

## ***Developing a planned approach to a Steady State Economy***

1. New Economy or another body could be commissioned to review and consider using the methodology employed by Prof. Peter Victor to model alternative low growth and no growth scenarios, with maximum employment. Victor's work on the Canadian economy demonstrates via simulation how you can have a non-growing economy without plunging everyone into poverty.
2. For every decision taken by every organisation ask the question (supported by indicators outlined below), "does this action take us closer to or further from a just, safe and sustainable society?"

## ***Redistribution***

3. Adopt the principle of shorter working hours to share the work alongside reducing pay differentials to make this practical for people on lower wages and increasing income equity. Agree a maximum of 35 hours including paid and unpaid overtime in council and its contract partners.
4. Encourage local businesses to become 'Living Well Partners' adopting shorter working hours for ecological reasons, as well as work-sharing and well-being gains.
5. Some local authorities in Greater Manchester have set excellent examples in adopting progressive and responsible pay policies, such as Living Wages for their workforces. Build on this by encouraging responsible pay dispersion in the council's procurement partners, through favourable tendering towards suppliers with more equitable pay policies, ensuring the greatest social return from public funds.

## ***Localisation***

6. Investigate supply chains for food provided by council and its contract partners, with a plan to increase year on year the amount of foodstuffs produced within 50 miles of city boundary. Currently only an estimated 0.25% of our food is sourced within 50 miles - not a good position to be in!
7. Offer land owned by public sector and other organisations rent free to any group that is prepared to cultivate food. This could be under a usufruct or a peppercorn rent arrangement with the requirement that the land is used productively.

## ***Defining and measuring well-being and prosperity***

8. Public Health and Economic Development could work together on a dashboard using an assortment of measures to reflect key aspects of social and ecological well-being, with interested outside people: we suggest the Oxfam 'doughnut' model to organise this, defining a safe operating zone for Manchester in terms of ecological boundaries and standards of population well-being.

## ***Debt, money and ecological austerity***

9. Since household debt, payday loans, and loan sharks are a big issue for local people, work with credit unions and local mutual/co-operative financial organisations to ensure Mancunians have access to credit at fair rates and without contributing to the generation of fiat money (money 'printed' by banks).
10. Conduct an audit of council investments, with a view to reducing their exposure to and complicity with financial derivatives and speculation, unethical and unsustainable vehicles.
11. *Establish a Manchester Green Investment Bond issued by the*

*council, or perhaps a body established through the City Region arrangements – allowing the combination of government funding, local government funding and income, and savings investment by local people.*

### ***The replacement economy***

12. Build on Manchester's good record in local procurement with preferential treatment and support for local co-operatives and SME's that prioritise ecological responsibility, along the lines explored in Tameside and Oldham.
13. Consider job creation incentives for small and medium enterprises/co-ops etc with green and social products / services (e.g. business rate rebates).
14. Find ways to increase the pace of buildings retrofit and climate change adaptation to create jobs. This could be linked to the city's efforts to reduce the number of young people not in education, employment and training (NEET), providing much needed work experience and an opportunity to learn trades. SSM is currently working on a delivery model for such a programme.

### ***Reducing consumption and strengthening community***

15. Sponsor a big debate on how people view their happiness and well-being, linked to the work proposed above for a Manchester dashboard of ecological, social and economic well-being.
16. A hearts and minds campaign to counter the propaganda of advertising. Prominent local personalities demonstrate how they are living satisfied lives on less.
17. Follow the lead of Sao Paulo and ban advertisements in city controlled spaces, or failing this, and as a first step, the imposition of a levy to fund public information and other advertising for social good would be feasible.
18. Explore the active promotion of sharing: car share, bike share, tool share, book share, domestic appliance and house and garden share schemes.
19. Building on the collective energy purchase scheme in Greater Manchester, build incentives and support to reduce consumption of energy, and a target for Renewables Obligation Certificate (ROC) retirement into a new tender. This would reduce expenditure on fuel, reduce consumption, and increase the proportion of renewables in the mix.
20. Manchester could adopt the principles of the "slow city" along the lines of the network of towns that, inspired by the 'slow food' movement have signed up to a charter that prioritises quality of urban life over flashy consumption.