

TRAFFORD COUNCIL

Report to: Executive
Date: 14 December 2020
Report for: Decision
Report of: The Leader

Report Title

Trafford Climate Emergency Progress Report

Summary

The report provides an update on activities that have taken place since the last report to Executive on 28 September 2020, one of the commitments from which was to report back to Executive in December with a Carbon Neutral Action Plan that identifies deliverable actions across Trafford through new working and governance arrangements.

Recommendation(s)

It is recommended that the Executive:

- (i) Notes the progress made since September Executive
- (ii) Notes and approves the Carbon Neutral Action Plan as a working document to be progressed and monitored through the working arrangements detailed in the plan
- (iii) Notes and approves the working arrangements outlined in the report and Action Plan through establishment of the Climate Emergency and Air Quality Commission, Council-Business Alliance and Climate Emergency Residents' Panel.

Contact person for access to background papers and further information:

Name: Paul Farrand (Principal Sustainability and Climate Change Officer))
Damien Cutting (Senior Strategic Growth Officer)

Extension: x5504
x2756

Appendix One: Carbon Neutral Action Plan

Background Papers: None

Relationship to Policy Framework/Corporate Priorities	The project supports the Council's Corporate Plan priorities of 'Health and Wellbeing' 'Successful and Thriving Places', 'Building Quality Affordable and Social Housing' and 'Green and Connected'
Relationship to GM Policy or Strategy Framework	The project supports the aims of the GM Strategy, GM 5 Year Environment Plan, draft GMSF and GM Cultural Strategy relating to Climate Change, Natural Capital, Green Infrastructure and Public Health
Financial	No additional financial implications directly from this report. All future studies and actions not covered by existing identified funding will be reviewed as they arise. A number of funding bids have also been submitted or are in development as set out in the report.
Legal Implications:	No additional legal implications.
Equality/Diversity Implications	No adverse impacts.
Sustainability Implications	The Framework and Action Plan will help to achieve the Council's aims and objectives relating to the Council's Climate Emergency declaration
Resource Implications e.g. Staffing / ICT / Assets	Staff resources required from across the council for delivery, implementation and governance
Risk Management Implications	Not applicable
Health & Wellbeing Implications	The project has strong links to the Trafford Health and Wellbeing Strategy
Health and Safety Implications	None as a consequence of this report.

1.0 Background

1.1 Following the Climate Emergency declared by the Council on 28 November 2018, which committed to tackle climate change and work towards carbon neutrality for Trafford as an area as well as for the Council, Anthesis were appointed to prepare a Carbon Neutral Framework for Trafford. Key findings of their report were considered by Council's Executive on 28 September 2020 along with the scope of a Draft Carbon Neutral Action Plan.

1.2 The publication of the Greater Manchester 5 Year Environment Plan following the inaugural Green Summit of 2019 sets out the urgent actions all of us need to take over the next 5 years. The Plan set out the challenges faced by the city-region:

- **Mitigating climate change:** For our city region to be carbon neutral by 2038 and meet carbon budgets that comply with international commitments.
- **Air quality:** To improve our air quality, meeting World Health Organisation guidelines on air quality by 2030 and supporting the UK Government in meeting and maintaining all thresholds for key air pollutants at the earliest date.
- **Sustainable consumption and production:** To put us on a path to being a circular economy, recycling 65% of our municipal waste by 2035 and reducing the amount of waste we produce.
- **Natural environment:** To protect, maintain and enhance our natural environment for all our benefit, taking steps to implement and achieve environmental net gain.
- **Resilience and adaptation to climate change:** To be prepared for the impacts of climate change and already be adapting to the future changes

1.3 The main themes of the GM 5 Year Environment Plan are as follows:

Our energy supply

- Increasing local renewable electricity generation, de-carbonising how we heat our buildings, increasing the diversity and flexibility of our supply

Our travel and transport

- increasing use of public transport and active travel routes;
- phasing out fossil-fuelled private vehicles and replacing them with zero emission alternatives;
- tackling to most polluting vehicles on our roads;
- establishing a zero emissions bus fleet;
- de-carbonising freight transport and shifting to rail and water transport

Our homes, workplaces and public buildings

- reducing the heat demand from existing homes;
- reducing the heat demand from existing commercial and public buildings;
- reducing the heat demand in new buildings.

Our consumption and production of resources

- producing goods and services more sustainably, moving to a circular economy;
- becoming more responsible consumers;
- managing our waste as sustainably as possible;

- reducing unnecessary food waste.

Our natural environment

- managing our land sustainably;
- managing our water and its environmental sustainability;
- achieving a net gain in biodiversity for new development;
- increasing investment into our natural environment;
- increasing engagement with our natural environment.

Our resilience and adaptation to climate change

- embedding climate change resilience and adaptation in all policies;
- increasing the resilience of an investment in our critical infrastructure;
- implementing a priorities programme of nature-based climate adaptation action;
- improving monitoring and reporting.

1.4 These themes from the GM 5 Year Plan, plus the themes and recommended structures of the Carbon Neutral Framework contained within the Anthesis report have therefore shaped the structure of the Trafford Carbon Neutral Action Plan. The Action Plan incorporates these themes along with an additional theme around skills and green growth to capture the growing commitment to a green industrial revolution and funding support from central government.

2.0 Updates and Progress since September 2020 Executive

2.1 Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) launched the consultation on the proposed Clean Air Plan (CAP) and Zone (CAZ) on Thursday 8th October 2020 that will cover local roads across the whole of Greater Manchester from 2021. The Clean Air Plan and Clean Air Zone aim to discourage polluting commercial vehicles from travelling on local roads; to encourage the transition to low emission vehicles and to bring NO₂ emissions within legal limits. Consultation concludes on Thursday 3 December 2020. Thereafter, there will be expectations that Trafford will support the target to reduce vehicle emissions in GM.

2.2 Examples of funding bids that have been submitted or are in the process of being developed since September include:

- Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme – a cross-service project team from across the Council and Amey worked on the development of a successful skills fund bid co-ordinated by GMCA to fund feasibility work into low carbon heating and energy interventions including heat pumps, solar PV and LED lighting across Trafford’s public estate. An associated capital bid involving 14 schools, civic and community buildings is being developed for submission in late November 2020 for delivery by September 2021 if successful.
- Government Green Homes Grant – part of GMCA co-ordinated bid as part of the Local Authority Delivery Scheme, plus promoting of the government voucher scheme and grants.
- Successful stage one bid in conjunction with City of Trees, The Conservation Volunteers and Lancashire Wildlife Trust as part of the Government (DEFRA) ‘Green Recovery Challenge Fund’ focused on sites across the Mersey Valley.

- Development and submission of the 'Trees for Climate' funding bid in conjunction with City of Trees for woodland creation across multiple sites in Trafford for delivery in 2021 if successful.

Strategic Planning Policy

2.3 In order for a mitigation programme to meet the commitments around reducing carbon emissions and sustainability across GM, a strategic plan will need to adopt some key principles which include:

- Significantly upscaling solar photovoltaic energy;
- Reducing heat demand in homes;
- Moving away from carbon intensive gas as the primary source of heat;
- Reducing heating and cooling demand for public and commercial buildings;
- Increasing biofuel use;
- Enable sustainable choices for travel and decarbonise transport;
- Significantly upscaling building retrofit; and
- Increase the delivery of nature based solutions and biodiversity net gain.

Trafford Local Plan

- 2.4 Work commenced on a new Trafford Local Plan in 2018 through a consultation on the scope of the Plan (Reg 18) alongside a call for sites exercise. The draft Trafford Local Plan (Reg 18) will be submitted for approval by the Council's Executive in December 2020 for public consultation to start in January 2021. The timetable for the production of the Trafford Local Plan is published in the Council's Local Development Scheme - it is intended that the Trafford Local Plan will be adopted in spring 2023.
- 2.5 Once adopted, the Trafford Local Plan will form part of the overall Trafford Development Plan alongside the GMSF 2020, the joint Greater Manchester Waste and Minerals plans and any adopted neighbourhood plans and any adopted area action plans.
- 2.6 New development in Trafford will be expected to demonstrate how Climate Change has been considered in the design of the development and what adaptation and mitigation measures have been put in place. Consideration will also need to be given to how developments can be future-proofed so that they are resilient and adaptable to future climatic changes, such as an increase in extreme weather events.
- 2.7 Development will be expected to minimise resource and energy consumption as well as carbon emissions through the inclusion of sustainable design and construction features where this is technically feasible and viable, with further consideration to be given to the whole-life carbon cost of development. Other policies within the Plan include Low Carbon and Renewable Energy and Sustainable Transport and Accessibility.

3 Anthesis Carbon Neutral Framework Report – Key Findings

- 3.1 As reported to the Council's Executive in September 2020, The Council commissioned consultants Anthesis to produce a Carbon Neutral Framework Report for Trafford, which was submitted for approval as part of the Executive report.

- 3.2 The report identified a Council-Business Alliance Model to bring together the Council and the private sector of key stakeholders with a commitment to reducing carbon emissions, recommending a pilot approach for Trafford Park as part of the recommended geographical cluster approach.
- 3.3 Five emissions sectors were identified which the Council and partner organisations can directly influence in order to reduce their emissions and influence their own supply chains, with clear additional benefits for the local economy, people and nature:
- Reduce waste and improve 'circularity'
 - Shift to low-carbon transport
 - Improve natural assets
 - Improve low-carbon energy supply
 - Reduce stationary energy demand
- 3.4 These emission sectors therefore feature prominently in the Carbon Neutral Action Plan that has been produced (See Appendix 1).

4 Governance and Terms of Reference

- 4.1 Carbon neutrality for Trafford can only be achieved in collaboration with private and public sector partners, as well as Trafford employees and residents. Effective collaborative action will also play a central role in the climate emergency response as part of a green recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 4.2 The Anthesis Report and the September Executive Report proposed new partnership and governance arrangements to enable the necessary collaborative work to take place.
- 4.3 Therefore, the following working and governance arrangements have been identified as 'quick wins' and developed in more detail as part of the Action Plan:
- A Trafford Climate Emergency and Air Quality Commission with cross-sector representation and a remit of progressing and monitoring the actions identified in the action plan as well as linking to the relevant thematic groups of the Trafford Partnership, the Council-Business Alliance and The Citizen's Panel.
 - A Council-Business Alliance Model connecting with existing groups such as the Trafford Park Business Network and Business Growth Hub, with other business partners to be brought on board based around the geographical clusters model.
 - A Climate Emergency Residents' Panel, represented on the Commission, to develop ideas for consideration and to consider how carbon reduction and climate emergency related work can be implemented at neighbourhood and community level. This group will support the development of a Citizens' Assembly.

5 Wider Corporate Links

The Trafford Carbon Neutral Action Plan will be consistent with the Council's Corporate Plan as well as the adopted Core Strategy and the Trafford Local Plan as it progresses through draft and consultation stages. The Action Plan and associated work will also support the Council's COVID-19 recovery strategy. At GM level, the Action Plan will be aligned with the themes and approach expressed in the GM 5 Year Environment Plan, as well as the ambitions contained with the GM Strategy, draft GM Spatial Framework, GM Cultural Strategy, GM Transport Strategy, GM Local Industrial Strategy and GM COVID 19 Recovery Plan.

6 Other Options

Other options include continuing to report at GM level through relevant service areas in the context of the GM 5 Year Environment Plan and Green City Region Partnership without dedicated local arrangements in Trafford. Individual projects and initiatives would be progressed in an ad-hoc manner across Trafford, missing opportunities for effective collaboration.

7 Consultation

Regular consultation and engagement will be ongoing through the new governance arrangements detailed in 4.3. In addition, residents, businesses, Council employees, community and third sector groups will be invited to contribute to and monitor the Action Plan as the work detailed in the plan progresses.

8 Reasons for Recommendation

The reason for the recommendations is to enable Trafford to reduce its carbon emissions to meet Climate Emergency, GM and Government targets and commitments on carbon neutrality. The recommended approach and associated working and governance arrangements are considered to offer the most potential to achieve success in responding to the climate emergency in Trafford.

Key Decision No

If Key Decision, has 28-day notice been given?

Finance Officer ClearancePC.....
Legal Officer ClearanceTR...

DIRECTOR'S SIGNATURE 

To confirm that the Financial and Legal Implications have been considered and the Executive Member has cleared the report.