and Curriculum**
 - Align with work being delivered by other services with schools to drive climate action, including Eco Schools programme and through Ward Climate Change Plans.

Due by
2030

Led by
Education

Influence
City

Support an increased climate awareness and training offer to learners, residents, businesses, and voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) organisations

- Support and enhance ongoing climate awareness and communications with residents and other learning and training providers to embed climate action into new and existing programmes. This will be done by influencing the learning landscape to integrate principles of climate change into the adult skills curriculum using UNESCO City of Life learning and Carbon Literate City as an enabler.

Due by
2030

Led by
Work and Skills

Influence
City

- Support and champion the delivery of Carbon Literacy training to partners, businesses and VCSE organisations around the city to support the Manchester Carbon Literate City initiative.

Due by
2028

Led by
City Policy

Influence
City

Build on progress made (2020–25) in grant programmes positively addressing climate change

- Share learnings from the Our Manchester Fund and Culture grants with other grant-giving services (noting that any requirements need to be proportionate).

Due by
2030

Led by
City Policy

Influence
City

Play our full part in delivery of the Citywide Adaptation Plan

- Deliver public awareness campaigns regarding health and wider risks of climate change. Collaborate with partners to enhance climate education. Identify safe shelter to protect people during extreme weather events, provide targeted support for residents in high-risk areas, and work with communities on local resilience projects.

Due by
2030

Led by
Multiple services

Influence
City

LIST OF OTHER PLANS

Want to know more about our goal to be zero carbon? Check our progress, find case studies and info on how to get involved at www.manchester.gov.uk/zero-carbon.

The CCAP aligns with a number of other plans and strategies. These have been grouped into the three themes of the Our Manchester Strategy 2025–35:

- [Our Manchester Strategy 2025–35](#)

PEOPLE:

- [Making Manchester Fairer 2022–2027](#)
- [Making Manchester Fairer: Anti-Poverty Strategy 2023–2027](#)
- [Population Health Plan 2018–2027](#)
- [Manchester Food Strategy 2023–2028](#)

NEIGHBOURHOODS:

- [Housing Strategy 2022–2032](#)
- [Manchester’s Great Outdoors: A Green and Blue Strategy and Action Plan 2021–2025](#)
- [Tree and Woodland Action Plan 2024–2034](#)
- [Manchester Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan: The City of Manchester’s Nature Recovery, 2022–2030](#)
- [Our Rivers Our City Strategy 2021–2030](#)

CITY:

- [Investing in Success: Economic Strategy 2023–2033](#)
- [Manchester Digital Strategy 2021–2026](#)
- [Work and Skills Strategy 2022–2027](#)
- [Local Area Energy Plan](#)
- [Greater Manchester Transport Strategy 2040](#)
- [City Centre Transport Strategy 2021–2040](#)
- [EV Charging Infrastructure Strategy 2024–2035](#)
- [Manchester Active Travel Strategy and Investment Plan 2023–2028](#)
- [Manchester Climate Ready: the Plan 2025–2030](#)
- [Manchester Adaptation Plan 2025–2030](#)

GLOSSARY

Adaptation – Action required to manage the effects of current or expected climate change. Climate adaptation aims to minimise the impact of current and future climate change. It involves adjusting systems, practices and policies to reduce the adverse impacts of climate change and to take advantage of any potential opportunities.

Biodiversity – The variety of all living things on Earth and their interactions within a specific area or ecosystem.

Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) – An approach to development and land management that aims to improve the natural environment, leaving it better than it was before.

Capital investment – Spending money on long-term assets such as buildings, infrastructure, vehicles or equipment.

Carbon accounting tool – A system or software used to measure and track the amount of greenhouse gases (including carbon dioxide) produced by an organisation, project or activity.

Carbon budget – The maximum amount of carbon dioxide that can be produced (carbon emissions) over a certain time period, in order to achieve a specific climate goal. The Council uses 2017/18 as a baseline to calculate its carbon budget to 2038.

Carbon dioxide (CO₂) – A gas that is naturally found in the Earth’s atmosphere. Too much carbon dioxide in the atmosphere traps heat and causes the Earth’s climate to change (see also ‘Greenhouse gases’ definition).

Carbon emissions – The release of carbon dioxide from activities such as burning fossil fuels, including coal, oil and gas. These emissions are a major cause of climate change.

(In other definitions this can include other greenhouse gases as well as carbon dioxide. Manchester City Council measures carbon dioxide emissions.)

Carbon footprint – The total amount of carbon dioxide released into the atmosphere caused by an individual, organisation, event or product.

(In other definitions this can include other greenhouse gases as well as carbon dioxide. Manchester City Council measures carbon dioxide.)

Carbon interventions – Actions taken to reduce the amount of carbon released into the atmosphere.

Circular economy – An approach where materials never become waste, which keeps resources in use for as long as possible through processes such as maintenance, reuse, refurbishment, remanufacture, recycling and composting.

Climate change – Long-term changes in the Earth’s weather patterns and average temperatures that persist for an extended period – typically decades or longer.

Climate change bonds – A type of investment that helps raise funds for projects that tackle climate change.

Climate emergency – A situation in which urgent action is required to reduce or stop climate change and avoid potentially irreversible environmental damage resulting from it.

Decarbonisation – The process of stopping or reducing greenhouse gases, including carbon dioxide (CO₂), being released into the atmosphere.

Direct carbon emissions – Carbon emissions that are released from sources an organisation owns or controls. These are a direct result of an organisation’s operations, such as from fuel burned in boilers or vehicles.

Emissions pathway – A projected route showing how carbon emissions could change over time, based on different choices or policies.

Fleet – A group of vehicles owned or used by an organisation. This can include cars, vans, buses or other transport used for delivering services.

Governance – Systems and processes used to make decisions, manage responsibilities and ensure accountability.

Green and blue infrastructure – Natural spaces like parks, woodlands, rivers and wetlands. These help manage climate impacts, support biodiversity, improve air and water quality, and enhance health and wellbeing.

Green finance – Using money in ways that help protect the environment and tackle climate change.

Greenhouse gases – Gases in the atmosphere that trap heat and warm the planet. These include carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide.

Indirect emissions – See Scope 3 emissions.

Low carbon – Describes activities, technologies or choices that minimise the release of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gas emissions.

Manchester Climate Change Framework 2020–25 – The city’s last five-year plan tackling climate change.

Manchester Climate Ready (MCR) – Formerly Manchester Climate Change Agency and Partnership. Manchester Climate Ready is responsible for setting and overseeing the city’s climate change targets and plan, championing collaborative action, reporting progress and positioning Manchester as a leading city for climate action.

Manchester Climate Ready: The Plan 2025–30 – The city’s new five-year plan for tackling climate change.

Manchester Priority Groups – The Manchester Priority Groups include people living in poverty, carers, people experiencing homelessness, care experienced people and care leavers, as well as former and current armed forces personnel and their families. These are considered in Manchester City Council’s Equality Impact Assessments in addition to the protected characteristics identified in the Equalities Act 2010.

Mitigation – Action required to prevent or reduce emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases in order to slow down climate change.

Net zero – A state where the amount of greenhouse gases produced by human activity is balanced by the amount removed from the atmosphere (as defined by the Climate Change Committee).

Paris Agreement – An international treaty adopted in 2015 that commits countries to limit global warming to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels, and to pursue efforts to keep it below 1.5°C through national climate action plans.

Resilience (climate resilience) – The ability of residents and organisations to cope with and recover from challenges such as extreme weather and other climate-related impacts or disruptions.

Scope 3 emissions – Indirect emissions that occur in an organisation’s value chain, beyond its direct operations and purchased energy. They include purchased goods and services, and waste, along with other categories.

Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures – A series of recommendations for how the Government and the wider public sector might incorporate risks and opportunities related to climate change into financial reporting.

Tyndall Centre for Climate Change

Research – A UK-based research partnership that brings together scientists, engineers and social researchers to develop practical responses to climate change. Part of The University of Manchester.

UNICEF – The United Nations Children’s Fund, a global organisation that works to protect the rights and wellbeing of children, providing support in areas like health care, education, nutrition and emergency relief.

Zero carbon – in relation to the city –

The definition of zero carbon is based on the Tyndall Centre’s recommendation and is the point beyond which Manchester’s average annual carbon emissions are 97% lower than 1990 levels. This includes carbon dioxide emissions from the energy system only, ie. the gas, electricity and liquid fuels used to power and heat our homes and businesses and to transport us around the city, described as direct emissions.

Zero carbon – in relation to the Council –

The definition of zero carbon is based on the Tyndall Centre’s recommendation and is the point beyond which Manchester City Council’s average annual carbon emissions (for categories identified in its carbon pathway) are 95% lower than financial year 2017/18 levels.

