

**Manchester City Council
Report for Resolution**

Report To: Executive – 27 May 2009
Subject: European Commission Covenant of Mayors on Climate Change
Report of: Director of Neighbourhood Services

Summary

The Covenant of Mayors is a formal commitment by the European cities to reduce their CO₂ emissions beyond existing EU 20% targets and has now been signed by a total of 466 cities throughout Europe. Manchester City Council has expressed an interest but has not yet formally signed the covenant.

Presented in this report is an outline of the commitments within the covenant against Manchester's current and planned activity.

Recommendations

Members are asked to:

1. Approve that the Leader of the Council signs the Covenant of Mayors adhesion form, for submission to the European Commission, via the newly established Covenant of Mayors Office.
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Wards Affected:

All

| Community Strategy Spine | Summary of the contribution to the strategy |
|---|---|
| Performance of the economy of the region and sub region | Manchester is well placed to turn climate change action to economic advantage by seizing early-mover advantage on establishing a new low carbon economy. |
| Reaching full potential in education and employment | Climate change education is vital to enable and inspire people to change their individual and collective behaviours and to realise the employment opportunities and other benefits that will be created in a new low carbon city. |

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| Individual and collective self esteem – mutual respect | Living low carbon lifestyles will instil in residents a sense of respect for themselves and the well-being of their communities, now and in the future. Improving the energy efficiency of new and existing homes and providing better access to local services through sustainable transport will help to address the inequalities that exist for residents on lower incomes, particularly those in fuel poverty. |
| Neighbourhoods of Choice | Ongoing regeneration provides an opportunity to integrate low carbon design and living into the fabric of the City. Families will be attracted to rather than forced to live low carbon lifestyles in attractive, well-designed neighbourhoods. |

Full details are in the body of the report, along with any implications for:

- Equal Opportunities Policy
- Risk Management
- Legal Considerations

Financial Consequences – Revenue

None at present

Financial Consequences – Capital

None at present

Contact Officers:

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Background documents (available for public inspection):

The following documents disclose important facts on which the report is based and have been relied upon in preparing the report. Copies of the background documents are available up to 4 years after the date of the meeting. If you would like a copy please contact one of the contact officers above.

- Manchester's Climate Change Call to Action, Full Report, Manchester City Council, January 2009. www.manchester.gov.uk/climatechange
- Covenant of EU Mayors on Climate Change

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Further to Manchester's expression of interest to sign up to the Covenant of Mayors (CoM) in January 2008; the first ceremony of the Covenant of Mayors took place on 10 February 2009 at the European Parliament. A total of 466 cities throughout Europe have now formally signed up to the covenant, with a further 125 having expressed their intention to sign. Manchester has not yet formally signed up to the covenant.
- 1.2 Participating in the CoM initiative would allow Manchester the opportunity to exchange information with key European cities and, following the publication of the Climate Change Call to Action, further highlight the City's commitment to tackling climate change on the international stage.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 As set out in Appendix 1 below, the commitments within the CoM do not represent either an increased target or resource burden. The Climate Change Call to Action already commits the Council to producing a sustainable energy plan (to be called the Manchester 'Climate Change Action Plan') by the end of 2009 and work to satisfy the other key commitments is already underway in Manchester.
- 2.2 We are assured by the Commission that the adherence documentation may be signed at any time; however, this would first require the approval of the Council's Executive Committee.
- 2.3 Appendix 1 summarises the main commitments within the covenant and Manchester's current and planned activity in each of those areas.

3.0 Contributing to the Community Strategy

- 3.1 The aims of the Covenant of Mayors are consistent with those stated by the Council in the Manchester Climate Change Call to Action. In Manchester, climate change action should be grounded in the values and the three spines of the Community Strategy, by addressing climate change in pursuit of the goal of a wealthier, happier and more inclusive city.

(a) Performance of the economy of the region and sub region

- 3.2 Manchester is well placed to turn climate change action to economic advantage by positioning itself as an investment location of choice. Cities / regions that have a commitment to a low carbon economy will have a major influence in the future investment decisions of occupiers, businesses and financial investors. This means harnessing the City's established strengths in promoting a positive investment environment alongside new programmes to deliver the infrastructure and services that will underpin a low carbon economy. Manchester will need to seize the early-mover advantage described by the Greater Manchester 'Mini Stern' Review and in so doing will establish a competitive advantage for existing businesses and new investors to the City.

(b) Reaching full potential in education and employment

- 3.3 Schools, colleges and higher education institutions have a vital role to play in educating people to recognise and realise the potential of being part of a low carbon city. Young people in particular, can act as ambassadors in influencing and educating the wider community about the need and benefits of adapting their lifestyles and those of their peers.
- 3.4 In addition to the employment opportunities that a low carbon city will bring, residents will come to recognise the corresponding improvement in the quality of their lives and those of family and friends through, for example, improved air quality, reliable sustainable transport to work and the cultural, leisure and recreation opportunities that are an integral part of any World Class city.

(c) Individual and collective self esteem – mutual respect

- 3.5 Globally and locally, there is a strong relationship between incomes and carbon emissions. Residents on lower incomes are much more likely to live in energy inefficient homes and have limited access to local services, which means they need to travel more. Rising energy costs hit poorer households hardest, with 3.5 million households in the UK living in fuel poverty, while better-off households are more likely to fly, drive and use energy-intensive appliances in the home. Shifting the City to be low carbon – especially through actions such as retrofitting existing homes – will benefit the least well-off households the most.
- 3.6 Making sure residents have access to safe, reliable public transport is particularly important given rising fuel costs and is integral to the reduction of carbon emissions.
- 3.7 By recognising the benefits of altering their lifestyles and encouraging their wider communities to do the same, we want our residents to help create thriving neighbourhoods that they can be proud of and want to live in.

(d) Neighbourhoods of Choice

- 3.8 The City Council is determined to improve the lives of communities across the City and reverse the longstanding trend for people – especially families – to choose to move out as their circumstances change. Places that enable people to live lower- carbon lifestyles can also make for more popular and socially integrated communities. Ongoing regeneration in Manchester provides an opportunity to integrate principles of low carbon design and living into the fabric of the city, helping to make sustainable lifestyles attractive rather than forced.

4.0 Key Policies and Considerations

(a) Equal Opportunities

- 4.1 The commitments under the Covenant of Mayors are consistent with those made by the City Council in the Climate Change Call to Action. Taking action

on climate change will help to tackle those issues which affect the City's most deprived residents and those on lower incomes. Fuel poverty and access to local services and employment through sustainable transport infrastructure and well-designed neighbourhoods will help to address the inequalities that currently exist in parts of the City.

(b) Risk Management

- 4.2 The commitments under the Covenant of Mayors are consistent with those made by the City Council in the Climate Change Call to Action. The approach to climate change described in the Call to Action is one of inspiring and enabling stakeholders to become fully engaged in the need to undertake mainstream activities differently, in a way that will benefit themselves, their families, their communities and their businesses. The manifestation of this engagement and change in behaviour will be a low carbon city by 2020. Failure to achieve citywide engagement means that Manchester will not realise the various benefits outlined in the Call to Action and therefore compromise the vision of the Community Strategy, which climate change action is integral to. To mitigate this risk audience-specific awareness raising and engagement will be delivered through the "Proud Of" campaign and robust business plans are being developed for each of the catalytic actions.

(c) Legal Considerations

- 4.3 No legal risks identified at this time.

Appendix 1

Relevant MCC Activity to date:

Call to Action - This report was approved by Manchester City Council Executive on January 14th 2009 and commits the Council and partners to produce a Manchester Climate Change Action Plan by late 2009, incorporating a full route-map to achieving a reduction in Manchester's carbon emissions of over one million tonnes a year by 2020, commensurate with the UK Climate Change Act interim target.

PEPESEC - The 30-month "Partnership Energy Planning as a tool for realising European Sustainable Energy Communities" (PEPESEC) project will help the Council and partners to understand the energy planning process as followed by partners from across Europe, in particular Sweden, where energy planning is a standard practice. Learning and best practice from the project is already being used to support the implementation of the Call to Action and will be incorporated into the Manchester Climate Change Action Plan.

The following table summarises the main commitments within the covenant and Manchester's current and planned activity in each of those areas.

| Covenant Commitments | MCC Performance |
|---|--|
| <p>Go beyond the objectives set by the EU for 2020, reducing the CO2 emissions in our respective territories by at least 20%, through the implementation of a Sustainable Energy Action Plan for those areas of activity relevant to our mandates. The commitment and the Action Plan will be ratified through our respective procedures</p> | <p>The English Core Cities have all agreed to achieve or exceed targets for reducing CO2 emissions in line with the UK Climate Change Act and relevant legislation and policy, through signing "A Shared Commitment to Climate Change Action from the Core Cities and Government".</p> <p>The Climate Change Act commits the UK to a 34% reduction in emissions from 1990 baseline by 2020. Manchester and other Core Cities have therefore already committed to emissions reductions beyond EU 2020 objectives.</p> |
| <p>Prepare a baseline emission inventory as a basis for the Sustainable Energy Action Plan</p> | <p>A range of emissions inventories are currently being considered. The most appropriate will be selected during the production of the Climate Change Action Plan.</p> |
| <p>Submit the Sustainable Energy Action Plan within the year following each of us formally signing up to the Covenant of Mayors</p> | <p>The Council have committed to work with partners to produce a Climate Change Action Plan (Manchester's 'sustainable energy action plan') by late-2009. This will meet the requirements of the Covenant of Mayors and the commitment under PEPESEC to produce a plan by June 2010.</p> |
| <p>Adapt city structures, including allocation of</p> | <p>The Council are undertaking work in</p> |

| Covenant Commitments | MCC Performance |
|--|--|
| sufficient human resources, in order to undertake the necessary actions | this area to meet the requirements of National Indicator 188 (Planning to Adapt to Climate Change) , including working with the University of Manchester and Bruntwood, as part of the Eco Cities project to establish a blueprint for an integrated climate change adaptation strategy for Greater Manchester |
| Mobilise the civil society in our geographical areas to take part in developing the Action Plan, outlining the policies and measures needed to implement and achieve the objectives of the Plan. An Action Plan will be produced in each territory and shall be submitted to the Secretariat of the Covenant within the year following signing up | The Call to Action states that involvement of Manchester's communities and organisations is central in development of the Manchester Climate Change Action Plan. Dialogue with residents is already underway through the 'Proud Of Manchester' programme and will continue throughout 2009. |
| Submit an implementation report at least every second year after submission of the Action Plan for evaluation, monitoring and verification purposes | Reporting regimes will be defined in the Manchester Climate Change Action Plan. Performance in relation to the climate change National Indicators will be reported annually. |
| Share our experience and know-how with other territorial units | Knowledge sharing is already integral to our work with the UK Core Cities, Eurocities and Association of Greater Manchester Authorities. |
| Organise Energy Days or City Covenant Days, in co-operation with the European Commission and with other stakeholders, allowing citizens to benefit directly from the opportunities and advantages offered by a more intelligent use of energy, and to regularly inform the local media on developments concerning the action plan | A range of resident and stakeholder engagement activities are already underway through the 2009 'Proud Of Manchester' programme. This work builds on the '100 Days' Campaign and initiatives such as In Town Without My Car Day, which Manchester has participated in with Salford for several years. |
| Attend and contribute to the annual EU Conference of Mayors for a Sustainable Energy Europe | This is a new commitment for signatories to the Covenant. |
| Spread the message of the Covenant in the appropriate fora and, in particular, encourage other Mayors to join the Covenant | We will seek to highlight our commitment to the covenant at appropriate fora, and encourage other leaders to join, where appropriate. |