

TRAFFORD COUNCIL

Report to: Executive
Date: 29th April 2013
Report for: Decision
Report of: Executive Member for Highways & Environment

Report Title

Sustainable Trafford Strategy

Summary

The proposed Sustainable Trafford Strategy and indicative Action Plan (Appendix 1) contained within this report is an over-arching strategy setting out Trafford's approach to achieving a proportion of the Greater Manchester Climate Change Strategy, which sets a target of a 48% cut in carbon emissions by 2020 on a 1990 baseline.

It includes a local target set at 29% for Trafford, based on quantified carbon reduction opportunities in the borough. The strategy does not commit the Council to individual projects – each project will be considered separately on its own merits and the financial implications for the Council will be considered in respect of each one. Financial resources to facilitate the delivery of the proposed Action Plan also provided in appendix 1 are being developed at a GM level.

Securing Trafford's place as Manchester's continuing centre for business and industry in the new clean industrial revolution age is a key aim of this strategy.

Recommendation(s)

That the Executive approve the Sustainable Trafford Strategy and indicative Action Plan contained within Appendix 1 of this report, for adoption by the Council.

That each project in the draft action plan will be considered on its merits at the appropriate time

Contact person for access to background papers and further information:

Name: Andrew Hunt, Sustainability Manager
Extension: 4691

Background Papers: None

Implications:

Relationship to Policy Framework/Corporate Priorities	<p>Corporate priorities:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Cleaner, Greener Borough • Improving Health & Wellbeing of Residents <p>Trafford Vision 2021 Priorities:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SE2 – more jobs and wealth created locally, particularly in growth sectors • SE7 – less carbon emissions from businesses (per capita) • PE2 - More recycling and composting by households • PE3 - More people using accessible public transport, walking and cycling • PE5 - More energy saving environmentally friendly homes • PE6 - Less carbon emissions from businesses (per capita) • BH3 - An increase in better designed and environmentally friendly homes
Financial	The Action Plan provides an overview of possible financial implications for the Council, however, adoption of this strategy does not constitute endorsement of any individual projects, which will be addressed on their own merits at the appropriate time and through the Council's financial procedures.
Legal Implications:	There are a number of possible legal implications for the Council of taking part in the various GM projects: Green Deal, Joint Venture with the Green Investment Bank, European funding bids. The legal issues will be identified and addressed for these individual projects all in accordance with Council's Constitution.
Equality/Diversity Implications	An initial Equality Impact Assessment has been prepared
Sustainability Implications	All Sustainability implications are dealt with within the strategy itself.
Staffing/E-Government/Asset Management Implications	A number of staffing and Asset Management implications are attached to individual projects, which will be addressed at the appropriate time in accordance with Council procedures.
Risk Management Implications	This strategy will address the Council's Strategic Risk 13 – "Council does not agree, adopt and deliver carbon reduction targets."
Public Health Implications	Tackling fuel poverty in households has positive implications for public health, in particular reducing Excess Winter Deaths.
Health and Safety Implications	None

1.0 Background:

1.1 Along with the other nine Greater Manchester districts, Trafford Council is a signatory to the **Greater Manchester Climate Change Strategy (GMCCS)**, which has set a target of a 48% cut in carbon emissions by 2020 on a 1990 baseline. The **Sustainable Trafford Strategy (STS)** and indicative Action Plan proposed within this report (Appendix 1) is Trafford's response to how it intends to contribute to the proposed target.

2.0 Proposal:

2.1 The **STS** includes a carbon budget, which sets a local target for Trafford, based on quantified carbon reduction opportunities in the borough. The strategy does not commit the Council to individual projects – each project will be considered on its own merits and the financial implications for the Council will be considered separately in respect of each one. However, where financial implications are known, the detail is included within the Action Plan in Appendix 1. Council adoption of this strategy does not constitute endorsement of the individual projects in the Action Plan.

2.2 The Action Plan will be developed and revised on an annual basis as opportunities emerge and are delivered. Many of the projects to be delivered within Trafford form the local element of the larger Greater Manchester approach, including housing retrofit and energy infrastructure such as district heat networks.

2.3 The carbon emissions reduction target for Trafford has been set at 29% by 2020 by this strategy. This is lower than the overall GM target of a 48% cut, but is based specifically on quantified opportunities as described above, and is appropriate to Trafford. The target itself will be revised on an annual basis depending on the delivery of projects and evidence for new opportunities.

2.3 The Action Plan has been split into the same themes as have been adopted by the **GMCCS** implementation plan, to ensure that Trafford's strategy is in line with, and contributes to, the **GMCCS** plan.

2.4 Whilst the reduction of carbon dioxide emissions from Trafford is the headline objective, additional value will be achieved in terms of reducing household fuel bills (and so reducing the incidence of fuel poverty in the borough which is currently running at around 18.5% according to the Department for Energy and Climate Change), reducing fuel bills for businesses (thus increasing the competitiveness of Trafford businesses) and building the local supply chain for the low carbon business sector (Trafford College is a key resource providing training opportunities in green business skills).

2.5 Financial resources to facilitate the delivery of the Action Plan are being developed at a GM level. The City Deal with national government created a "Low Carbon Hub", one aspect of which is a Joint Venture between GM and the UK Green Investment Bank. The JV aims to accelerate the delivery of low carbon infrastructure across GM, including the energy efficiency retrofit of homes via the Green Deal programme, and build local supply chains. Additional financial resources are available from Europe.

2.6 With the low carbon and environmental business sector exhibiting some of the strongest growth whilst the UK economy struggles, Trafford as the industrial centre of Greater Manchester presents some of the greatest challenges, but also some of the greatest opportunities for the growing sector. Securing Trafford's place as

Manchester's continuing centre for business and industry in the new clean industrial revolution age is a key aim of this strategy.

3.0 Other Options:

3.1 An alternative option would be for the Council not to have a formal strategy to address energy security and carbon emissions in the borough, but for the separate council services to address individual project proposals and opportunities relating to the GM Low Carbon Hub as and when they arise. However, a coordinated, over-arching strategy identifying responsibilities and actions should focus resources effectively to deliver the maximum possible contribution of Trafford to achievement of GM carbon emissions targets, and maximise the benefit to Trafford businesses and residents of participation in the new low carbon economy.

4.0 Consultation:

4.1 A consultation has been conducted on this strategy with the Trafford Partnership and other interested parties.

5.0 Reasons for Recommendation:

5.1 So that the Council will have a strategy to deliver against carbon emissions reduction targets agreed by Greater Manchester in its Climate Change Strategy, and take advantage of the economic and social benefits from the reduction of fuel bills and the growth of the environmental business sector.

Finance Officer Clearance (type in initials).....PC.....
Legal Officer Clearance (type in initials).....MJ.....

[CORPORATE] DIRECTOR'S SIGNATURE (electronic)...



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