

<b>Report to:</b>	Cabinet	<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	28 May 2020
<b>Subject:</b>	Sefton Climate Emergency Strategy		
<b>Report of:</b>	Executive Directors, Corporate Resources & Customer Services and People	<b>Wards Affected:</b>	All
<b>Cabinet Portfolio:</b>	Regulatory, Compliance and Corporate Services		
<b>Is this a Key Decision:</b>	Yes	<b>Included in Forward Plan:</b>	Yes
<b>Exempt / Confidential Report:</b>	No		

**Summary:**

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. As such the Council at its meeting in July 2019 declared a climate emergency. Following that declaration work has progressed within the council on the agreed actions that were contained and approved by Members. As part of that work a Strategy for the delivery of the motion has been developed and this report seeks approval of that Strategy.

**Recommendation(s):**

Cabinet is asked to:-

- Recommend to Council the approval of the ‘Sefton Climate Emergency Strategy’

Council is asked to

- Approve the ‘Sefton Climate Emergency Strategy’

**Reasons for the Recommendation(s):**

This Strategy will provide the framework for the delivery of the council motion that declared a climate emergency

**Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:** (including any Risk Implications)  
 There are no alternative options to this

**What will it cost and how will it be financed?**

**(A) Revenue Costs**

There are no revenue implications arising from the approval of this strategy. As the council develops its 3 year implementation plans all proposals will be fully evaluated and any resource requirements identified. There is currently no additional budget provision for the delivery of the strategy therefore at this stage all proposals will need to be met from within the councils approved budget.

**(B) Capital Costs**

There are no capital implications arising from the approval of this strategy. As the council develops its 3 year implementation plans all proposals will be fully evaluated and any resource requirements identified. There is currently no additional budget provision for the delivery of the strategy therefore at this stage all proposals will need to be met from within the councils approved budget.

**Implications of the Proposals:**

<b>Resource Implications (Financial, IT, Staffing and Assets):</b>
There are no resource implications arising from this strategy
<b>Legal Implications:</b>
<b>Equality Implications:</b>
There are no equality implications.

**Contribution to the Council’s Core Purpose:**

This strategy will facilitate the delivery of the Council motion that declared a climate emergency and in doing so support the delivery of each objective as set out below in the councils core purpose

Protect the most vulnerable:
Facilitate confident and resilient communities:
Commission, broker and provide core services:

Place – leadership and influencer:
Drivers of change and reform:
Facilitate sustainable economic prosperity:
Greater income for social investment:
Cleaner Greener

**What consultations have taken place on the proposals and when?**

**(A) Internal Consultations**

The Executive Director Corporate Resources & Customer Services (FD5953/20) is the author of the report and the Chief Legal & Democratic Officer (LD4136/20) has been consulted and any comments have been incorporated into the report.

In addition the Climate Emergency Member Reference Group has reviewed and endorsed the Strategy in March 2020

**(B) External Consultations**

Engagement with key Stakeholders and other Public Bodies has taken place with regard to the councils approach to the delivery of the motion. In addition the Liverpool City Region and Combined Authority have also been engaged on the programme.

**Implementation Date for the Decision**

Following the expiry of the “call-in” period for the Minutes of the Cabinet Meeting

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**Appendices:**

The following appendices are attached to this report:

- Appendix A- Sefton Council Climate Emergency Strategy
- Appendix B- Council Motion July 2019

## 1.0 Introduction

1.1 In July 2019, the Council agreed a motion that declared a climate emergency. The full motion that was agreed at the meeting is included to this report at Appendix B 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 Since that point a number of immediate activities have taken place that will inform the council’s work on this long-term project. As stated within the recent reports to each overview and scrutiny committee, the proposed approach to the delivery of the motion has been agreed and will be facilitated by the following groups:-

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

1.3 These groups are now having their terms of reference agreed with the first member reference group meeting being held on 17 March 2020. Alongside this, the council has been working to develop its strategy for the delivery of the motion and this report provides that Strategy for Council approval.

## 2.0 Climate Emergency -Strategy

2.1 The proposed Climate Emergency Strategy for the Council is included at Appendix A (together with a more concise outward facing document) to this report and has been developed having taken into account the key issues that the council wishes to address and importantly the learning that can be taken

from other local authorities and partners who are already on this journey or are addressing similar issues.

2.2 As such the strategy covers the following key areas:-

- The Sefton vision
- International Context
- National and Regional Context
- Local Context
- Opportunities for Local Authorities
- Measuring Success
- Acknowledging limitations
- Financial resources
- Review and Reporting
- Governance; and
- Our Approach

2.3 The Strategy is the councils overriding document that provides the strategic vision for the delivery of the Council motion. As such it will owned by the cross party member reference group, with delegation for implementation provided to the Cabinet Member for Regulatory, Compliance and Corporate Services who will be supported by the Executive Directors for People and Corporate Resources and Customer Services.

2.4 Having approved the Councils Strategy, 3 year implementation plans will be developed that will detail how the council will seek to meet its objectives. Separate plans will be developed for 2020-2023, 2024-2027 and 2028-2030. These will be informed by the baseline exercise that is currently being undertaken by the council that will lead to a prioritisation and sequencing of activity and will also take account of changes to the role of Sefton as a local authority over time, government guidance and legislation and developments in technologies.

2.5 Progress in the delivery of both the council's strategy and its 3 year implementation plans will be via an annual report to council in July of each year. The first of these annual reports will be provided in July 2020 together with detail of the first 3 year implementation plan.

2.6 As the Council has developed the enclosed Strategy it has done so as the world responds to the COVID 19 pandemic. It has been widely reported and indeed it is acknowledged that there will be significant changes to both personal behaviour and how society operates both in the immediate aftermath of the pandemic and on a permanent basis going forward. This will include but will not be limited to travel (both personal and business), how large organisations operate taking account of the successful agile working that has been undertaken across the world in recent months, how individuals socialise and what environments they do this within and how such issues support and enhance the well being of the population. This reporting has also focussed on the dramatic environmental changes that have taken place in the recent 'lockdown' period especially in respect of air pollution.

As such the delivery of the enclosed strategy will include a number of measures that the Council will develop and implement as a direct result of the pandemic which will support residents and business and thus contribute to the delivery of the councils core purpose, will enable staff to conduct their roles in a more efficient and flexible manner that supports their health and well being and in doing so directly contribute to the delivery of the climate emergency declaration

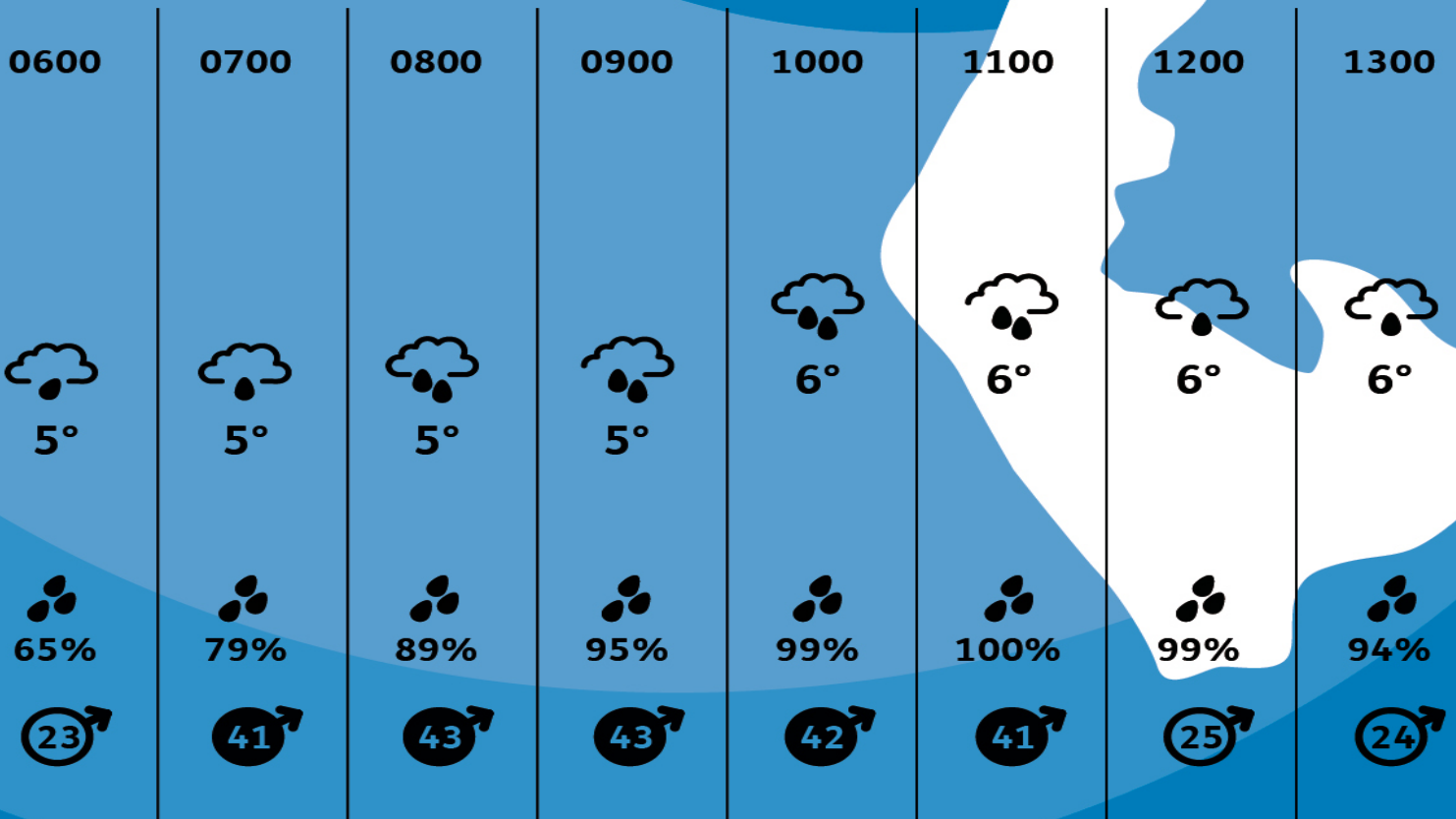
### **3.0 Conclusion**

- 3.1 Following the Council declaring a climate emergency in July 2019, its response is now fully mobilised and a number of workstreams are now in place. These workstreams are being directed by the overriding strategy that has been developed in recent months and this will provide the direction to activity together with being the key reference document to measure both progress and the success of the council in meeting its overall aspirations

APPENDIX A

# Sefton's Climate Change Emergency Plan

What Sefton Council  
are doing about  
Climate Change



# Table of Contents

<b>Foreword</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Vision</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Introduction</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Vision</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Focus</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Sefton 2030</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Sefton Council's Core Purpose</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Context</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>International Context</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>National Context</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Regional Context</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Local Context</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Opportunities for Local Authorities</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>The Sefton Approach</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Measuring Success</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Acknowledging Limitations</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Financial Resources 1</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Review and Reporting</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Governance</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Our Approach</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Glossary</b>	<b>18</b>



## Foreword

Climate change represents a significant threat to our future and preventing and protecting ourselves from climate change is a top priority.

Recent extreme weather events over several years have presented severe challenges to property, transport, agriculture and other services in the Sefton area and have led to the deaths and displacement of thousands of people worldwide.

The Meteorological Office clearly states that these kind of extreme weather events are significantly more likely if we take no action on reducing our carbon emissions; the main driver of man-made climate change.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is the United Nations body for assessing the science related to climate change. In their report “Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change 1.5C report”, published in October 2018, they conclude that humanity has 11 years for “ambitious action from national and sub-national authorities, civil society, the private sector, indigenous peoples and local communities” to deliver the “rapid and far reaching transitions in land, energy, industry, buildings, transport, and cities” needed to turn this around, so we can avoid reaching tipping points where we would no longer have the ability to avoid extreme weather events.

Children in Sefton will be in their teens and twenties in 11 years’ time. They deserve a liveable Sefton. We must act now to ensure this. Bold climate action can deliver economic benefits in terms of new jobs, economic savings and market opportunities, as well as improved wellbeing for people locally and worldwide.

Work on reducing carbon emissions does not start from a zero base. Sefton has been involved with numerous projects aimed at reducing emissions and will continue to do so, in the context of the climate emergency and with increased urgency.

This strategy sets out our vision and broad aims and objectives and represents our commitment to maximise the opportunity within climate action and to protect our communities from that damage already caused by climate change.

It will be followed by a series of implementation plans which will detail our journey towards net zero carbon operations by 2030.

We will report our progress in a series of Annual Reports, detailing actions taken so far and progress towards our 2030 net zero carbon target. The first of these will be available in July 2020.

We are committed to taking responsibility for our carbon emissions and playing our part in limiting global average temperature rises. Business as usual is no longer an option.

**Cllr Paulette Lappin**

## Vision

### Introduction

Climate change represents a major threat to our planet, its people and its wildlife and the vast majority of the scientific community agree that urgent action must be taken to halt this change.

The climate of the planet has always been changing and until recently, this change was a natural process. The change in the climate occurred at a rate that allowed for natural adaptation.

The rate at which we burn fossil fuels results in a damaging build-up of greenhouse gases, so much so, that in just over 200 years, there has been a significant increase in the levels of greenhouse gases. These gases, carbon dioxide primary among them, have an insulating effect on our planet, trapping heat and causing global temperatures to rise.

This has resulted in anthropogenic (man-made) climate change which is not a natural process and must be eliminated. There are opportunities to do this in energy reduction, green infrastructure and off-setting. The tools and expertise to make significant, positive progress already exist, we simply need to use them.

This is not a prospect for our distant future, this change is happening now. The planet has already experienced abnormal heating of 1oC and the damaging impacts of climate change are already being felt across the world by animals and humans alike.

This strategy aims to ensure that Sefton plays its part in limiting global average temperature rises and responding to this significant threat to our planet.



## Vision

The Sefton Council Climate Emergency Strategy has been developed in response to the declaration of a Climate Change Emergency on the 18th July 2019 by Sefton Council. It will provide the basis for the development of future plans and represents a commitment from Sefton Council to taking on the Climate Change Emergency.

We will take action to address the 'Climate Emergency' across our organisation and to encourage staff, partners, communities and businesses to do the same.

Sefton is particularly vulnerable to the effects of climate change, given its 22-mile coastline and areas of vulnerable, less resilient populations across the borough.

However, Sefton as a borough has vast areas of natural beauty and there is, therefore, lots of opportunity for green infrastructure, offsetting and altering the way we operate and use our landscape.

We are taking action now to combat climate change in order to protect our wildlife, our communities and our environment for future generations.

Sefton Council will focus its efforts on energy reduction as well as green infrastructure and offsetting. In this way, Sefton hopes to maximise the opportunity that the climate emergency represents and to ensure our whole community reaps the benefits of climate action.

This balanced approach marks a change in priorities and outlook; we will approach this as an opportunity, not a challenge.

This work will be aligned to the delivery of the Sefton 2030 Vision and the Council's Core Purpose with the aim of making Sefton a better place to live and work.

## Focus

Sefton Council will become net zero carbon by 2030 across all council functions, drastically reducing our impact on global emissions and controlling our environmental impact as a service provider.

Sefton Council will go beyond our own targets in our role as a community leader, encouraging and supporting partners and community to make their own contribution to emissions reduction.

All work related to our Climate Emergency will follow the principles of our CLIMATE strategy and each action will be carried out with one or more of these crucial principles in mind.



This document sets out seven key principles which make up our CLIMATE strategy:

## **C**arbon Reduction

## **L**eadership

**I**n These principles will provide guidance and focus for future works and ensure that all work is strategically aligned.

**A**d Below, these principles are expanded

## **T**ransformation

## **E**ngagement

## **C**arbon Reduction

We will achieve 100% clean energy by 2030 and reduce demand across our organisation to work towards becoming net carbon zero by 2030.

## **L**eadership

We will provide clear direction and leadership when tackling the Climate Emergency.

## **I**nnovation

We will consider and adopt innovative approaches to tackling climate change.

## **M**obilisation

We will mobilise the workforce to ensure that all strategic decisions that support the delivery of the Sefton 2030 Vision and Core Purpose are in line with the shift to net carbon zero by 2030.

## **A**daptation

We will assess and implement adaptation measures to ensure resilience to known climate change impacts.

We will assess and adapt the way we use and manage our landscape and our services.

## **T**ransformation

We will transform the way we live and work in response to this serious threat and change our culture and behaviours

## **E**ngagement

We will take views from the community to inform the development of our plans and engage with the wider community.

We will ensure all key stakeholders are aware of the climate emergency and encourage action across the borough.

## Sefton 2030

Imagine Sefton 2030 is the result of a community engagement programme to create a borough wide vision to promote prosperity and help Sefton flourish.

The Climate Emergency strategy interlinks with Sefton 2030 across three key ambitions:

- Resilient People and Places- “Sefton is a place where businesses, buildings, transport, the environment and housing are sustainable and resilient in 2030.”
- Image and Environment- “It sets the bar in cutting edge green solutions, integrating renewable energy, housing and attractions in a way that protects local nature and wildlife.”
- Accessible and Linked- “An eco-friendly borough, travel in Sefton is green, safe and affordable.”

Ultimately, the Climate Emergency strategy envisions a future in which Sefton is climate resilient, energy efficient, eco-friendly and net carbon zero by 2030.

## Sefton Council’s Core Purpose

The Sefton 2030 Consultation prompted Sefton Council to outline its own role and responsibility in ensuring the 2030 vision becomes a reality. This became Sefton Council’s Core Purpose.

The Climate Emergency Strategy addresses all elements of our core purpose:

### **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 affect air quality and the associated health benefits.

### **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.

### **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. Climate change represents a threat to our ability to deliver core services.

### 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. The Council will use its role as a community influencer to urge others to take action.

### 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.

### Facilitate Sustainable Economic Prosperity

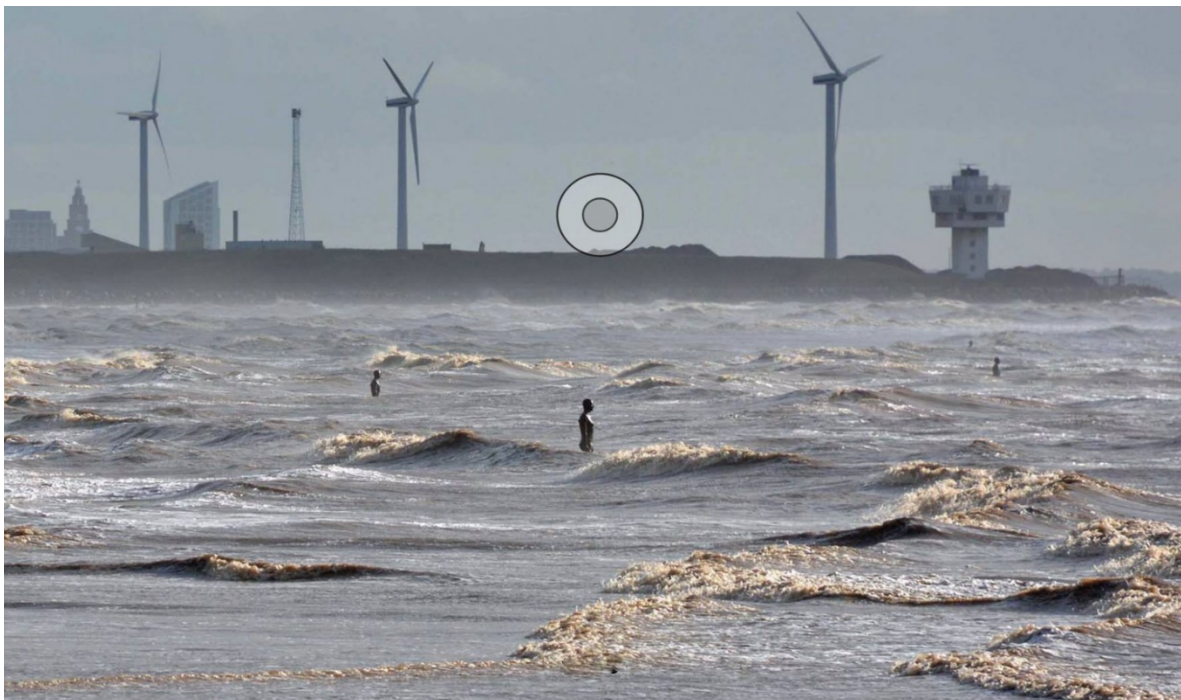
The 'green' economy has potential to generate local, sustainable jobs on a large scale. This could include large scale retrofit of homes and businesses, renewable energy, transport updates, development of green spaces.

### Greater Income for Social Investment

Developing more local opportunities for carbon reduction schemes, would offer opportunities for income/profits to be directed to local, social schemes rather than to large scale corporations not based in the area.

### 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 and reduce waste. We have an opportunity to introduce clean and green initiatives into the urban space.





## Context

### International Context

Climate change is a global issue and Sefton will play its part within the international context.

In the scientific community, over 97% of climate scientists agree that climate-warming trends over the past century are due to human activities. In addition, most of the leading scientific organizations worldwide have issued public statements endorsing this position.

The United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is the leading global authority on climate change.

In 2015, the IPCC outlined the serious harm that a 2oC or above rise in global temperature would cause.

At the 2015 Paris Climate Change COP conference, the international target was agreed to limit temperature rise to 1.5oC and many industrialised nations signed up to it.

However, to limit global temperature rises to 1.5 oC urgent action is required and a business as usual approach will not suffice. Much of the work being done on a national level by signatories of the Paris Climate Agreement is insufficient to meet the target that they agreed.

Due to this lack of urgency, in 2018, the IPCC produced a report which stated that governments had 12 years to make significant changes in order to limit average global temperature rise to 1.5oC.

The scientific community is generally united around the view that governments and individuals need to make rapid changes if we are to avoid irreversible damage to the planet.

Prompted by this scientific consensus, governments throughout the world have declared 'Climate Emergencies' in response to this threat. Up to November 2019, these governments include UK, Ireland, Canada, Portugal, France and Argentina, among others.

Not only have governments taken stock, but so too has the population. 2019 seen something of a sea change in attitudes towards climate change. Climate issues are on the international agenda thanks to a myriad of factors, including the ongoing Extinction Rebellion activity worldwide and the rise of school strikes around the globe led by Greta Thunberg.

This activism paired with the harsh reality of climate change in some of the world's poorest countries has prompted a renewed urgency.

Sefton Council joins many local authorities, states and national governments in its declaration of a climate emergency.

It is hoped that these declarations will represent a commitment to making climate change issues a top priority.



## National Context

The UK is a signatory of the 2015 Paris Climate Agreement and has a long-standing awareness of the climate change and the threat it poses. This is evident from the Climate Change Act 2008.

This act legislates primarily for assessing and reporting climate risks and suggesting measures for addressing these risks.

The UK Committee on Climate Change states that a rapid increase in UK climate action is necessary to reach the UK target of net carbon zero by 2050.

Such measures would include large scale carbon capture and storage (sequestration) and quadrupling low carbon electricity. There is debate within the scientific community about whether a target date of net carbon zero by 2050 is sufficient to meet targets agreed at the 2015 Paris IPCC Summit.

All main political parties in the UK commit to becoming net zero carbon in future which suggests that net zero carbon is almost certainly the direction of travel over the coming decades.

There are a number of schemes and strategies at the national level aimed at tackling climate change.

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) 25 Year Environment Plan, 2018 sets out the framework for protecting and enhancing the environment for future generations. The target within this plan aligns with the outcomes of this strategy, specific targets are set for mitigating and adapting to climate change. Targets include:

- Continue to cut greenhouse gas emissions including from land use, land use change, the agriculture and waste sectors and the use of fluorinated gases.
- Ensure that all policies and investment decisions consider the possible extent of climate change this century
- Implement a sustainable and effective second National Adaptation Programme.

There are various other strategies, policies and projects at a national level that feed into the activity around the Climate Emergency including, for example, the Flood and Water Management Act 2010.

Sefton will make best use of those national resources available and lobby for additional resources and promote the importance of climate issues and actions.

Work around lobbying and promoting the importance of climate issues will be important to increase support and resources available to enable us to reach our target.

## Regional Context

Sefton Council is one of six members of the Liverpool City Region. The other members are Halton, Knowsley, St Helens, Liverpool and Wirral. Sefton will work closely with our counterparts across the combined authority to make significant progress towards our net zero carbon by 2030 target.

There is significant difference across the combined authority between targets for net zero carbon.

- Halton: Commits to net zero carbon for council wide operations but does not set target date
- Wirral: Commits to net zero carbon by 2050 for council wide operations
- St Helens: Commits to net zero carbon by 2030 for council wide operations
- Liverpool: Commits to net zero carbon for city wide operations
- Knowsley: Climate Emergency not declared as of November 2019
- Liverpool City Region: Commits to net zero carbon by 2040 across region
- Sefton: Commits to net zero carbon by 2030 for council wide operations

This variation across the region results in mixed levels of urgency and action. This will no doubt make collaboration more challenging, however huge progress can be made in working with the combined authority and our counterparts across Merseyside.

There is significant work being done at the Liverpool City Region level which will contribute to Sefton achieving its goals both in the short term and the long term.

Such work includes:

- £0.5m fund for local climate action and environmental projects
- Mersey Tidal Power Project which on completion will power up to 1 million homes with clean energy
- New fleet of trains for MerseyRail
- New 600km walking and cycling network
- New fleet of hydrogen buses

Sefton will maximise the potential of partnership with the Liverpool City Region which will have particular significance for our ambitions to have an impact on those emissions not directly in our control.

## Local Context

Tackling climate change is particularly important for Sefton due to the coastal nature of our borough. We are already aware that we must adapt to deal with the effects of climate

change as well as mitigate against future impacts. This work is vital to protect our borough and our planet for future generations.

The impacts for Sefton from a changing climate include, more extreme weather events. This could include warmer and wetter winters, hotter and drier summers, more frequent and intense storms and increased coastal flooding and erosion.

Sea levels could rise by almost 1 metre by the end of the century which would have an impact on Sefton's coastal communities if we do not reduce emissions globally. The Shoreline Management Plan sets the coastal defence policy for up to 100 years and the deliverability of these policies will be affected by the changes in the climate.

The Sefton Coast Plan outlines the threat of climate change to our coastal landscape, biodiversity and communities. Both accretion and erosion are issues for Sefton's coast and climate change is likely to change these processes resulting in an increase in erosion. This will be a significant problem in future. For context, Formby Point has been eroding around its central section at around 3-4 metres per year since 1900.

Extreme heat or cold weather will have an impact on the health of many residents and present significant risks for certain groups with health conditions. The elderly, particularly those over 85 years of age, are much more vulnerable to extreme heat and cold compared with younger age groups. Future health burdens may be amplified by an aging population in Sefton.

Health effects due to changes in air pollution and potentially a longer duration of exposure to aeroallergens, combined with hotter, drier summers, will have a negative effect on our communities, particularly those with respiratory conditions.

Sefton is a low-lying area and surface water flooding, from intense rainfall, already impacts communities across the whole of Sefton and this is likely to increase under current future predictions. For some communities who are less resilient due to lack of available resources, impacts are likely to translate into increased demand for council services.

Our position as a coastal authority and member of the Liverpool City region also brings opportunities. During hotter, drier summers we are likely to enjoy lower temperatures due to our coastal location, which means we are likely to attract more visitors. However, this may bring more conflict with our designated coastline.

We are also well placed to generate energy from tidal power and wind power which will assist us to generate our energy needs locally. This also opens way for increasing local employment and investment opportunities.

Sefton has a wealth of open space that can be adapted to mitigate some of the predicted climate impacts using the principles of green and blue infrastructure. The opportunities exist, not only to mitigate climate impacts but also contribute to biodiversity and human health and wellbeing

However, this has to be balanced with our obligation to preserve protected habitats in certain, designated locations in our borough; for example, the sand dunes at Formby.

Significant work has already taken place and is ongoing across Sefton Council. We hope to build on this in future.

Previous work in this area includes:

- Carbon Management Plan 2011-2016
- Sefton Coastal Plan
- Single Use Plastics Strategy

A full assessment of current action will be captured through a baselining exercise to establish our baseline position over the next 12 months.

Climate change represents a problem for all communities and all departments in the council. All departments therefore will be involved in baselining and projects going forward.

## Opportunities for Local Authorities

Climate change represents a serious threat, however, the approach to mitigation and adaptation does not have to be isolated; there are a wealth of opportunities to deliver projects which will have a positive impact, right across our organisation.

### Reducing Impacts

Demand for council services is likely to increase if we continue to follow a business as usual approach to climate change. Sefton has an ageing population and multiple areas of vulnerable residents. Air quality, extreme temperatures and extreme rainfall are likely to lead to a rise in demand for council services. It is difficult to plan for such events as there is often very little notice and requires a complex variety of services to respond to it. Extreme weather events also have an impact on supply chains, slowing down the delivery of our services.

### Reducing Financial Costs

Although adaptation and mitigation action may be expensive initially, if whole life costs are considered, often such measures tend to be cheaper than business as usual in the long term. Short term costs are often worth the savings across multiple departments and levels in the long term. These indirect or long-term savings are important to local authorities striving to provide value for money to the taxpayer.

### Delivering Co-Benefits

In tackling climate change, local authorities can address a range of different issues under the umbrella of climate change. These co-benefits often include: improved health and wellbeing, improved property values, skills and employment for the local area and a vibrant, green local economy.

The Climate Emergency not only represents a challenge for local authorities, but also an opportunity to tackle a wide range of issues and this work spans a wide range of council departments.

## The Sefton Approach

### Definitions

Sefton Council will consider carbon dioxide as the priority emission to focus on. However, we will be mindful that other greenhouse gases, for example, methane, have an insulating effect on our planet and must be addressed in the long term.

Sefton Council will define its emissions according to the Greenhouse Gas Protocol. This is the standard mechanism by which governments and local authorities measure and define their emissions.

Scope 1: Direct emissions which occur from sources that are owned or controlled by Sefton Council. For example, emissions from combustion in owned or controlled boilers, furnaces, vehicles.

Scope 2: Indirect emissions from the generation of purchased electricity. Emissions generated when fuel is burned for the benefit of Sefton Council.

Scope 3: Optional reporting category that allows for the treatment of all other indirect emissions. Scope 3 emissions are a consequence of the activities of the organisation but occur from sources not owned or controlled by the organisation. For example, the extraction and production of purchased materials; transportation of purchased fuels; staff travel.

Sefton Council's Climate Emergency Declaration instructs the Council to make 'council operations' net zero carbon by 2030. This translates directly to Scope 1 and 2 against the Greenhouse Gas Protocol. However, elements of Scope 3 are relevant in this case.

The declaration calls for wider action beyond the boundaries of our organisation. Therefore, work begins on measuring and addressing the emissions in Scope 3 and engaging with our community to encourage vital individual action.

### Measuring Success

In our action plan development, we will outline a series of interim targets. This will set out how we will be successful in our climate action. We must identify what success looks like in Sefton. Our broad measures of success will be:

- To have established a clear baseline and full audit of all ongoing work that can contribute to the achievement of our net zero target.
- To have developed ambitious yet achievable targets for each of our proposed action plans based on our baseline evidence.
- To have achieved net carbon zero by 2030 and ensure all strategic decisions are in line with this target.
- To have raised awareness of the issues across the Council, our partners and our communities.
- To have engaged with young people and the wider community.
- To have embedded climate action and value into our decision making across the organisation.

## Acknowledging Limitations

Addressing climate change will be challenging for local authorities across the UK, not least because resources from the national level to carry out this essential work are currently insufficient.

However, Sefton Council are determined to make significant progress despite the pressures and challenges.

Our action plan going forward will be measured, rational and achievable whilst remaining ambitious and proactive.

There are numerous measures that Sefton Council might adopt on the journey to achieving net zero carbon. Some measures will be appropriate for the Council to adopt; however, certain measures are not suited to the finances or capacity of Sefton Council.

A range of measures will be considered throughout the development of our action plans with full acknowledgement of our limitations and barriers.

## Financial Resources

The Climate Emergency Strategy is currently being co-ordinated by an Officer working group. The Team are utilising officer time and materials available without incurring additional costs to the council.

However, as this strategy moves forward into developing an Action Plan and implementing measures, financial resources are likely to be required. The council will need to take into account the financial implications arising from changes and proposals. This will be embedded in the decision-making process of the Council.

## Review and Reporting

Progress on the Climate Emergency Strategy will be compiled into an annual report for the Overview and Scrutiny committees and will also be reported to Council annually starting July 2020.

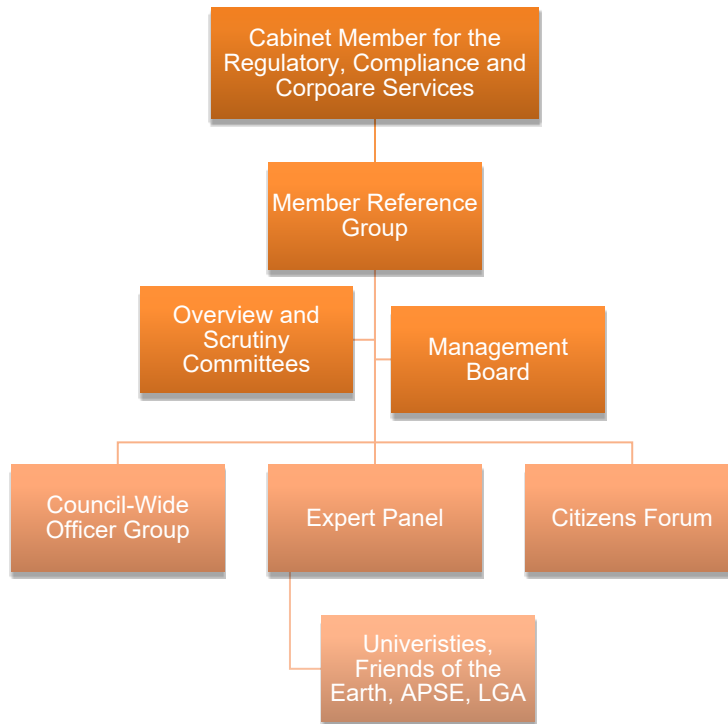
The review process will be undertaken by the Cabinet Member for Regulatory, Compliance and Corporate Services, with any changes being included in the annual report mentioned above.

The review of the strategy will consider the following:

- Progress made against the strategy's objectives
- Overall impact and effectiveness of the strategy
- Any new legislation or local concern that must be considered

## Governance

The proposed governance structure is as follows:



The project will be led by the Cabinet Member for Regulatory, Compliance and Corporate Services.

The Head of Corporate Resources will be leading the council-based activity and the Executive Director will be leading on external engagement and alignment with the Liverpool City Region.

The terms of reference for new groups will be determined in due course and will be in place by January 2020.

The expert panel and citizens forum will be comprised of a wide range of voices and will be in place by January 2021.

## Our Approach

This strategy represents our broad direction of travel over the next decade on the journey to achieving net zero carbon by 2030 for council wide activities. Following this strategy, action plans will be produced detailing action to be taken to achieve our aims and strategic objectives.

Decisions will be taken relating to scope, definitions and terms of reference in due course in order to define our actions going forward.

Our immediate tasks are as follows:



- Determine the scope of the action plan.
- Prepare report for each O&S 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 Liverpool City Region work being undertaken and that of key partners, for example, MerseyTravel, Merseyside Pension Fund
- Develop a 12-month immediate plan for 2019/2020
- Develop and resource the first 3-year implementation plan (2020-2023)
- Provide the first Annual Report to Council in July 2020.
- Set up workshops for decision makers and those involved in development of plans so participants can make an informed choice when presented with options for decision making.





## Glossary

Term	Definition
<b>Accretion</b>	Accretion is the process of coastal sediment returning to the visible portion of a beach or foreshore following a submersion event.
<b>Adaptation</b>	the process of adjustment to actual or expected climate change and its effects
<b>Afforestation</b>	Planting of new forests on lands that historically have not contained forests.
<b>Anthropogenic Greenhouse Emissions</b>	Greenhouse gas emissions which come from human activities.
<b>Biodiversity</b>	The diversity of flora and fauna in a habitat, it is best when biodiversity is high.
<b>Carbon neutrality</b>	Net zero carbon emissions by obtaining a balance between a measured amount of carbon released with an equivalent amount of carbon which has been offset or sequestered.
<b>Carbon Reduction</b>	Any activity that reduces carbon emissions. This can include: decreasing energy use or shifting to renewable energy use
<b>Carbon Sink</b>	Any process, activity or mechanism which removes a greenhouse gas, an aerosol or a precursor of a greenhouse gas from the atmosphere. Forests and other vegetation are considered sinks because they remove carbon dioxide through photosynthesis.
<b>Climate</b>	Climate describes the average weather over a long period of time

<b>Climate Change</b>	A change in the state of the climate that can be identified over an extended period of time.
<b>UK Committee on Climate Change</b>	The UK Committee on Climate Change is an independent body established under the Climate Change Act (2008) that advises the UK Government on setting and meeting carbon budgets and on preparing for the impacts of climate change.
<b>Greenhouse Gas</b>	The atmospheric gases responsible for causing global warming and climate change, eg. Carbon Dioxide (CO <sub>2</sub> ) and Methane (CH <sub>4</sub> )
<b>UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change</b>	Panel made up of global network of scientists convened to advise politicians on climate change.
<b>Mitigation</b>	Human intervention to reduce the sources or enhance carbon sinks for greenhouse gases.
<b>Net zero carbon</b>	achieving zero carbon emissions by balancing carbon emissions with carbon removal
<b>Sequestration</b>	This is the process of removing carbon from the atmosphere and trapping it in a carbon sink.
<b>Weather</b>	The conditions of the atmosphere over a short period of time in a particular place.
<b>Zero Carbon</b>	Eliminating all carbon emissions



## **APPENDIX B**

### **33. MOTION SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR LAPPIN - CLIMATE CHANGE EMERGENCY**

#### **Climate Change Emergency**

Recent extreme weather events over several years have presented severe challenges to property, transport, agriculture and other services in the Sefton area and have led to the deaths and displacement of thousands of people worldwide. The Meteorological Office clearly states that these kind of extreme weather events are significantly more likely on a planet with human-caused climate change.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is the United Nations body for assessing the science related to climate change. In their report “Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change 1.5C report”<sup>[1]</sup>, published in October 2018, they conclude that humanity has 11 years for “ambitious action from national and sub-national authorities, civil society, the private sector, indigenous peoples and local communities” to deliver the “rapid and far reaching transitions in land, energy, industry, buildings, transport, and cities” needed to turn this around, so we can avoid reaching tipping points where we would no longer have the ability to avoid extreme weather events.

Business as usual is no longer an option.

Children in Sefton will be in their teens and twenties in 11 years’ time. They deserve a liveable Sefton. We must act now to ensure this.

Bold climate action can deliver economic benefits in terms of new jobs, economic savings and market opportunities, as well as improved well-being for people locally and worldwide.

Over 40, and increasing, local councils, together with the Mayor of London, have passed motions declaring a ‘Climate Emergency’. Many local authorities, including Sefton Council, have also signed up to the UK100 Agreement<sup>[2]</sup>, pledging to achieve 100% ‘clean energy’ usage by 2050 in their area, but the IPCC report shows it is imperative that this target is reached much, much sooner.

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 Borough.

And to take the following actions:

1. Ensure that political groups and Strategic Leadership Board embed this work in all areas of Council activity and take responsibility for reducing, as rapidly as possible, the carbon emissions resulting from the Council's activities, ensuring that any recommendations are fully costed and that a Task and Finish group be established to review Council activities taking account of production and consumption emissions and produce an action plan within 12 months, together with budget actions and a measured baseline;
2. Request that Overview and Scrutiny Management Board consider the impact of climate change and the environment when reviewing Council policies and strategies and charge Task and Finish groups to also consider those impacts in any report and every topic;
3. Work with, influence and inspire partners across the Borough and City Region to help deliver this goal through relevant strategies, plans and shared resources by developing a series of meetings, events and partner workshops;
4. Set up a Sefton Climate Change group, drawing on the expertise from Councillors, local communities, residents, young citizens, climate science and solutions experts, businesses, skills providers, and other relevant parties. Over the following 12 months, the Group will consider strategies and actions being developed by the Council and other partner organisations and develop a Borough-wide strategy in line with a target of net zero emissions by 2030, by engaging with other anchor institutions and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). It will also recommend ways to maximise the local benefits of these actions in other sectors such as employment, health, agriculture, transport and the economy;
5. Request that the Council and partners take steps to proactively include young people in the process, ensuring that they have a voice in shaping the future-their future;
6. Review the Council's Treasury Management Strategy to give due consideration to climate change targets in the investment decision making process and in doing so request a report within 6 months from the Head of Corporate Resources on the investment strategies of all financial institutions where Council funds are or could be held;

7. Ensure that all reports in preparation for the 2020/21 budget cycle will take into account the actions the Council will take to address this emergency;
8. Add the voice of Sefton Council to the calls on the UK Government to provide the powers, resources and help with funding to make this possible;
9. In recognition of the seriousness of the financial constraints that the Council faces, and the expectation that both the development and implementation of many measures above are likely to be contingent on securing significant additional extra funding, that Sefton's local MPs be called upon to ensure that Central government provides the powers, resources and funding to make this possible, and that the Leader and Chief Executive jointly write to them to seek their commitments;
10. Consider other actions that could be recommended (but are not restricted to): low carbon energy production and storage, providing electric vehicle infrastructure, encouraging the use of electric vehicles within the fleet, workforce and wider community, integrating low carbon technologies into operational assets and projects, increasing the efficiency of buildings, prioritising these measures for housing to address fuel poverty; proactively using our powers to accelerate the delivery of net carbon new developments and communities, coordinating a series of information and training events to raise awareness and share good practice;
11. Where needed, officer reports to the Council, Cabinet and all other Committees contain impact assessments on climate change that include carbon emission appraisals, including presenting alternative approaches which reduce carbon emissions where possible; and
12. Note the Liverpool City Region Deal which will have a direct effect on Sefton's climate and ensure that all partners are aware of Sefton's ambition.