

ESC/14/20

Recommendations of the Environmental Sustainability Subgroup

The Committee considered a report of the Deputy Chief Executive (Growth and Neighbourhoods) which set out the proposed programme for responding to the recommendations of the Environmental Sustainability Subgroup, which were endorsed by the Economy Scrutiny Committee and the Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Committee at their March 2014 meetings. The Chair told the Committee that at the previous meeting, members had asked for a report from officers which set out how the impact of each of the recommendations would be measured.

Councillor Stogia, who chaired the Subgroup for the second half of its meetings, said the report laid out the recommendations and actions well, but was disappointed that the measures were not SMART (specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and time limited) and that a number of the deadlines proposed were a while away. She noted that some of the responses indicated that the Council was waiting for others to act before progress could be made, but felt that Manchester should be leading the way. She added that ward coordination should be involved to help members lead. She suggested that the Committee should ask for this report to be brought back and for officers to make the actions to be taken for the recommendations much more robust.

The Executive Member for the Environment told the Committee that the report had also been submitted to the Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Committee the previous day, and it had also asked for the timescales to be brought forward where possible. She said it had also asked for more dates for the carbon literacy training and asked for it to be held directly before a committee meeting in order to maximise attendance. She agreed that some of the timescales could be brought forward. She added that the two most important things that came out of the Subgroup's investigation were the relationships that had been developed and the focus on what councillors can do, rather than officers. The Environmental Strategy Manager clarified that there were a number of actions that needed to be taken up at the Greater Manchester, rather than city, level in order to be effective. But he agreed that Manchester should not be held back by this.

A member said that it was not made clear how councillors could carry out an audit of activity in their ward. The Executive Member for the Environment said that the