

#ClimateDeedsNotWords

Contributions towards the speedy implementation of Manchester City Council's July 10th Climate Emergency Declaration

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



A Climate Emergency Manchester Report
Monday July 22nd 2019

Two weeks ago Manchester City Council unanimously supported a climate emergency declaration with 23 elements to it. Climate Emergency Manchester working with allies, notably Rising Up! Manchester Families, has produced a 44 page report that looks in detail at the elements, proposing specific short term actions that the council can take to turn these elements into deeds.

The report also gives important background to the nature of Climate Emergency Declarations, the history of the City Council's policy process over the last ten years (with lessons to be learned), and calls for a massive communications effort to explain to citizens the scale of the challenge ahead.

*The report has been written **not** just with Executive members, officers and concerned councillors in mind, but also the broader networks of citizens who are concerned about climate change and want their city to back up its July 10th Climate Emergency Declaration with concrete and immediate action.*

We know a 44 page document is unlikely to be read in its entirety, or in one sitting. That is fine – some of it will date quickly and be overtaken by events. Other bits we shall return to, and expand upon, in the near future.

We have also produced a 4 page version of the report that we hope people will present to their councillors.

Climate Emergency Manchester looks forward to working with individuals and groups across the city who want to respond to the Climate Emergency. You can contact us on climateemergencymanchester@gmail.com or @ClimateEmergMcr

What Councillor can do in the coming weeks

- - Liaise with their fellow Councillors and decide which of the three councillors is best placed to be the Ward's Climate Champion, and then make an announcement to that effect.
- Identify and communicate with as many concerned citizens and organisations in your ward as possible to explain that there will be action on climate change in your ward, and that ideas are urgently needed, and that the Climate Champion will do whatever is in their power
- - Discuss with colleagues and officers the urgent need for the creation of a senior management sub-team
- Lobby for the presentation of draft implementation plans for elements 2,4,9 and 11 of the Climate Emergency Declaration to be brought to Scrutiny for the September meetings
- Engage with the new subgroup on climate du to be formed shortly.

Executive summary

Can Manchester genuinely get to carbon zero in just over ten years?

Professor Kevin Anderson: *“In isolation, if no one else was doing anything, and if they continue to do nothing, I think probably it would be fairly clear that “no” would be the answer. However just you could also postulate Manchester genuinely trying to go down that route, and then that triggering some other cities. So perhaps Oslo follows suite, maybe Nottingham, maybe Bristol. Maybe then we start to see Paris and some other cities start to follow a similar route. Now if that starts to happen in three or four years you can start a new momentum which we would find hard to anticipate today.” “It may well be that if Manchester tried to do that it could be the catalyst.”*

Whether 2038 or 2030, it is clear that rapid forward motion is needed. It is also clear from the latest reports that Manchester is a long way from achieving any targets, with only 2.5% reduction being achieved against a 13% target last year. A plan to make a plan is not enough. CEM calls on the council for a draft implementation plan for specific elements of the 10th July Climate Emergency Motion to be presented to the scrutiny committee meetings in early September for comment from elected members and members of the public. A final plan should be presented to the six committees in October.

The following actions need to be undertaken immediately, given that this IS an emergency.

- **Ward level engagement** – all 32 wards to have agreed Local Climate Champions - one councillor to champion climate action and engagement within ward.
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- **Create temporary team from senior council management** which reports to chief executive with full time project management support to create implementation plan. Part of remit of group to put together longer-term team to deliver implementation plan
- **The immediate need is for draft implementation plans to be presented to Scrutiny Committees in September for the following elements of the motion**
 - Element 2 (the zero carbon date)
 - Element 4 (the liaison with all 32 wards by April 2020)
 - Element 9 (Manchester’s aviation emissions)
 - Element 11 (for all members and staff to be zero carbon by the end of 2020)
- **Communication of climate emergency is a key part of engagement of city** – ALL council communications channels to ALL target audiences to include the message that *MCC have declared a climate emergency, we’re fighting for our futures* – along with a link to a dedicated page (see Appendix 5 of this report)
- **Establish a seventh scrutiny committee dedicated to climate** to convene asap. The first job for committee to identify plans in progress but not yet actioned which are incompatible with declaration of emergency

What next?

Next 1 month (by end of August 2019)

	Simple	Complex
Executive	Commit to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> providing, for 22 elements, a named champion, with a commitment to report openly and bluntly on progress, obstacles and shortfalls producing draft implementation plans for the elements crucial element (2, 4, 9), which will be presented to scrutiny committees in September 	Fulfil the commitments in the box to the left. That the Council sets up a dedicated “Project Room” to act as meeting and communication fulcrum for this activity. A room of this sort would use its wall space to hold all key information about the challenge, area by area, current thinking on options for overcoming those challenges, performance against targets. A room of this sort is often used in manufacturing sectors (particularly Aerospace and Automotive) as a way of communicating, engaging and inspiring both internal and external stakeholders in the delivery of complex projects. One of the contributors to this report has direct experience of this idea.
Councillors	Decide which of the three councillors is to lead on climate change in the ward (this does not mean the other two do nothing!)	Begin to think - and <i>liaise</i> - about ward plans and how they can be altered to help meet the aspirations in the Climate Emergency Declaration
Citizens	Engage with councillors to ensure that implementation plans are drafted and come to scrutiny. Make sure that civil society groups they are part of are aware of the climate emergency motion and what it commits the council to. And that this will only happen if citizens step up.	“Adopt” one of the elements of the motion Engage with all councillors on the questions of the ward plan and dates/venues of meeting(s) about the plan

Next 3 months (by end of October 2019)

	Simple	Complex
Executive	Produce an implementation plan, which is modified in response to comments and suggestions both from citizens and councillors for all 23 elements of the motion	Co-ordinate action around the ‘moving target’ 2nd element of the motion, participating in public discussions and investigations of moving the zero carbon target.. Liaise closely with Climate Change Committee to understand how they approach what they do at the national level to see what learnings there might be from their approach
Councillors	Ask questions about the implementation plans, suggest improvements to it	Create full schedule of meetings to occur in all 32 wards (if exact date and venue not known, commit to a particular week). Liaise with citizens and groups within ward, explaining the challenges ahead
Citizens	As with councillors, engage constructively with the process of implementation plan production (yes, it’s boring, but so what?)	Bring in more people who are worried about climate change, have vaguely heard of the climate emergency declaration. Get them involved, make it easier rather than harder for them to stay involved.