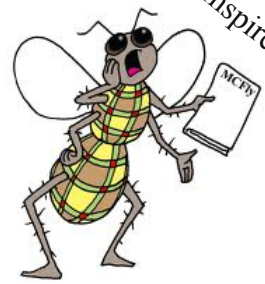


# MANCHESTER CLIMATE MONTHLY



manchesterclimatemonthly.net

Vol 2, No. 8. August 2013

## AGONY AUNT

Advice for  
FOLORN feed-back  
blues



Page 2

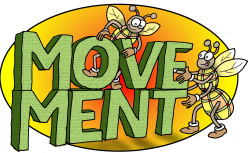
## NEWS AT SIX



Page 6

## Movement Building:

Emotathons - yuck!!



Page 5

A citizens' Climate  
Change Action  
Plan. It needs YOU.

Page 4



Steering Group lulz  
#94 & the usual  
gossip...

Page 6

# 0 - 7 = ...+1.8?!

If you think those numbers don't add up, you're not alone. Even Manchester City Council, which had tried to tell the public it had reduced carbon dioxide emissions, has conceded that their carbon emissions have actually increased. In a dramatic admission at Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Committee on Tuesday 16th July, Nigel Murphy, the elected member for responsibility for climate change action admitted that the Council's emissions have *increased*. Responding to a question based around Friends of the Earth's submission to the committee, Councillor Murphy conceded that - contrary to a press release released by Manchester City Council - like-for-like carbon dioxide emissions from the City Council's operations have gone up by 1.8% in the past year, and that the actual amount saved over the last three years is 5.2%, not the 14% initially claimed.

Executive Member Nigel Murphy responded to a question by Cllr James Hennigan by telling the assembled councillors and members of the public that he was willing to agree with Manchester Friends of the Earth's analysis as long as it was noted that the Council has been sourcing its energy from "decarbonised sources." The Friends of the Earth submission, sent the previous night to the chair of the Committee included the immortal lines "*Achieving the operational and cultural changes to radically reduce greenhouse gas emissions is clearly not a simple task and will require dedicated and continuous action. it will also require a*

*commitment to transparent and meaningful progress reporting."*

It continued "*We therefore call on the Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Committee to request that the Annual Carbon Reduction Plan be amended to clearly state that there was a 1.8% increase in like-for-like emissions between 2011/2 and 2012/13, and that there has only been a 5.2% reduction in like-for-like emissions against the 2009/10 baseline."*

MCFly has over the last weeks repeatedly asked the City Council if the 2013/14 Annual Carbon Reduction Plan going to be redrafted to include more ambitious targets, so that the Council meets its "20% by 2014" reduction target. We have also asked "*when did 2009/10 become the agreed baseline year for the Council's emissions? In the Manchester Climate Change Action Plan, agreed by the Executive on November 17th 2009, goal one was a 41% reduction on carbon dioxide emissions by 2020 from a 2005 baseline."*

In its finest traditions of openness and accountability the City Council has, at time of going to press, given us no statement.

### What is to be done?

You could give up – no-one would blame you, given the contempt that the City Council is (forever) spewing on you. Alternatively, turn to page 4 for MCFly's suggestion.

### First Time Reader?

Climate change is coming harder & faster than scientists thought. It's caused by our use of oil, coal & gas. Manchester will not be immune. We have three choices: we can bury our heads in the sand, we can *talk a good game* or we can cut our energy use & massively increase our resourcefulness. MCFly is for people, organisations & communities who want to do the third.

# AGONY AUNT

Dear Miss Movements,

So, it's been 10 days since the "nufsaid" workshop and still no feedback form circulated - as previously promised. Do I...



- a) request a feedback form in order to communicate my disappointment in the usual, non-anonymous, manner.
- b) send unsolicited and probably unwanted constructive feedback on the event direct to organisers

c) stay quiet, accepting that they basically don't want feedback as they haven't asked for it and even, if I were to proffer it, I would be ignored  
J

Dear "J"

whatever happened to funky acronyms? You could have gone for; "Feedback Offer Long Overlooked- Resistance Normal" frinstance.

Your dilemma is one that Miss Movements recognises, but is incapable of offering empathic advice. Y'see, MM is utterly burnout and cynical. She has realised that praise sandwiches don't work (people take the bread, discarding the filling) and that shooting from the lip also doesn't "work" - the advice is ignored and the shooter's reputation is spoiled - "so rude! so ungrateful! so unconstructive! not a team-player" etc etc etc. It all boils down to what your goals are, and what your deal-breakers are. If you want to make the world of people who want to make the world a better place a better place, then you have some "obligation" to do a) or b). But don your asbestos underwear beforehand, because the feedback you give WILL be resented, and the invitations to future events may be less speedy (Not really a concern to MM who's on more blacklists than those Trades Union activists that Unite is campaigning for.)

If you go down route C, you \*definitely\* won't help them get better at doing things (meaning the likelihood of success drops from 5% to 0%, since you're right, they'll ignore any unsolicited feedback that isn't fawning). And will you be able to look yourself in the mirror happily? If you think you can, then C is the way forward, imho.

One last fringe benefit; I suspect you're as busy as me, so you might want to add this group to a blacklist of your own; of organisations you are very unlikely to accept invitations from in future, and which you would challenge on their claims to be iterative/learning etc. Lack of ways that people can give anonymous feedback has long been a deal-breaker for MM... Whatever you do, make sure you yourself have feedback forms for any events YOU organise...

## Moss Brook Growers – volunteers for harvesting needed

"Hello everyone,  
we're now approaching our busy harvest period and just wanted to say that we can take volunteers on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays. If any of you are free, just let us know!

Tasks will be mainly harvesting and weeding. Right now, we're harvesting



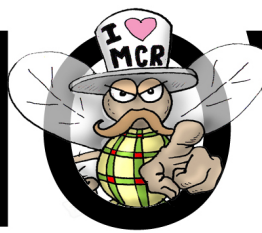
lettuce, beetroot (photos attached), kale and spinach. Coming soon: leeks, celery, broccoli, squash. We generally pick up volunteers at Unicorn's car park (Chorlton) from 7.30am, and we offer £5 towards travel and lunch expenses.

Hope to see some of you soon!  
All the best,  
Rob from Moss Brook Growers  
mossbrookgrowers@gmail.com

### HELP!

There are four more issues of Manchester Climate Monthly after this one. We want to end the project on a high. Please let us know what stories we haven't covered that we should (besides the much-delayed Marple firestation one...) Who haven't we interviewed? There's still a little time... Also, the final issue will contain a retrospective, of what went well, and especially of what went badly. We would love to know what you think!!  
mcmonthly@gmail.com

# ACT NOW



## Reduce your personal footprint

All the standard personal stuff - drive less, cycle more, fly less (cough cough cough). Eat less meat. Buy less stuff. Insulate your house!

Ask at work - is there an environmental policy? If not, why not? If there is, is it being implemented? Has your organisation endorsed the Manchester Climate Change Action Plan?

Doing all that is important in its own right, but also so you have credibility (and aren't accused of hypocrisy) when you...

## Increase your political footprint

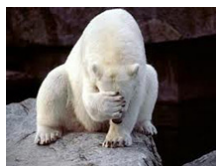
Join a group (see calendar on page eight) or go to an event or two. You may need to "shop around" until you find one you like. Make sure it's one where they give a damn about your development, your morale, and the long-run. Climate change activism is a marathon, not a sprint, after all.

Find out who your local councillors are (even if you are deprived enough not to live in Manchester City Council's area). What have they done to get their council more active? What could they do? Do they even know about climate as a local government issue?

## Get involved with MCFly

Subscribe, forward articles to your friends. Send in news! Write for it, volunteer...

## "Inspiring" Quote of the Month



Peter Wadhams on the failure of the previous Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change assessment to look at the potential for Arctic sea ice/glacier collapse properly: *"They made a couple*

*of real clangers there... They just chickened out. I mean, in a really systematically cowardly way. And it shows how naive these scientists are or how terrified they are of sticking their necks out."* [MCFly translation - we are more doomed more quickly than our models can allow us to see.]

Quoted in Pilita Clark "What Climate Scientists Talk About Now" Financial Times magazine August 3/4 2013

### What you may have missed...

If you're reading MCFly for the first time, you may not realise that we have a website. We publish news stories, event reports, book reviews, opinion pieces and loads more.

\* What the Pennines could be; a personal view by Cllr David Ellison

\* Video: Dave Bishop launches his #biodiversity report!

\* Solutions to climate movement paralysis? It's no Secrett

## ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY SUB-GROUP TO MEET

The "Environmental Sustainability Subgroup" of Manchester City Council meets for the first time at 11.30am on Wednesday 7th August. The meeting, which is open to the public [no need to book], will take place at Manchester Town Hall, and is the first of three for the ad-hoc group. The next two meetings will be on Wednesday 2nd October and Wednesday 6th November. Presumably also at 11.30am, and venue to be confirmed

Councillor Kate Chappell, who chairs the group, told MCFly *"Sustainability is vital to Manchester's future. We know from Professor Kevin Anderson that there are no simple fixes. This subgroup will provide councillors with the chance to properly consider and discuss some of the most complex issues, and to begin to chart a path forward."*

As reported previously, the group is forming in response to unfinished business from several well-attended and positive meetings of the Economy Scrutiny Committee. This committee, one of the six scrutiny committees, mainly looks at employment, education and skills. Given the lengthy list of reports the ESC already had on its "forward plan", the proposal at the May 2013 meeting to establish a sub-group (made initially by Liberal Democrat Victor Chamberlain) was warmly welcomed.

The membership of the subgroup is ; Councillors Chamberlain, Kate Chappell (Chair), Basil Curley, Daniel Gillard, James Hennigan, Suzanne Richards, Carl Ollerhead, Chris Paul, Fran Shone, Andrew Simcock and Angeliki Stogia.

Perhaps they will find the time to look revisit the question of all six of the Scrutiny Committees looking at different aspects of climate change and how it will affect Manchester, or at the many suggestions that were put to the Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Committee in July. By the time you read this, there'll be more details on the MCFly website. [manchesterclimatemonthly.net](http://manchesterclimatemonthly.net)



# "If you need a job doing... A Citizens' Climate Plan."

In July 2014 a "three year plan" for Manchester City Council's climate goals will be agreed at Scrutiny and then signed off by the Executive. Going on the quality of both the plans and the "actions" in the various Annual Carbon "Reduction" Plans since 2010, this three year plan is likely to be both unambitious and then *unimplemented*.

Currently there is a low-level of awareness/concern both within and beyond the Council over the obligations and opportunities around the climate change.

There is little sense among Manchester activists of what they can do to lower Manchester's emissions and help make the city more resourceful and responsive, with actions focussing on worthy personal actions such as going vegetarian or (re)cycling.

So, what is to be done? Well, we here at MCFly think that people who give a damn – whether they are Labour, Green, Lib Dem or "a plague on all your houses" - need to get together to create a Real Climate Plan that we can then give to the Council by the end of April 2014.

The Council can then draw upon that document to make a robust and radical 3 year plan that gives them a real chance of hitting their targets, not just for carbon reduction, but also culture change.

The three alternatives – to keep on staging emotathons (see page 5) and feel-good smugger, to do small-scale stuff that is good on its own but not fit for the scale of the problems, or endlessly critiquing without proposing – is not going to help us all pass the "mirror test"\* ten years hence.

This is a big job, and it will needs hands on deck. If you want to be involved, at any level, please get in touch. [mcmmonthly@gmail.com](mailto:mcmmonthly@gmail.com)

\* That's the one where you wake up in the morning and can look yourself in the eye as someone who has been a responsible citizen.

## Context

In 2012 Manchester City Council aimed for a 10% reduction in its own emissions. In July 2013 it claimed a 7% reduction. It was able to do this because responsibility for traffic lights moved from its books. Looking at everything else (buildings, transport) emissions went ... UP by 1.8%.

So, building on that extremely strong base, the Council's

bureaucrats have proposed a series of actions to help them hit a new "7%" target.

You can see the complete list here.

Manchester Climate Monthly is going to take a closer look at each and every one of these 44 "actions."

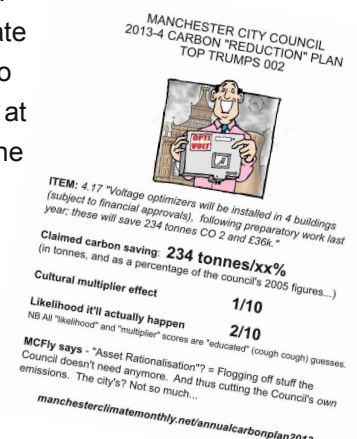
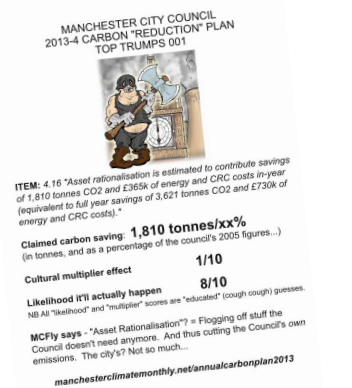
Twice a week, on "Annual Plan Tuesdays" and "Annual Plan

Thursdays" we will be asking a

few straightforward questions about each item. To illustrate each post, are devising "Top Trump" cards for all of these actions. At two a week it will take you until December or so to collect the whole set...

And throughout all of this, we are asking YOU, the reader, and council tax payer (probably), what YOU think the Council should REALLY be doing... Because next year the council moves to a "three year plan." And given what we already know of the low quality of the carbon plans and their implementation so far, we, the citizens, will be complicit if we remain silent...

\*It also aimed for 10 percent reductions in the previous two years. Missed them too.





# EMOTATHONS

## *A beginner's guide*

Social movement "leaders" seem to think that the best/easiest way to movement-build is to mobilise for a National Event (a march, a camp).

They apparently believe that creating opportunities for people to express emotions (anger\*, contempt, joy of solidarity, self-righteousness etc) will create new cadre, new newspaper-buyers, new "supporters" (from Direct Action to Direct Debit). These events are ... emotathons.

Our glorious leaders have been trying this for decades. Despite the fact that it patently is not working, they continue. Various reasons; it's their comfort-zone, it gives them status, it meets their own individual and organisational needs, they lack the imagination or space to experiment. Or they know the alternatives are too much like hard work...

But you don't have to be complicit!!

### "Feeder"\*\*\* events

Get people in a room and tell them that their skills and hopes for local action, local connection, are less important than the Next Big Opportunity to "Let The Bosses Know That They Are Not Popular!!"



### LATENCY PERIOD

People lick wounds, heal rifts. Tighten their grip on the new recruits.

Wonder why there aren't more new recruits, given the horrible economic and social situation. Blame everyone but themselves for this.

Slowly allow themselves to forget the frustrations of "staging" Main Events. Perhaps some awkward questioning, followed by "evaporative cooling"...

Then, well, it's time for the Feeder Events for the NEXT MAIN EVENT...

### "THE MAIN EVENT" - EMOTHATHONS

Placards, placating

Police policing

Kettles kettling

Stewards stewing

mass media(tion), journalist (in)attention

chant, chant, slogan slogan slogan!!

Slogging along the Approved Route

Foot sore, ear sore, eye sore... heart sore.

Anger, cynicism, physical discomfort, "we spoke up, not like the sheep"

Happy to see old friends and old fiends



### The so-called "POST-MORTEM"

"Well, that went well! We showed 'em!!"

"Numbers could have been higher."

"Police brutality" (and surprising surprise at this)

"Media unfair!" (and surprising surprise at this)

Now we have to take local action. Shall we call a meeting.... "hmm, why aren't there more people?"



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\*Anger is a perfectly legitimate emotion to be experiencing when your livelihood and your ability to feed your children is being attacked by a bunch of clued-up and tooled-up millionaires. This rant is not about what feelings the victims of the Government's policies (and the broader System) are "allowed" to have. It is about the hopeless hacks who purport to be galvanising the "resistance." Clueless muppets all, whether liberal or soi-disant radical.

\*\* Feederism - "feederism and gaining, where sexual gratification is obtained via the process of gaining body fat." [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Feederism](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Feederism) Collusive, abusive, unhealthy...

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**NEXT MONTH:** What lessons can we learn from other movements (local or elsewhere, present or past)?



# NEWS AT SIX

## The Steering Group

The Steering Group has a new chair; Gavin Elliot of BDP. He chaired the recent (private) meeting of the increasingly irrelevant group. At that meeting models of funding were discussed. What HAVE they been talking about for the last three years??? #beggarsbelief.

Apparently there will be a "Stakeholders Conference" on Thursday 6th March next year. More plasticine will be played with, no doubt. Book your annual leave now.

Meanwhile, the charity Action for Sustainable Living has taken over the "secretariat" role for the Steering Group from the breath-takingly incompetent "Groundwork." We sent AfSL a couple of very straightforward questions;

a) what do you understand by the bullet point "Managing the 2013/14 Steering Group election process?" [in the tender document circulated by Manchester City Council when it was asking organisations to compete for the honour of being the SG's secretariat]. Could you unpack that for us please? When will elections be held? For what roles? How?

b) what do you think of Groundwork's legacy with "maintaining and updating the MACF website" - given that as of July 25th 2013 the "events page" refers to upcoming events in August... 2012. Will you be doing better?

We sent these questions twice in the weeks before publication. AfSL has not deigned to reply yet. We shall persist.

The Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Committee, one of six scrutiny committees tasked with keeping tabs on what the Council is up to has decided to set up a subgroup to look at the thorny issue of recycling and waste-collection. It's bin a long time coming...

The Environmental Strategy Programme Board met (in private) on Monday 5th August. Expect the minutes to go up sometime next year. Green and Blue Infrastructure Plan – the ever-delayed plan is finally due to be scrutinised in early September, despite Richard Leese telling the Liberal Democrats at the last full Council meeting that it would be going to scrutiny in July.

Meanwhile, the "Meanwhile Strategy" (about land that is eventually going to be developed but might be put to decent use until then) alluded to in last year's Annual Carbon "reduction" plan has been downgraded. It will now be a couple of anodyne paragraphs in the aforementioned GBI plan.

Uplifting news; Manchester City Council spent, over the course of four years, a quarter of a million quid. on the post of "Head of Environmental Strategy." When they abolished the post earlier this year, ***they didn't undertake any review to see if they'd got value for money, or what [if anything] would be lost by abolishing the post.*** For that kind of money we could have had a pop concert from Rhianna, or Alicia Keys! See MCFly website on a Slow News Day in August for more info.

In more uplifting news, Manchester Veg People's crowd-sourcing efforts were successful, and they will be getting themselves a new van.

And in downlifting news, these from the Guardian-

**10th July** "The world is currently on course to exploit all its remaining fossil fuel resources, a prospect that would produce a "different, practically uninhabitable planet" by triggering a "low-end runaway greenhouse effect." This is the conclusion of a new scientific paper by Prof James Hansen, the former head of NASA's Goddard Institute for Space Studies and the world's best known climate scientist. The paper due to be published later this month by Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society A (Phil. Trans. R. Soc. A) focuses less on modelling than on empirical data about correlations between temperature, sea level and CO2 going back up to 66 million years."

**2nd August** A new study from scientists in the US controversially draws a link between increased rates of domestic violence, assault and other violent crimes and a warming climate.





# CULTURE VULTURE

## BOOK REVIEW: Hard Change

by Dawn Reeves

Shared Press 2013

331 pages

<http://www.hardchange.com/>

A Council that's hell-bent on attracting inward investment, regardless of the long-term consequences for the city.

Politicians at loggerheads with each other, but with an Almighty (?) Leader. Officers of different calibres, some climbing the greasy pole while others struggle to Do the Right Thing. Scrutiny Committees that sometimes bite, and sometimes well, bite.

This novel is **not** set in Manchester, and has alcohol abuse as its theme rather than climate change (there is one funny/known reference to carbon dioxide reductions). It is, however, well-worth the time of any climate/environment activist who wants to get a handle on municipal politics.

The novel follows three well-meaning people – a policewoman, a senior council officer and a public health officer – as they untangle a web of crimes and corruption. They are all-too-human, with different strengths and weaknesses, and different abilities to play the games that need playing to get anything done. The author is particularly good on how the micro-politics of alliance-building, and how a focus on facts and "shoulds" can lead to the opposite outcomes to those that, ahem, "should" be happening.

But forget the "worthy" reasons you should read it; it's ALSO a perfectly good read! The characters are well-drawn, their thoughts and actions believable, the descriptions of the quiet menace of a drunken town on a Saturday night unsettlingly familiar. The chapters (dated and timed and usually following – one of the three main characters) are short and pointed. There's thrills enough (believe it or not – the whole idea of a "Town Hall thriller" seems odd, I know); the "political" climax is rousing and thought-provoking, the "woman in jeopardy" climax also extremely well done. Dawn Reeves is definitely an author to watch.

Marc Hudson



## Can a Cat explain Climate Change?

Delilah the cat, with help from her friend bob the goldfish, (see [catsontheinternet.net](http://catsontheinternet.net)) will explain, in "simple English" -

- \* the (very very) basics of climate science



- \* the impacts

climate change is having/will have globally

- \* the impacts climate change is having/will have locally (in Manchester and the North West)

- \* the history of efforts in Manchester to create and enact policies (from 2007 onwards)

- \* the actual policies (the headline goals of the MACF, for example)

- \* examples of good stuff that we can be proud of (MEEN, Moss Side Community Allotment etc etc)

- \* how is Manchester doing compared to other cities (in UK and around the world)

- \* how "resilient" is Manchester (bioregional stuff)

- \* the things that individuals and groups can do (around food, transport, housing, personal consumption, political pressure ("from carbon literacy to carbon capability"))

- \* an appendix that lists the different extant groups in Manchester (and beyond!) and how to get in touch with them.

What is missing from that list above What is on there that shouldn't in your opinion be on there? (Please note, the booklet will be "modular" so that groups can use just the bits that they want to.)

Please do let us know what you think, other thoughts/opportunities/cautions...

Deadline? The sooner the better, but definitely by Friday 15th August

We plan to launch the booklet in late September, to coincide with the fifth assessment report of Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change...



# WHAT'S ON



**Inclusion in this calendar is NOT a guarantee of quality.**

**For full listing go to our online calendar at [manchesterclimatemonthly.net/the-calendar/](http://manchesterclimatemonthly.net/the-calendar/)**

## August

**Tues 14th, 6.45pm to 9pm** Manchester Friends of the Earth Full Group Meeting, Greenfish Resource Centre, Oldham St. <http://manchesterfoe.org.uk/>

**Fri 30th, 6pm** Critical Mass bike ride...

## September

**Tues 3rd 2pm**, Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Committee meets, and on the agenda is the much-delayed "Green and Blue Infrastructure "Strategy". See you at Manchester Town Hall!

**Fri 6th**, Greater Manchester Low Carbon Hub meeting. Members of the public are, of course, excluded.

**Tues 10th, 6.45pm to 9pm** Manchester Friends of the Earth Full Group Meeting, Greenfish Resource Centre, Oldham St. <http://manchesterfoe.org.uk/>

**Sat 14th 2-5pm** – In Place of Growth Workshop Imagining Manchester where people thrive without harming the planet. What might life be like on a day-to-day level? What are appropriate aspirations for ourselves, our children and our city, if we want more equity and to live within ecological limits? We are aware that many Steady State Manchester supporters would value a more visual sense of what life might be like for residents in the city where we are living well within planetary limits. To what extent are our visions shared and different? This afternoon will be an opportunity for participants to flesh out a vision of what we are striving for. It would be great if we know you are coming; e-mail [steadystatemanchester@gmail.com](mailto:steadystatemanchester@gmail.com) to book and for venue details

**Weds 18th** Food, Fibre, Fuel: The Rise of the Sustainable Society

Co-hosted by Manchester Metropolitan University and MERCi "This seminar brings together practitioners and academics to learn from each other, connect and shape co-interests. This is an interactive event, small pitches, breakouts and more...."

Venue: 502, The New Business School, Manchester Metropolitan University Oxford Road, Manchester M15 6BH

Cost: £70 ISBE Members/Third Sector\* – £90 Non members

More details via [www.merci.org.uk](http://www.merci.org.uk)

**Tues 24th:** Launch of "Can Cats Explain Climate Change?" (see page 7 for details. Venue to be confirmed)

Manchester Climate Monthly exists to inform, inspire and involve people working - or wanting to work - towards a more resilient and fair Greater Manchester. Its editor is not a member of any political party or employed by any local authority. MCM receives no political funding. But it has a Lush wodge of moolah. For its mission(s) and transparency mechanisms, please visit the "about" page on our website.

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