

Report to:	Council	Date of Meeting:	13 July 2023
Subject:	Annual Progress Report Climate Emergency		
Report of:	Executive Director of Corporate Resources and Customer Services	Wards Affected:	(All Wards);
Portfolio:	Cabinet Member - Regulatory, Compliance and Corporate Services		
Is this a Key Decision:	Yes	Included in Forward Plan:	No Rule 27 Procedure used
Exempt / Confidential Report:	No		

Summary:

Sefton Council declared a climate emergency in July 2019. Following that declaration work has progressed within the council and a climate emergency strategy and associated action plan created.

Annual reporting on progress made is required as part of the governance approach to the programme. Members are asked to note the progress made on achieving net zero carbon by 2030 and the programme of works supporting the Council's transition to low carbon working.

Recommendation(s):

Council are recommended to :-

- (1) Note the progress made on the targets in the Sefton climate emergency strategy and action plan.
- (2) it be noted that the proposal was a Key Decision but had not been included in the Council's Forward Plan of Key Decisions. Consequently, the Leader of the Council and the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regulatory, Compliance and Corporate Services) had been consulted under Rule 27 of the Access to Information Procedure Rules of the Constitution, to the decision being made by Cabinet as a matter of urgency on the basis that it was impracticable to defer the decision until the commencement of the next Forward Plan because of the need to publish the report at the same time each year.

Reasons for the Recommendation(s):

To support the delivery of the council motion that declared a climate emergency and ensure the council is aligning with future regional area and national net zero targets.

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

Not acting would increase the risks to Sefton in future years, on the themes of energy cost & security, and climate change resilience (increased incidence of extreme weather events, sea level rise etc.). Sefton will also be subject to regional (2040) and national targets (2050) around achieving net zero, beyond the current scope of work, which will require additional action. Therefore, ensuring net zero emissions for Sefton Council operations is the first stage of this wider body of work.

What will it cost and how will it be financed?

(A) Revenue Costs

There are no revenue implications arising directly from this report in terms of providing an update on progress.

Any revenue budgetary provision required for the progression of phase 2 works will be considered separately as part of the development of the Council’s Medium-Term Financial Plan

(B) Capital Costs

Although there are no capital implications arising directly from this report in terms of providing an update on progress.

Any capital budgetary provision required for the progression of phase 2 works will be considered separately as part of the development of the Council’s Capital Programme

Implications of the Proposals:

Resource Implications (Financial, IT, Staffing and Assets):
There are no resource implications arising from this report
Legal Implications:
There are no legal implications arising from this report
Equality Implications:
There are no equality implications.
Impact on Children and Young People: Yes Positive impact on future resilience to the causes and impacts of climate change. Reduction in emissions will have a positive long term effect. Children and Young people are a key part of the Council’s communication and engagement strategy.
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

The report directly addresses the climate emergency with a strategy in place to achieve the targets required.

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 (FD.7249/23) and the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer (LD.5449/23) have been consulted and any comments have been incorporated into the report.

(B) External Consultations

N/A

Implementation Date for the Decision

Immediately following the Council meeting.

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Appendices:

The following appendices are attached to this report:

Climate Emergency Annual Report 2022-23

Background Papers:

There are no background papers available for inspection.

Introduction/Background

- 1.1 Sefton Council declared a climate emergency in July 2019. Following that declaration, work has progressed within the council and a climate emergency strategy and associated action plan was created.
- 1.2 The period 2020 -2030 was split into three phases of action in order to align with financial reporting cycles. This report covers the final year in phase 1, where the focus has been about laying the foundations for future work and building networks. The progress made on the delivery of the strategy was been impacted by the impacts of the COVID 19 pandemic, however, efforts have been made this year to address this.
- 1.3 2022-23 has also seen the most volatile period ever recorded for gas and electricity prices. This has had a significant impact on budgets required for day to day operations. Although this increase has increased focus on reduction of energy use, there is also then less available budget within the council for investment purposes.
- 1.4 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

As such, the Annual Report is structured around reporting against each of the above principles.

2. Progress during 2022/23

- 2.1 The work carried out over the past year is reflected in the attached document 'Climate Change Annual Report 2022/23' Appendix 1. A summary of the carbon footprint and some highlights of the progress made, is presented below.
- 2.2 **Carbon Footprint** – during 2022-23 the Council have reduced overall emissions by 7%. The fall is in line with the planned reductions in the Council's net zero trajectory. This has been driven by the move to agile working, the LED ongoing street lighting roll out and improvements to the national energy mix.

Some of the projects and work to support the move to low carbon working, undertaken over the last 12 months, are listed below.

- 2.3 **Street Lighting** – In 2020 the Council approved a £12.750m invest to save project, the Street Lighting Asset Project, for the roll out of more energy efficient LED street lighting across the borough. The project continues to be delivered and will take four years to complete. To date the team has installed 11,337 new lanterns and 2,643 new column and lantern replacements. The work to date has reduced carbon emissions by over 700 tonnes.

2.4 **Solar Together** LCR project – Across the Liverpool City Region (LCR) residents were offered the chance to have solar PV surveys carried out with a quote for work if they were suitable. The programme was administered by the LCR to support reaching the ambitious target to be Net Zero by 2040 or sooner. 1,857 residents in Sefton registered interest (7,962 residents across the LCR) and so far over 200 homes in the borough have been fitted with energy-saving solar panels and battery storage, enabling residents to cut their energy costs while also reducing carbon emissions.

2.5 **Transport** - In 2022 the Energy Saving Trust began a Fleet Review which will guide the Council and support the move to low carbon vehicles, while setting out the financial support required to do it. The report is currently being reviewed with a response to the report expected in Autumn 2023.

The Strategic Transport Planning and Investment Team (STPI) are also in the process of developing a Low Carbon Transport Strategy (LCTS) and have identified the key areas of actions the Strategy would include. A public consultation is planned for later this year.

The strategy will support the Council to deliver its net zero target by 2030, by influencing areas such as fleet, business and staff commuting. In addition, it will go further in addressing and influencing transport across the Borough, by helping to provide accessible infrastructure and influence transport choices for residents, community organisations, businesses and visitors.

2.6 **Climate Change Communications Strategy** Sefton Council conducted a Climate Consultation in Summer/Autumn 2022. The feedback received has been used to form a Climate Emergency Plan containing 9 key actions, one of them being the creation of dynamic Climate Communications Strategy. Work has begun to rebrand the Council's Climate Change campaign with a strong focus on behavioural change, supporting staff, residents and businesses to better understand the environmental and financial benefits of a low carbon society. This work is ongoing and will continue in 2023-24.

2.7 **Adapting to the effects of Climate Change** - This year Green Sefton have progressed many key activities, these include: Planting over 1600 trees (6,243 since 2019-20); Assessing its operational risks e.g. the risk of equipment not working in extreme weather events i.e. high temperatures; Revising maps for surface water flood risk with the latest data, to ensure the Council and communities understand the risks.

2.9 **Education** – This is an area where the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority believe Sefton are leading. Their 'Pathway to Net Zero Report' sets out that "Sefton Council are leading on engagement with younger people, led by the innovative Eco Centre, with specialist resources for climate education." In 2022 as well as offering educational sessions at the Eco Centre and dedicated "Eco Savers" school support, a new immersive room was launched at the centre offering schools and community new and interesting ways to learn.

3 **Priorities for 2023/24**

3.1 Work will continue to deliver the climate emergency action plan and in 2023-24 there are a number of key projects officers will focus on. These include;

- Increased engagement with the community on climate change through implementing the new Climate Communications and Engagement Plan.
- Developing strategies and plans to address transport emissions (Low Carbon Transport Strategy and Fleet Review).
- Roll out of adaptation workshops and producing operational risk registers for all service areas.
- Working with the Liverpool City Region to secure funding for decarbonisation projects (buildings and transport).