

Report to:	Cabinet	Date of Meeting:	6 April 2023
	Council		20 April 2023
Subject:	Climate Emergency Phase 2 Update		
Report of:	Executive Director of Corporate Resources and Customer Services	Wards Affected:	(All Wards);
Portfolio:	Cabinet Member - Regulatory, Compliance and Corporate Resources		
Is this a Key Decision:	Yes	Included in Forward Plan:	Yes
Exempt / Confidential Report:	No		

Summary:

Sefton Council declared a climate emergency in 2019. The Council has a target to achieve net zero carbon by 2030 for Council operations and has set out a strategy to achieve this goal.

The Council are coming to the end of phase 1 delivery (2020 –2023) of the Climate Change Emergency strategy / action plan. As Phase 2 begins this document highlights the challenges and opportunities associated with the next stage of implementing this challenging commitment.

The Liverpool City Region climate emergency target, to reach net zero by 2040 for all sectors, requires input and collaboration on housing, energy, transport, land use and climate resilience.

Members are asked to note the scale of the challenge associated with meeting both the Sefton Council operational target and the Liverpool City Region multi sector target.

Recommendation(s):

Cabinet:

Recommend to Council the approval of the Phase 2 implementation and note the interim targets and the work required to meet the committed net zero targets over the next three years (phase 2).

Council:

Approve the Phase 2 implementation and note the interim targets and the work required to meet the committed net zero targets over the next three years (phase 2).

Reasons for the Recommendation(s):

To meet the Council's net zero carbon commitment by 2030, significant action will be required. It is important that elected members are fully aware of the challenges of meeting that target. Supplementary reports will be brought to elected members for each of the specific actions, as well as annual reports on progress.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected: (including any Risk Implications)

Not to take action on the climate emergency and net zero carbon targets, would be contrary to government policy direction and increase exposure and vulnerability to climate change impacts.

What will it cost and how will it be financed?

Many elements of the action plan will involve a cost to the Council and not all activities will generate a financial payback. Four key activities associated with achieving the phase two carbon reduction are:

1. The purchase of 100% green electricity – the cost of which will be met from existing budgets and reviewed annually.
2. The decarbonisation of council buildings. The cost of this is substantial and an estimate for work to decarbonise heat from 18 buildings is £19M (2022 prices). External funding from sources such as the government "Public Sector Decarbonisation Fund" will be required, which necessitates a match funding contribution. There will also be a need for additional staff to deliver the building retrofits.
3. Reduce emissions from business travel / commuting e.g. investment in electric vehicle charging facilities. Estimated cost £1M (2022 prices). External funding would also be required from sources such as the governments "Workplace Charging Scheme" which provides 75% of the costs.
4. Energy efficiency measures – information and behaviour change to encourage a reduction in fuel use. Any reduction will have a positive impact on Council finances.

Implications of the Proposals:

Resource Implications (Financial, IT, Staffing and Assets):	
N/a	
Legal Implications:	
N/a	
Equality Implications:	
There are no equality implications.	
Climate Emergency Implications:	
The recommendations within this report will	
Have a positive impact	Yes

Have a neutral impact	No
Have a negative impact	No
The Author has undertaken the Climate Emergency training for report authors	Yes

Delivery of the Council's Climate emergency strategy would have a direct and positive impact.

Contribution to the Council's Core Purpose:

Protect the most vulnerable: By enabling greater resilience to future climate events.
Facilitate confident and resilient communities: By enabling greater resilience to future climate events and encouraging energy security measures
Commission, broker and provide core services: By training staff to consider climate impacts as part of service delivery
Place – leadership and influencer: By Sefton taking decisive action on its energy/carbon emissions
Drivers of change and reform: By Sefton taking decisive action on its energy/carbon emissions
Facilitate sustainable economic prosperity: By enabling greater resilience to future climate events.
Greater income for social investment: By Sefton taking decisive action on its energy/carbon emissions
Cleaner Greener By Sefton taking decisive action on its energy/carbon emissions

What consultations have taken place on the proposals and when?

(A) Internal Consultations

The Executive Director of Corporate Resources and Customer Services (FD7144/23) and the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer (LD5344/23) have been consulted and any comments have been incorporated into the report.

(B) External Consultations

n/a

Implementation Date for the Decision

Following the Council meeting.

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Appendices:

“Sefton’s Climate Change Emergency Implementation Plan Phase 2 : 2023-2026”

Background Papers:

There are no background papers available for inspection.

1. Introduction/Background

- 1.1 Sefton Council declared a climate emergency in July 2019. Following that declaration work has progressed within the council on the agreed actions that were contained and approved by Members. The climate emergency strategy and associated action plan was approved by Cabinet (28 May 2020) and Council (17 September 2020).
- 1.2 The strategy and delivery via the action plan is based on the following approach;
 - Approval of a strategy for the period to 2030
 - Establishing and refining a baseline position on council carbon emissions (carbon footprint)
 - The development of 3-year implementation plans
- 1.3 Both the strategy and action plan have seven key principles to guide work in this area – guided by the acronym C.L.I.M.A.T.E
 - Carbon Reduction
 - Leadership
 - Innovation
 - Mobilisation
 - Adaptation
 - Transformation
 - Engagement

2. Phase 1 Actions to date

- 2.1 Significant work has been undertaken in the first phase of action on the Climate Emergency. Staff have mapped out the route to net zero in 2030 and established the work required and costs involved. A full governance structure has been established and found to be effective when reviewed by Sefton’s internal audit team (2022). How the wider community can be involved has been an important

issue with a programme of work around Climate in 2021 COP26, in particular with young people, followed by a full community engagement survey in 2022, with a dedicated engagement action plan being delivered in 2023. This will improve communication channels and offer a route for greater involvement with Sefton residents, businesses and visitors.

- 2.2 An agreed strategy and implementation plan has provided the focus for dedicated activity which is regularly reported to members via a dedicated Member reference group and Cabinet/Council reports. Work to deliver the implantation plans included the roll out of an LED street lighting replacement programme, improving insulation and glazing at Southport and Bootle Town halls, encouraging the continuation of agile working leading to a reduction in the Council's Carbon footprint of 13% (end of 2021/22; the 22/23 figures being finalised).
- 2.3 In summary, Sefton Council is on track to be net zero carbon by 2030 with a 13% reduction in total emissions from the baseline, rising to 28% once projects started in phase 1 are complete.

3. Phase 2 Action Plan (2023-2026)

- 3.1 Phase 1 delivery has established an excellent foundation and phase 2 will build upon this. The attached implementation report outlines the challenges and opportunities associated with the next stage of implementing this challenging commitment.
- 3.2 The report outlines some of the key actions needed over the next three years as well as an estimate of potential cost to deliver, which include;
- Switch to green 100% renewable electricity which incurs an annual cost determined at market rates, estimated cost £200K (2022 prices) the cost of which will be met from existing budgets and reviewed annually.
 - decarbonisation of heat (through switching away from gas for space and water heating) with an estimated cost of £19M (2022 prices). External funding from sources such as the government "Public Sector Decarbonisation Fund" will be required, which necessitates a match funding contribution. There will also be a need for additional staff to undertake the building retrofits.
 - Action to reduce emissions from business travel / commuting – costs in phase 2 could include investment in electric vehicle charging facilities. Estimated cost £1M (2022 prices). External funding would also be required from sources such as the governments "Workplace Charging Scheme" which provides 75% of the costs.
- 3.3 The largest element of the Council's Carbon footprint is electricity. Electricity accounts for around a third of the Councils carbon footprint, and so switching to zero carbon electricity (100% renewable) will have a significant impact. Together with work from phase 1 (Agile working, Town Hall retrofit and LED Street lighting replacement), this action will reduce the Council's footprint by ~55%.
- 3.4 The other actions mentioned above will contribute +10% of the Council's carbon reduction target during phase 2 but will cost in excess of £20m - this is funding not in the MTFP or being provided at present as a direct grant from government,

therefore, the council will need to work to identify and secure funding options and present to members for consideration / decision.

- 3.5 Work on community engagement will ramp up during phase 2, as a result of the Community engagement survey completed in late 2022. There will be increased provision of information and opportunities for the community to be more involved in the ongoing climate emergency work.
- 3.6 Council officers will continue to develop the Council's approach based on best practice and will work in partnership with the Liverpool City Region, NW net zero hub and other specific expert groups.
- 3.7 Previous work on carbon reduction has focused on energy reduction alone, which has an associated direct financial saving. Whilst this work, to reduce consumption, will continue through communications, reducing carbon emissions to zero will require investment that will not necessarily achieve a financial saving but will save carbon.
- 3.8 Additionally work will continue to engage with staff across all departments, train staff, assess operational risks and secure external funding. As well as the usual monitoring and reporting. This phase is very significant in laying the foundations for the final phase 3 activity.

4. The Liverpool City Region (LCR) Net Zero Target 2040

- 4.1 Initial work to support the delivery of the Liverpool City Region Strategy 'Pathway to net zero' strategy is referenced in the attached report. The strategy sets out an ambitious plan to reduce carbon emissions across the entire LCR to net zero by 2040.
- 4.2 Sefton officers are working with other LCR members to realise these aims. Actions will be needed across all sectors including business & industry, domestic properties, transport. Some of the key actions include:
 - Retrofit of housing stock (domestic emissions account for a third of LCR emissions)
 - Delivery of the Mersey tidal electricity generation project
 - Delivery of the Hynet hydrogen and carbon capture network
- 4.3 It is estimated that Liverpool City Region needs around £45bn investment over the next 20 years to deliver the carbon reductions needed, which will bring economic benefits (e.g. green jobs).
- 4.4 To reach the net zero carbon 2040 goal, the area needs to halve the amount of energy that is used from any source. All remaining energy will be from, renewable energy sources that don't produce any carbon emissions at all. This will require considerable early action across all sectors.