

Report to:	Overview and Scrutiny (Regulatory, Compliance and Corporate Services)	Date of Meeting:	14 January 2020
	Overview and Scrutiny (Adult Social Care and Health)	Date of Meeting:	7 January 2020
	Overview and Scrutiny (Children's Services and Safeguarding)	Date of Meeting:	28 January 2020
	Overview and Scrutiny (Regeneration and Skills)	Date of Meeting:	21 January 2020
Subject:	Climate Emergency		
Report of:	Head of Corporate Resources/ Executive Director	Wards Affected:	All
Cabinet Portfolio:	Regulatory, Compliance and Corporate Services		
Is this a Key Decision:	No	Included in Forward Plan:	No
Exempt / Confidential Report:	No		

Summary:

At the Council meeting on 18 July 2019, members agreed a motion to declare a Climate Emergency and this is included at Appendix A to this report.

Work has therefore progressed since that date on developing a programme structure, strategy and initial implementation plan for delivery of the motion and its objectives. In order to further inform this work, a baseline position is required across the council of work that is currently underway or planned that can contribute to the Council achieving the aims of the motion. This report therefore provides a summary of work undertaken to date and the exercise that is required to be led through each overview and scrutiny committee in order to establish that baseline position.

Recommendation(s):

Overview and Scrutiny Committee are recommended to:

- (1) Note the Councils agreed approach to delivering the objectives as set out in the Council motion that declared a climate emergency;
- (2) Note the activity that will take place within the first 12 months of the programme; and
- (3) Note the important role of each Overview and Scrutiny Committee in delivering the Councils objectives as set out in the agreed motion and the initial work that is required to

be carried out in each area of the council's activity by all Heads of Service, in order to form an initial baseline position. This initial work will be reported back to the next meeting of this committee.

Reasons for the Recommendation(s):

These recommendations will provide each Overview and Scrutiny Committee with an update on the progress being made with regard to meeting the objectives of the Council motion and the work required to establish a baseline position for the Council with regard to the work in progress

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

No alternative options were considered in order to inform this exercise

What will it cost and how will it be financed?

(A) Revenue Costs

At this stage there are no revenue costs associated with the recommendations within the report

(B) Capital Costs

At this stage there are no revenue costs associated with the recommendations within the report

Implications of the Proposals:

<p>Resource Implications (Financial, IT, Staffing and Assets):</p> <p>At this stage there are no resource implications arising from this report</p>
<p>Legal Implications:</p> <p>At this stage there are no legal implications arising from this report</p>
<p>Equality Implications:</p> <p>There are no equality implications.</p>

Contribution to the Council's Core Purpose:

<p>Protect the most vulnerable: The impacts of climate change will be felt most keenly by the most vulnerable, who are often the least able to respond. We already know that there will be climate change impacts such as more severe weather events, (heatwaves, flooding) that would affect the elderly, infirm and those unable to afford insurance. Taking action on carbon mitigation and adaptation will help to protect those people and will also positively effect air quality and the associated health benefits.</p>
<p>Facilitate confident and resilient communities: This work will seek to ensure council services can support communities to enjoy a better quality of life through being more resilient to climate change.</p>
<p>Commission, broker and provide core services: To effectively deliver services in the future, we will be required to respond to this threat through the work being undertaken.</p>
<p>Place – leadership and influencer: In response to this global issue, the Council is demonstrating its role locally as a leader and driver for positive change.</p>
<p>Drivers of change and reform: The Council has the potential to affect change in many key areas including planning, procurement, building, public health, green spaces. Work on reducing our carbon impacts and adapting to a changing climate will help to protect services & communities, going forward.</p>
<p>Facilitate sustainable economic prosperity: The 'green' economy has potential to generate local, sustainable jobs on a large scale. This could include large scale retrofit of homes and businesses, renewable energy, transport updates, development of green spaces etc.</p>
<p>Greater income for social investment: Developing more local opportunities for carbon reduction schemes such as housing retrofit, would offer opportunities for income/profits to be directed to local social schemes rather than to large scale corporations not based in the area.</p>
<p>Cleaner Greener: Reducing our carbon footprint is a key environmental, social and economic priority. Additionally, it has the potential to reduce air pollution, encourage modal shift to cycling/walking, enhancement of green spaces, reduce waste etc.</p>

What consultations have taken place on the proposals and when?

(A) Internal Consultations

The Head of Corporate Resources (FD 5909/19) and the Chief Legal & Democratic Officer (LD4093/19) have been consulted and any comments have been incorporated into the report.

(B) External Consultations

There have been no external consultations

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Appendices:

The following appendices are attached to this report:

Appendix A- Council Motion- Climate Emergency

Background Papers:

There are no background papers available for inspection.

1. Introduction

- 1.1. At the Council meeting on 18 July 2019, members agreed to declare a Climate Emergency. The full motion that was agreed at the meeting is included to this report at Appendix A and in declaring a Climate Emergency, it was agreed that:

Sefton Council is committed to reducing carbon emissions and resolves to go further than the UK100 Agreement and to act in line with the scientific consensus that we must reduce emissions to net zero by 2030, and therefore commits to:

- *Declare a 'Climate Emergency' that requires urgent action.*
- *Make the Council's activities net-zero carbon by 2030.*
- *Commit to municipalisation of energy supply by utilising public sector sites to generate energy where appropriate*
- *Ensure that all strategic decisions are in line with a shift to zero carbon by 2030.*
- *Support and work with all other relevant agencies towards making the Sefton area Zero Carbon within the same timescale.*
- *Achieve 100% clean energy across Sefton Council's full range of functions by 2030.*
- *Convene an assembly of interested groups not directly represented on Council in 2020 to oversee and feed into the development of related action plans and budgets across the City.*

- 1.2. Work will therefore now progress within the Council and with partners to achieve these objectives. This report therefore provides detail of the initial steps that will be taken over the next 12 months and an immediate piece of work to be led by each of the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee's

2. Proposed Approach to delivering the Council Motion

- 2.2. In order to address the issues detailed in the Council motion of 18 July 2019, the project will be led by the Cabinet Member for Regulatory, Compliance and Corporate Services. This will be complemented with the Head of Corporate Resources leading the council based activity and the Executive Director, Andrea Watts leading on external engagement and alignment especially within the Liverpool City Region.
- 2.3. It is recognised that a key strategic project such as this will need to be flexible over the course of the next decade in order to reflect the changing world that we all live in and the agenda that will face local government as a whole and Sefton MBC in particular. The governance of the project and the key workstreams will therefore inevitably need to be continually updated and refreshed in order to

ensure that the objectives of the motion are met. As stated this review process will be undertaken by the Cabinet Member for Regulatory, Compliance and Corporate Services with any change proposed being included in the projects annual report. In accordance with this approach work has been undertaken to develop the initial governance model to support the delivery of the motion and the following groups have been identified to support the work required: -

- Sefton Climate Change Member Reference Group;
- Overview and Scrutiny Committees and Management Board;
- Council wide officer working group;
- Expert Panel; and
- Citizens Forum.

2.4. Terms of reference for these groups and membership are currently being developed

2.5. This motion has an agreed target date of 2030. Whilst this date is a decade away, a project of this size will need a clear strategy, agreed milestones and regular reporting through to council. To that end the project will be based upon :-

- The Council developing a clear strategy for the delivery of the council motion- this will be presented to Cabinet and then Council in Q2 of 2020;
- An initial 12 month mobilisation period that commenced from September 2019;
- The first 3 year implementation plan (2020/2021) being developed that will deliver the agreed strategy (with subsequent 3 year plans being developed from 2023 and 2026; and
- An Annual report be presented to Council on progress each year-July.

3. **Initial 12 month programme of Activity**

3.1. In order to mobilise the project, a number of activities will be required over the initial 12 months. There are an increasing number of councils who have declared a Climate Emergency, therefore the lead Cabinet Member and officers have reviewed the core documentation available and approaches undertaken to determine the key areas that would most suit Sefton. This will support some of the initial proposals that were also discussed in the original council motion. To that end, it is proposed that the following activity be undertaken in the next 12 months:-

- Develop terms of reference and membership of governance groups
- Develop and approve the Council's Strategy in respect of the Climate Change Emergency
- Prepare a report for each Overview & Scrutiny committee and request a stock take of all activity in relation to carbon emissions to inform a council wide baseline position
- Identify all current projects that are taking place across the council that will support the delivery of the Council's Strategy;

- Address immediate issues in the council motion around new policies and strategies, forthcoming budget proposals, Treasury Management Strategy and all cabinet and council decisions
- Consider and define how the Sefton Strategy and implementation plan will align with the LCR work being undertaken and that of key partners e.g. MerseyTravel, MWDA, Merseyside Pension Fund
- Develop and resource the first 3 year implementation plan (2020-2023)
- Develop a thematic approach to successfully achieving the councils long term objectives; and
- Provide the first Annual report to Council in July 2020

4. Engagement of Overview and Scrutiny Committees

- 4.1. This report provides each Overview and Scrutiny Committee with a clear understanding of the aims and objectives of the council motion, the Councils proposed approach, governance model and how it will be resourced.
- 4.2. This is important, as each Overview and Scrutiny Committee will have an important role in ensuring the successful delivery of the Councils objectives by providing leadership, direction and challenge. In essence, it will be responsible for delivering the objectives of the council motion within that area of the council's activity.
- 4.3. In order to commence this work and in accordance with the Council motion each Overview and Scrutiny Committee is asked to lead an immediate piece of work for completion by the next cycle of meetings (end of April 2020) that :-
 1. Conducts a stock take of all activity in relation to carbon emissions that will inform a comprehensive council wide baseline position
 2. Identifies all projects that are currently taking place across the council that will support the delivery of the Council's Strategy; and
 3. Identifies potential long term issues that will need to be addressed in order for the council to meet the objectives within the council motion.
- 4.4. The output from this work should be reported back to this committee in March/April 2020 and be led by the respective Heads of Service in conjunction with the Committee members and Cabinet Member. As required support will be available from the Cabinet Member for Regulatory, Compliance and Corporate Service, the Head of Corporate Resources and the Executive Director in addition to the Council wide officer working group.