

TRAFFORD COUNCIL

Report to: Executive
Date: 28/09/2020
Report for: Decision
Report of: Executive Member for Environment, Air Quality and Climate Change

Report Title

Trafford Climate Emergency Progress Report

Summary

The report provides an update on progress since the Council's Climate Emergency Declaration of 28th November 2018 and the report and recommendations of the Scrutiny Committee Task and Finish Group for Climate Change.

The report also describes a Carbon Neutral Framework produced via consultants Anthesis, proposed new working and governance arrangements and the proposed scope and content of a Draft Trafford Carbon Neutral Action Plan.

Recommendation(s)

It is recommended that the Executive:

- (i) Notes the progress on the recommendations made by the Climate Emergency Scrutiny Committee Task and Finish Group.
- (ii) Notes the progress made by the Council on implementing climate change measures in the borough.
- (iii) Notes the Trafford Carbon Neutral Framework Report produced by Anthesis and agrees to publish it on the Council's website.
- (iv) Approves the proposed governance arrangements through the expansion of the existing Trafford Air Quality Commission into a Trafford Air Quality and Climate Change Commission.
- (v) Approves the initial Draft Carbon Neutral Action Plan with a final draft and update to be brought back to Executive in December 2020.

Contact person for access to background papers and further information:

Name: Paul Farrand
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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' 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
Legal Implications	No 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	Not applicable

Background

- 1.0 The Council declared a Climate Emergency on 28th November 2018, committing to tackle climate change and work towards carbon neutrality for Trafford as an area as well as for the Council. This was partly in response to the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) publishing a report in October 2018 on the impacts of global warming of 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels and related global greenhouse gas emissions. The report warned that the risk of catastrophic climate change including extreme heat, drought, flooding and climate-related poverty would significantly increase unless global warming could be kept to a maximum of 1.5°C.
- 1.1 Trafford Council was the first authority in Greater Manchester to make a climate change declaration and commissioned a Scrutiny Committee Task and Finish Group to compile a report recommending how the Council's should respond. The report's recommendations and progress against each are summarised in Section 4. The Council's first strategy relating to climate change took the form of "Sustainable Trafford: A Strategy for the Transition to a Low-Carbon Future in Trafford" in 2008, which was published shortly before the 2008 UK Climate Change Act was introduced, which required the UK to reduce its emissions by 80% by 2050 compared to 1990 levels. However, the most recent Committee for Climate Change report indicates that the UK needs to be more ambitious and set net-zero carbon targets by 2050 or sooner combined with strong policies to make cities greener. This work was supported by the work of a cross-party Sustainability Select Committee tasked with bringing together partners and expertise to reduce Trafford's carbon footprint.

- 1.3 The Council produced a further Climate Change Strategy in 2013, entitled 'Sustainable Trafford: An Over-Archiving Strategy to tackle Climate Change and Energy Security', covering the period up to 2020, although it has since been superseded through the emergence of the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) and publication of the GM 5 Year Environment Plan following the inaugural Green Summit of 2019. Nevertheless, many of the themes and identified projects remain relevant across the themes of buildings, energy, transport, public health and green infrastructure.

2.0 Carbon Emissions in Trafford

- 2.1 The Government requires all local authorities to report on carbon emissions in their areas annually. This task is carried out by Amey on the Council's behalf and is available to view on the Government's Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) website. Further information is also available via the Trafford Data Lab online resource, which brings together thematic open source data including data relating to climate change that can be assembled as a slide pack in visual form via an application and is also available to other local authorities across the country.
- 2.2 Current data for Trafford indicates that progress has been made towards the reduction of both overall and per capita emissions, both of which have demonstrated a declining trend for transport, domestic and business/industrial emissions.
- 2.3 The latest set of information published by BEIS in June 2020 shows that overall emissions from Trafford have declined from 2,156.5 kilo tonnes of carbon dioxide (kt CO₂) in 2005 to 1,470.9 kt CO₂ in 2018. For the Industrial and Commercial sector, there was a reduction from 1,151.7 to 762.4 kt CO₂ over the same period. Emissions from the Domestic Sector have been reduced from 579.1 to 357.0 kt CO₂, whilst Transport emissions have been reduced from 420.7 to 348.0 kt CO₂, a smaller relative reduction.
- 2.4 In per capita terms, emissions from Trafford have been reduced from 10 tonnes per capita in 2005 to 6.2 tonnes per capita in 2018.

3.0 Greater Manchester Context

- 3.1 The inaugural GM Green Summit was held in March 2019, at which the GM 5 Year Environment Plan was launched, outlining the necessary steps to be taken to achieve carbon neutrality in GM by 2038. The Council is therefore committed to playing its part to help achieve the aims of the plan and is represented at officer level on both the GM Climate Emergency/5 Year Environment Plan and Decarbonising Our Public Estate officer groups as well as having member representation on the Green City Region Partnership Board, led by the Leader of the Council.
- 3.2 Through these groups and others such as the GM Housing Retrofit Group, the Council is currently involved in joint projects in the fields of energy efficiency, renewable energy, heat networks, biodiversity, green infrastructure and natural capital.

4.0 Climate Change Scrutiny Committee Task and Finish Group – Update

4.1 Following the climate emergency declaration in November 2018, the Scrutiny Task and Finish Group on Climate Change was commissioned to undertake the following key tasks:

- (i) Seek advice from experts to develop a carbon budget and set a challenging target date for carbon neutrality in Trafford;
- (ii) Consider systematically the Climate Emergency impact of each area of the Council's activities;
- (iii) Make recommendations and set an ambitious timescale for reducing these impacts;
- (iv) Assess the feasibility of requiring all report risk assessments to include Carbon Emission Appraisals, including presenting alternative approaches which reduce emissions wherever possible;
- (v) Report to full Council with the actions the Council needs to take to address this emergency.

4.2 Progress against each of the recommendations of the Task and Finish Group in their final report submitted to and approved by the Council's Executive on 30th September 2019 are included in Table 1 below.

Table 1 – Scrutiny Committee Task and Finish Group Recommendations

Recommendation	Progress
1. That a Committee be established to coordinate the Council's work relating to Climate Emergency.	Proposed arrangements detailed in section 9.0
2. That the Committee complete activities 1-4 four with external experts and partners.	Anthesis commissioned and Carbon Neutral Framework Report produced
3. That the Committee have executive membership plus representation from key service areas.	Proposed arrangements detailed in section 9.0
4. That there be a lead Executive Member dedicated to the Climate Emergency.	Executive Member for Environment, Air Quality and Climate Change has responsibility for this remit.
5. That a dedicated officer role, reporting to the Corporate Director of Place, be created to drive the Climate Emergency Agenda forward.	Principal Officer position created via restructure of Strategic Planning & Growth Team. Director of Growth and Regulatory Services has a specific Climate Change remit.
6. That the Committee will oversee the action plan and monitor Trafford's performance against carbon reduction targets.	Proposed arrangements detailed in section 9.0
7. That the Council's Carbon Budget be published annually alongside the Financial Budget.	No currently published – budget for Trafford included in Carbon Neutral Framework.
8. That an additional Scrutiny Committee or Sub Committee be established to scrutinise the Council and their partners in relation to the Climate Emergency.	Proposed arrangements identified in Section 9.0
9. That Climate Emergency Implications and sustainability be listed as an area to be	Sustainability currently included – to be considered further in the context of

considered in reports.	report templates.
10. That Climate Emergency be added to the Corporate Plan an additional priority forming part of the annual report and performance monitoring.	To be addressed by the Council's Corporate Plan Team as part of the next version of the plan.
11. That the Council roll out Carbon literacy training across the workforce and Councillors.	Training programme implemented via Public Health. Trafford's Public Health Annual Report for 2019 was focused on Combatting Climate Change.
12. That Climate Emergency champions be recognised within the organisation.	Not currently implemented although staff climate change group established.
13. That a comprehensive Communication and Engagement Strategy be developed including dedicated Climate Emergency Section of the Council's Website, wide distribution of the Public Health Annual Plan and Internal communications (sections on the intranet).	To be taken forward in Action Plan. Dedicated website section under development via Strategic Planning Team with links to relevant information, plus information available via Trafford Data Lab's Climate Emergency Open Data Companion.
14. That the Executive consider the 33 Actions for Local Authorities laid out by Friends of the Earth and implement as many as possible.	Included in The Anthesis Carbon Neutral Framework Report and monitored via GM Climate Emergency Group.
15. That the Executive consider the following quick wins: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Buy Green Energy • Adjust the Council Social Value weighting in procurement to include carbon impact • Increase number of EV Charging points in Trafford • Stop promoting measures that increase greenhouse gasses • Install food waste collection bins in all Council buildings (including in kitchens for employees) 	STAR progress detailed in 4.12 Procurement EVCP increased as part of new developments and through GM programme/OLEV and supporting council capital funding allocation. Not currently in place - to be taken forward in action Plan via Council/Amey.
16. That the Executive ask officers to complete the Trafford position column of appendix 2 of the Friends of The Earth actions for Local Authorities.	Trafford progress monitored via GM Climate Emergency Group and Council representatives.

4.3 An Action Plan was also submitted by the Task and Finish Group to Executive, which combined GM 5 Year Environment Plan priorities with the Friends of the Earth's '33 Actions that Local Authorities Can Take on Climate Change'. Monitoring of this work falls under the remit of the GMCA Climate Emergency/5 Year environment working group attended by Trafford Council officers and co-ordinated by the GM Environment Team. The 33 actions have since been reduced to 31 actions following Friends of The Earth's collaborative work with Ashden, a London-based charity that works in the field of sustainable energy and development.

5.0 Update on Further Climate Emergency Activity in Trafford

Further to the recommendations of the Scrutiny Task and Finish Group, the following sections highlight the significant additional progress that has been made by the Council across its service areas in responding to the climate emergency declaration.

5.1 Clean Air

- 5.1.1 The Council and the other ten local authorities is working alongside GMCA and TfGM to develop the Clean Air Plan to tackle roadside Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂) levels at the roadside, as well as the proposed Clean Air Zone across GM and associated public consultation and engagement. Although the principal objectives of the Clean Air Plan are not directly concerned with climate change, it is recognised in the Government's 2020 "Decarbonising Transport – Setting the Challenge" that it is not possible to develop a pathway to net zero carbon without major transport emissions reductions. This illustrates the complementary nature of the Clean Air Plan and associated emissions-based work around electric vehicle charging infrastructure, traffic reduction, vehicle replacement funds and public transport retrofit programmes.

5.2 Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure

- 5.2.1 In 2019 there were over 4,100 plug-in cars and light goods vehicles licensed in Greater Manchester, of which over 600 were licensed in Trafford, representing a 37% increase in plug-in vehicles in Trafford from Q3 2018, compared to an overall increase in GM of 34% for the same period. To support the delivery of TfGM's Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Project, a procurement exercise was carried out in 2019 and Amey were appointed to operate the GMEV network in December 2019, installation of charge points being focused primarily on publicly owned car parks. Council capital funding of £500k was also approved in early 2020 to support additional installations of EV charge points across Trafford. Procurement options and funding opportunities are being explored such as those available through The Office for Low Emissions Vehicles (OLEV), to maximise the potential leverage from this investment, including covering the cost of ongoing maintenance and generation of future revenues.

5.3 Safety and Air Quality around School Gates

- 5.3.1 The Council's commitment to road safety and improving air quality around schools resulted in an Executive Member and Officers working group being established in October 2018 aimed at reducing traffic, improving air quality and improving road safety around schools at the start and end of the school day to increase the likelihood that children will walk or cycle to school, with additional benefits for children's health and wellbeing. Public Health are also working with the Living Streets, a Manchester-based charity that promotes everyday walking.
- 5.3.2 The Council is also promoting anti-vehicle idling policies within schools and more widely raising awareness of the issue of engine idling across the Trafford.

5.4 Active and Sustainable Travel – Walking and Cycling

- 5.4.1 Programme Entry status for major walking and cycling infrastructure schemes has been achieved via The Mayor's Challenge Fund (MCF) including sections of the Stretford Cycleway, Wharfside, Sale Town Centre to Sale Water Park, Urmston Active Neighbourhood, Altrincham Link Route and Seymour Grove in tranches 1 to 6 (see Table 1 below) As part of the Safe Streets Trafford programme features such as pop up walking and cycle lanes have been established, with further proposals as part of the Emergency Active Travel Fund for GM. There are also two further TfGM-led bids in Tranche 5: Active Neighbourhoods across the 10 districts and a GM Bike Hire scheme.

Table 2 - GM Mayor's Challenge Fund Schemes in Trafford.

Tranche	Proposal	Provisional Award	Detail
1	Talbot Road (White City Way to Seymour Grove), Stretford	£500k	Junction improvement for pedestrian/cyclists and light segregation for cyclists
2	Talbot Road/A56 Chester Road and Talbot Road/Great Stone Road, Stretford	£1.1m	Junction improvement for pedestrians/cyclists
4	Wharfside Way/Europa Way/Moss Road, Trafford Park	£2.7m	Dedicated walking and cycling improvements, including junction improvements
5	Urmston Active Neighbourhood, Urmston	£11.4m	Active Neighbourhood scheme, comprising a community-led package of schemes to deliver improvements for walking/cycling
5	Sale Town Centre to Sale Moor to Sale Water Park, Sale	£8.4m	Dedicated walking and cycling improvements, including junction improvements and public realm works
6	Seymour Grove, Old Trafford	£7.9m	Dedicated walking and cycling improvements, including junction improvements
6	North Altrincham Bee Network, Altrincham	£3.9m	Dedicated walking and cycling improvements, including new bridge, junction improvements

5.5 Green Infrastructure and Natural Capital

- 5.5.1 The Council has commissioned options appraisals or masterplans for three of Trafford's key greenspace and natural capital assets at Longford Park, Sale Water Park and the former William Wroe Golf Course. Development Phase funding was secured from The National Lottery Heritage Fund for Longford Park in December 2019, with climate change mitigation, adaptation and biodiversity at the heart of the bid and its project partnerships. Options Appraisals were also completed in 2019 for Sale Water Park and William Wroe, to be taken forward in conjunction with environmental partner organisations and community groups, emphasising the need for nature based, low carbon solutions to the challenges posed. Sale Water Park and William Wroe have strong links to the Sale and Urmston MCF schemes, whilst Longford Park has strong links to the A56 temporary walking and cycling route, Stretford Cycleway and the place shaping work in Stretford Town Centre and The Civic Quarter.
- 5.5.2 In 2020, the Council's Executive also approved the proposed voluntary dedication of Turn Moss, Stretford and the former William Wroe Golf Course as Town/Village Greens for the benefit of local people and the local environment.
- 5.5.3 162 new trees have been planted across Trafford in 2020 in conjunction with City of Trees as part of The Urban Tree Challenge Fund through the GM Forest Partnership, funded via The Forestry Commission as part of their work to expand woodland and tree cover across England. A further woodland creation bid to DEFRA is currently in development, which will look to create an additional 10 hectares of

woodland cover across Trafford in each of the 5 years of the project with a commencement date of autumn/winter 2020/21. This project would link to work progressed through the GM Forest Partnership and GM Tree and Woodland Strategy published in early 2020. These funding bids have been complemented by the Council's investment in highway and park tree planting and replacement via the capital programme.

5.5.4 Through the Trafford Countryside Management Partnership, led by City of Trees and involving The Conservation Volunteers, Amey and The Environment Agency; improvements have been achieved at sites such as Sale Water Park through the restoration of a former meadow for enhanced biodiversity and through the restoration of water vole habitat and public access around Urmston Meadows, funded through the Council's capital programme and grant funding through Veolia Environment Trust.

5.6 Housing Standards

5.6.1 The Council is part of the Local Energy Advice Programme (LEAP) a free service open to all homeowners, private renters and social housing tenants that helps people keep warm and reduce their energy bills at no additional cost. Free advice available includes:

- Installing free, simple home energy measures such as LED lighting and draught proofing.
- Energy efficiency hints and tips and ensuring heating control is working correctly.
- Checking cheapest available tariffs.
- Arranging free telephone advice to help with benefits, money and bills.
- Referral for further energy efficiency improvements such as loft or cavity wall insulation and in some instances a new boiler.

5.6.2 There is also advice and signposting on offer regarding Warm Homes Discount, Winter Fuel Payment, Cold Weather Payment and the Priority Service Register which provides extra support from energy providers for vulnerable customers.

5.7 Carbon Literacy

5.7.1 The Council was involved in a Government-funded pilot to develop specific Carbon Literacy training for staff and elected members to enable participants to commit to personal and professional commitments to reducing their carbon footprint. This training was rolled out to Council staff in early 2020 to convey the message that every single person who works and lives in Trafford needs to understand how their actions and decisions impact on the climate emergency.

5.8 Employee Incentives

5.8.1 The Cycle to Work scheme, in conjunction with Halfords, is part of the government's Green Transport Plan and allows Council employees to access bikes and safety equipment tax free, encouraging a healthy lifestyle and reducing environmental impact and carbon emissions.

5.9 Planning

5.9.1 From a planning policy perspective, the draft Greater Manchester Spatial Framework (GMSF) contains detailed policies on carbon and energy, resilience, air quality and

flood risk. Low carbon, active travel, decentralised energy, water management, green infrastructure and biodiversity net gain are key components of masterplanning for the Carrington and Timperley allocations. Similar policy themes are being developed as part of the Trafford Local Plan, with climate change and the climate emergency featuring as an overarching theme, and as part of place shaping work such as the draft Area Action Plan for The Civic Quarter and Stretford Town Centre Masterplan.

5.9.2 Through the development management process, the Council continues to secure the provision of SUDS schemes, electric vehicle charging points, green infrastructure and biodiversity enhancements, plus energy strategies for major development through the existing climate change related policies of the Core Strategy and National Planning Policy Framework.

5.10 Waste Management

5.10.1 As part of its successful approach to waste reduction, reuse and recycling, the Council in partnership with Amey has introduced 'Recycling on the go' facilities in high footfall zones to encourage more localised, everyday recycling of materials such as plastic bottles, paper and card.

5.10.2 As part of the successful campaign to phase out single use plastics in Council buildings and functions, the Council has also worked with high profile partners such as INTU, for example by issuing reusable bottles and shopping bags as part of the campaign.

5.10.3 The Council's published annual recycling rate in 2019 was 57.3%, of which 24.06% was waste sent for recycling and 33.23% sent for composting. This headline figure represented one of the highest in the North West region.

5.11 Business Support

5.11.1 In 2019 the Council launched a new Small Business Loan Fund to provide much-needed support for businesses across the borough, with a focus on loan applications from businesses looking to reduce their carbon footprint or those looking to have a positive impact on the environment. The carbon reduction initiative links to the wider central Government and GM Clean Growth agenda, complementing support and networking opportunities through the GM Business Growth Hub's 'Green' team.

5.12 Procurement – Buildings and Street Lighting

5.12.1 Following the expiry of the Council's electricity contract in 2019, STAR engaged with Trafford and partner authorities to assess opportunities for collaboration on the procurement of energy supplies. Although the wholesale cost of electricity has fallen in recent years, third party, non-commodity costs such as Transmission Network Use of System (TNUoS), Distribution Use of System (DUoS) and Feed in Tariff (FiT) have risen, with projected further future rises. To mitigate the impact of these additional costs, demand managed processes are applied across all Local Authorities to ensure Government targets on carbon emissions and climate change levies are met, therefore reducing the overall cost of energy in the future.

5.12.2 Following the STAR options appraisal, the Council's Executive approved proposals for the Council to enter into a contract via the Yorkshire Purchasing Organisation for its electricity supply, with multiple benefits including a rebate against spend

through the Framework Agreement and an option to agree the percentage of energy received via renewable sources. In 2019 STAR also launched a new 'Responsible Procurement Strategy' which covers issues such as how social value, modern slavery, carbon reduction and single use plastics can be addressed through ethical and sustainable procurement.

5.13 Public Health

5.13.1 Trafford's 2019 Public Health Annual Report was focused on Climate Change and the Climate Emergency, whilst Public Health staff implemented a programme of Carbon Literacy training for employees and Members enabled via Government funding in early 2020. This has been complemented through the establishment of an employee Climate Change group.

6.0 COVID 19 Impact

6.1 The COVID-19 pandemic has brought about positive environmental and climate change benefits through reduced private car use, traffic congestion and improved air quality, increased levels of home working and walking, cycling and use of local greenspaces for exercise and commuting; as well as through support for community food networks and local food production. However, Council capacity has been diverted towards dealing with the multi-faceted impacts of the pandemic, reducing available capacity to progress the development of its climate change strategy.

7.0 Anthesis Carbon Neutral Framework Report – Key Findings

7.1 The Council commissioned consultants Anthesis to produce a Carbon Neutral Framework Report for Trafford (see Appendix 1), the objectives of which were as follows:

- to provide an overview of Trafford's emissions through the concept of a carbon budget;
- to set out the roles and responsibilities of relevant stakeholder groups within Trafford;
- to define reporting and governance mechanisms between local government, organisations and citizens within the borough of Trafford;
- to establish clear structures for ambitious collaboration between committed organisations which will contribute to the borough becoming carbon neutral.

7.2 The Carbon Neutral Framework Report is intended to underpin the future development and implementation of borough-wide actions and projects which contribute to carbon neutrality within Trafford. The report identifies that successful delivery of carbon neutrality targets within Trafford is contingent upon the following:

- Trafford Council and other local organisations recognising their significant influence over the borough's emissions;
- A core of committed organisations working in partnership, demonstrating leadership and formally pledging support and resources to this agenda;
- Future work and coordination to further develop and implement the structures defined in this document.

7.3 The dominant source of emissions is buildings (c. 75%) specifically from the production and usage of energy to provide heat and electricity. Of the remaining

20%, the dominant contributor is from on-road transportation i.e. petrol and diesel vehicles, with a small contribution from waste management.

- Achieving emissions reductions can be achieved in two ways:
- Reducing the demand for energy through improved efficiency and decreased waste
- 'Greening' the energy supply through the increased capacity of renewable energy sources

Key Findings

7.4 The key findings for Trafford identified in the report are:

- Remain within a maximum cumulative emissions budget of 9,500 ktCO₂ for the period 2020-2100;
- Initiate an immediate programme of emissions reductions measures averaging 13.4% annual reduction in emissions;
- Reach zero or near-zero carbon no later than 2041, by which point only 5% of the budget remains;
- Unchecked, the current rate of emissions will use up all of Trafford's 2100 budget within 7 years from 2020;
- The target for carbon neutrality in Trafford has been set at 2038, consistent with the GM target set out in the 5 Year Environment Plan.

7.5 The report identifies a Council-Business Alliance model to bring together the Council and the private sector with a commitment to reducing carbon emissions, which could involve a pilot approach for Trafford Park as part of the recommended geographical cluster approach. Also, a number of key stakeholders could form the bedrock of a Council-Business Alliance:

- partners in Health (Trafford Public Health, NHS Hospital Trusts)
- Trafford Housing Trust
- Intu Trafford Centre
- Peel
- Kellogg's
- Bruntwood

7.6 Five emissions sectors have been 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:

- (i) Reduce waste and improve 'circularity'
- (ii) Shift to low-carbon transport
- (iii) Improve natural assets
- (iv) Improve low-carbon energy supply
- (v) Reduce stationary energy demand

7.7 These emissions sectors are then applied to sectors such as Local Government, Health, Domestic Property, Commercial Property and Industry, with recommendations to be developed for each sector and framed within the Carbon Neutral Action Plan for Trafford (See Appendix 2). The framework identified on page 10 of the Anthesis attached as Appendix 1 identifies the Council as key facilitator

and convenor, seizing the potential of existing partnership structures and geographical clusters to provide a platform from which Trafford as a borough can share information, pool resources and develop and implement climate change projects.

- 7.8 As stated in the Anthesis Report, no single organisation individually contributes more than 5% of Trafford's total. All organisations must therefore reduce their emissions by unprecedented and significant margins to stay within the Trafford and GM budget.
- 7.9 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 play a central role in the climate emergency response as part of a green recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 7.10 The Council, along with 18 other local authorities, is also supporting Anthesis in their Innovate UK funding bid to The Government's Sustainable Innovation Fund around Local Authority-Based Insetting, which aims to stimulate more local investment in low carbon projects and help local economies to build back better following the COVID-19 pandemic and help local councils and supporting organisations recognise the emissions impact of their actions that relate to projects outside of their direct control, but within the local authority boundary.

8.0 Carbon Neutral Action Plan

- 8.1 Building on the Anthesis Carbon Neutral Framework and recommendations, an initial Draft Trafford Carbon Neutral Action Plan is attached as Appendix 2. This Action Plan follows the suggested themes and measures identified in the Anthesis report and includes other actions that need to be implemented. The main themes are:
 - (i) Governance (ii) Engagement and Collaboration (iii) Waste (iv) Transport (v) Energy (vi) Natural Assets
- 8.2 The Action Plan is complementary to the Council's Corporate Objectives and the GM 5 Year Environment Plan.

9.0 Governance Arrangements

- 9.1 Currently, there are no officer or member level groups co-ordinating and monitoring climate change work across the Council or through the Trafford Partnership, although the Council continues to participate in GM working groups, projects and performance monitoring. The Anthesis Report proposes new partnering and governance arrangements that will enable the necessary collaborative work to take place.
- 9.2 Figure 1 of the attached Anthesis Report (Appendix 1) illustrates proposed arrangements, which need to be considered alongside the existing structures and working relationships of the Council and the Trafford Partnership. A Council-Business Alliance Model as identified would require the Council to review its current staff resource in order to administer and co-ordinate such a group. Existing groups such as the Trafford Park Business Network could offer the potential in terms of the application of this model, whilst The Business Growth Hub and Groundwork are highlighted as offering potential to link between organisations located within

geographical clusters through existing networks and relationships. This model will be assessed as part of the remit of the proposed group below.

Proposed Approach

- 9.3 To utilise existing structures and better link and co-ordinate clean air with the climate change agenda, it is proposed to broaden the scope and membership of the existing Trafford Air Quality Commission to become the Trafford Air Quality and Climate Change Commission, which would have responsibility for developing, delivering and monitoring the Carbon Neutral Action Plan.
- 9.4 The expanded Commission would include representatives from relevant Council departments, partner organisations and cross-party nominated Councillors. The Commission would report to the Trafford Partnership's Inclusive Growth Board and Health and Wellbeing Board and vice versa, with a relevant representative from the Commission sitting on both Boards. This will enable improved co-ordination of activities and resources relating to climate change.

10.0 Next Steps

Following Executive approval, the proposed working arrangements detailed in 9.3 will be established to develop, co-ordinate and implement the Action Plan. The Draft Action Plan and activity update will be submitted to the Executive in December 2020.

11.0 Consultation

- 11.1 Production of the Anthesis Report involved consultation with Council service representatives through a focused workshop session, with additional business engagement taking place at an event at Lancashire Cricket Club. Further engagement with key partners was undertaken following interest expressed at this event, which is ongoing due to the impact of COVID-19 on partners.
- 11.2 A further programme of stakeholder and partner engagement will be developed alongside the production of the Carbon Neutral Action Plan for Trafford, including Council employees, Elected Members and Trafford residents.

12.0 Wider Corporate Links

The Trafford Carbon Neutral Action Plan will be consistent with the Council's Corporate Plan and Corporate Objectives, 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.

13.0 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.

14.0 Reasons for Recommendations

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 (as defined in the Constitution): Yes
If Key Decision, has 28-day notice been given? Yes

Finance Officer Clearance PC.....
Legal Officer Clearance ...TR.....

[CORPORATE] DIRECTOR'S SIGNATURE (electronic) 
To confirm that the Financial and Legal Implications have been considered and the Executive Member has cleared the report.