

North Tyneside Council
Report to Cabinet
Date: 18 September 2023

Title: Carbon Net-Zero 2030 Action Plan Update

Portfolio(s): Climate Emergency

Cabinet Member(s): Councillor Sandra
Graham

Report from Service

Area: Environment

Responsible Officer: Samantha Dand, Director of
Environment

(Tel: (0191) 643
3442)

Wards affected: All

PART 1

1.1 Executive Summary:

In July 2019 full Council declared a Climate Emergency, and subsequently, in further acknowledgement of the gravity and urgency of the Climate Emergency, the refreshed Our North Tyneside Council Plan 2021-25, approved by Council in September 2021, included the following ambition: -

“We will publish an action plan of the steps we will take and the national investment we will seek to make North Tyneside Carbon Net-Zero by 2030.”

This report provides a performance update since the previous report to Cabinet in August 2022 and requests Cabinet’s approval to an update of the Carbon Net-Zero 2030 Action Plan which is appended to this report.

1.2 Recommendation(s):

It is recommended that Cabinet;

- (1) notes the performance update in relation to the carbon footprint of the Authority and the carbon footprint of the Borough;
- (2) agrees the update of the Carbon Net-Zero 2030 Action Plan which is appended to this report; and
- (3) notes that a further progress report will be presented to Cabinet in 2024.

1.3 Forward Plan:

Twenty-eight days' notice of this report has been given and it first appeared on the Forward Plan that was published on 02 June 2023.

1.4 Council Plan and Policy Framework

This report relates to the following priorities in the 2021-25 Our North Tyneside Plan:

- We will secure funding to help low-income households to install low-carbon heating.
- We will keep increasing the amount of waste that can be recycled and introduce food waste collections and deposit return schemes.
- We will increase opportunities for safe walking and cycling, including providing a segregated cycleway at the coast; and
- We will publish an action plan of the steps we will take and the national investment we will seek to make North Tyneside carbon net-zero by 2030.

1.5 Information:

1.5.1 Carbon net-zero and current performance

In July 2019 full Council declared a Climate Emergency, setting a target to reduce the carbon footprint of the Authority and the borough by 50% by 2023 and to become carbon neutral by 2050. Subsequently, in further acknowledgement of the gravity and urgency of the Climate Emergency, the refreshed Our North Tyneside Council Plan 2021-25, approved by full Council in September 2021, included the following ambition;

“We will publish an action plan of the steps we will take and the national investment we will seek to make North Tyneside Carbon Net-Zero by 2030.”

Net-Zero means achieving a balance between the number of emissions produced and the amount removed from the atmosphere. It requires the reduction of existing emissions, and the subsequent removal (offsetting) of remaining emissions.

Working towards a net-zero target recognises that there will be some emissions at the target date which cannot be mitigated against through planned interventions and that these need to be fully offset / inset. Traditionally this would be through natural carbon sequestration such as land and trees, although increasingly the national policy context is including the potential for technological solutions, such as carbon capture and storage. The Authority is actively participating in an emerging project which may facilitate and enable local solutions to manage residual emissions.

The Authority’s carbon footprint is made up of the power, heat and water used to run its operational buildings, including the sheltered accommodation offer but not schools, the electricity used to power over 31,000 street lighting apparatus, the fuel and power used to operate the Authority’s fleet of vehicles that are used to deliver services and the business miles staff travel in their own vehicles (not including commuting to and from work). This definition of the Authority’s carbon footprint is in line with central government’s Greenhouse Gas Protocol guidance.

The Authority submits an annual performance report to the Department of Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ), formally the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS) that details the year-on-year measurement of the Authority’s carbon footprint. This is published on the Authority’s website and is included as a background paper to this report. At the end of 2022/23, the Authority’s carbon footprint had decreased by 58% since the baseline year of 2010/11, exceeding the 2023 50% target.

The borough’s carbon footprint is made up of the power and heat used in the commercial, industrial and domestic buildings across the whole of the borough, emissions from road and rail transport, and land use and forestation activities, which can result in either a release into or removal of emissions from the atmosphere. The data for carbon emissions for UK districts is produced by central government and is released two years in arrears, meaning the latest data released in 2023 was for the year 2021.

An annual report is provided to the Authority by DESNZ detailing the carbon footprint of the borough. The most recent report shows that between the baseline year of 2005 and 2021, carbon emissions have decreased by 45%.

The most recent data shows that the respective carbon footprints are:

- Authority – 12,633 tonnes of CO₂e (2010/11 base line year, 29,954 tonnes of CO₂e).
- Borough – 789,627 tonnes of CO₂e (2005 base line year, 1,426,293 tonnes of CO₂e).

1.5.2 What action has been taken?

The Authority is clear in its commitment to tackling the Climate Emergency and has taken a number of steps since the previous report to Cabinet on 1 August 2022. These include but are not limited to;

- Currently converting almost 20,000 streetlights to energy efficient LED. This will complete the street lighting LED programme.
- The Killingworth Site having been fitted with roof top solar PV, solar car portals and a commercial scale battery storage unit. These features support the large-scale deployment of EV charging points for fleet and staff use as well as providing direct energy to the site. The site is now a nationally recognised as “Best non-residential extension or alteration” in the Local Authority Building Excellence Awards for 2022.
- Completion of the installation of air source heat pumps and other energy efficient measures to 4 of the Authority’s leisure centres using £3.2m funding from the Public Sector Decarbonisation Grant.
- Full Council initiating a cross-party working group to assess options for on-street EV charging for the public.
- Securing £117k in grant funding from the Office of Zero Emissions Vehicles to deliver new EV charging infrastructure and to replace legacy charging infrastructure.
- Publishing an EV Charging Policy for staff.

- Securing £11m of grant funding to complete the Sustainable Seafront Cycling Route which involve creating a permanent, segregated, unbroken two-way, safe space along the seafront.
- Continuing to utilise external funding to develop the North Tyneside contribution towards the North East Community Forest. This project has now surpassed the Tree Planting Strategy target of 2,400 trees, planting over 10,000 trees across 15 hectares in the borough.
- An increased number of energy efficiency and solar PV installations have been built into the Housing Capital Plan in which 2,333 properties will benefit from carbon reduction works which will see a saving of 287 tonnes of carbon emissions.
- Completing delivery of the Green Homes Grant funding (Round 1b) scheme in which 486 energy efficiency and renewable energy measures were installed in 400 homes. These measures enable 319 additional homes to be assigned Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) C grades.
- Under the second phase of Green Homes Grant (Round 2), 120 measures were installed in 102 homes, bringing a further 67 homes up to EPC C grade. Delivery of Round 3 is ongoing with 230 measures installed to date.
- The Authority being successful in applying for Home Upgrade Grant Funding for £621k to support off-gas grid homes transition to more efficient forms of low carbon heating measures i.e., air source heat pumps, and energy efficiency measures such as internal/ external wall and loft insulation.
- The Authority including a number of questions in the Residents' Survey on Climate Emergency including surveying what steps residents already take to mitigate against climate change and what they are willing to do in future.
- Launching the Action on Climate Change awareness campaign, informed by the Residents' Survey responses.
- Continuing to update the Authority's "Climate Hub" on its website which includes Climate Emergency information, press releases, key documents and grant information.
- Securing additional funding from the North East Local Enterprise Partnership Energy Accelerator programme and Department of Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ), to further the assessment and feasibility of technical and

financial options for a Heat Network in the Killingworth area. This includes connecting the depot site, other Authority buildings, surrounding commercial and industrial sites as well as housing to a low carbon heat source (mine water).

- Awarding 10 businesses with Carbon Reduction Award Scheme certificates.
- Undertaking a full review of practical interventions for renewable energy on 26 North Tyneside Living Schemes.
- Continuation of the Organisational Development Action Plan, including embedding a Climate Emergency section in individual performance reviews, including a statement on Climate Emergency in all job descriptions and recruitment packs, and including Climate Emergency in the recently launched new starter's induction day.
- Developing and promoting a Climate Adaptation Toolkit to support North Tyneside businesses to improve their climate resilience.
- Updating the business resource and funding guide to support the low carbon transition on the Authority's website.
- Developing a twelve-month work programme for the borough-wide Climate Emergency Board.
- Organising and successfully delivering two Carbon Net-Zero business events.
- Continuing to work with the elected North Tyneside Young Mayor and Youth Council to shape our plans around Climate Emergency, waste, recycling and reducing single use plastics usage.
- The Authority publishing its 2022/23 Annual Greenhouse Gas Report, detailing performance on reducing the carbon footprint of the Authority and the borough.
- Working with the North of Tyne Combined Authority to promote and further the up-take of the Green New Deal, with £9m of public sector and additional £9m of private sector investment.
- The Authority being awarded the Best North East Council in the Energy Efficiency Awards and has been shortlisted for the National Energy Efficiency Awards.

1.5.3 Proposed Update of the Carbon Net-Zero 2030 Action Plan

In addition to highlighting examples of actions that have been taken to meet the Carbon Net-Zero target as outlined in section 1.5.2 above under the current Action Plan, the proposed updated Action Plan, if agreed, will enable the Authority to share what it is doing to meet the Carbon Net-Zero target, and the proposed updated Action Plan and will include the following specific aims:

- Enabling stakeholders to see the detailed actions we are undertaking to tackle the Climate Emergency.
- Demonstrating the continued level of commitment to delivering change in the short, medium and long term.
- Illustrating how our holistic approach to tackling the Climate Emergency sits alongside other work happening in the borough which in turn can contribute to co-benefits.

In addition, the proposed updated Action Plan will include;

- The use of Local Partnerships Greenhouse Gas Accounting Tool for Local Authorities which was developed with the Local Government Association, to calculate the emissions associated with our waste and recycling services (Scope 3 Emissions).
- Information on Key Performance Indicators.
- Detail on the principles and associated good practice of a “Just Transition” towards a low carbon future for our businesses and residents under the themes of;
 - Adaptation to a future physical climate change with, for example, an increase trend towards events of unprecedented weather extremes; and
 - The adaptation to a transformed economy where the demands for greener services and products will become the norm.

In keeping with the Authority’s dynamic approach to updating and delivering the Action Plan, the Authority reviews a range of emerging Government policy

and guidance documents, specifically those which are associated with the UK Government 10 Point Plan which was released in November 2020.

A full list of these key documents can be seen in the proposed updated Action Plan. However, two recent key examples are shown below which have implications for the borough and to which the Authority has shaped its plans:

- Electric Vehicle Smart Charging Action Plan (January 2023) – The Authority has progressed its local charging infrastructure actions and is currently engaged with Transport North East to support the practical delivery of a further regional grant allocation for further infrastructure.
- Powering Up Britain: Net Zero Growth Plan (April 2023) – The Authority is maximising its energy efficiency measures via public sector grants in its public buildings and all domestic properties as well as exploring the feasibility of heat generation on a large scale via mine water and air source heat pump technology.

An independent review of the progress as set out in the 10 Point Plan was published in January 2023. It recommended that, alongside the comprehensive prescription of policies across all sectors, that the Government meet the net present danger of not acting fast enough by taking forward a series of “no regrets and no excuses policy” recommendations that can be delivered now, or as soon as possible. The Authority, in its 2030 ambition has already agreed this approach via lobbying to Government for the necessary and required budget and resources, in its declaration of the Climate Emergency.

1.6 Decision options:

The following decision options are available for consideration by Cabinet:

Option 1

To agree to the recommendations set out in paragraph 1.2 of the report.

Option 2

To not approve the recommendation set out in paragraph 1.2 of the report.

Option 1 is the recommended option.

1.7 Reasons for recommended option:

Option 1 is recommended for the following reasons:

Agreeing the recommendations set out in paragraph 1.2 of the report will support the delivery of the Our North Tyneside Council Plan 2021-25 Carbon Net-Zero 2030 ambition.

1.8 Appendices:

Appendix: [Carbon Net-Zero 2030 Action Plan](#)

1.9 Contact officers:

Paul Nelson, Head of Environmental Sustainability, tel. (0191) 643 6467
Anneliese Allen-Norris, Environmental Sustainability Manager: Climate and Waste Strategy, tel. (0191) 643 4624
Michael Keenlyside, Senior Environmental Sustainability Officer, Tel. 643 6505
David Dunford, Senior Business Partner, Strategic Finance, Tel. 643 7027

1.10 Background information:

The following background papers/information have been used in the compilation of this report and are available at the office of the author:

- (1) [Annual Greenhouse Gas Report 2022-23](#)
- (2) [UK local authority and regional greenhouse gas emissions national statistics](#)
- (3) [Our North Tyneside Plan 2021-2025](#)
- (4) [Equality Impact Assessment](#)

PART 2 – COMPLIANCE WITH PRINCIPLES OF DECISION MAKING

2.1 Finance and other resources

The financing of specific projects to reduce carbon emissions will be considered as part of the development of each business case. Any investment required in addition to existing budgets will be reported to Cabinet / Council.

2.2 Legal

There are no direct legal implications arising from this report.

The development of the Carbon Net-Zero 2030 Action Plan is a matter for Cabinet.

2.3 Consultation/community engagement

2.3.1 Internal Consultation

The Carbon Net-Zero 2030 Board provides governance and a mechanism for internal consultation on the programme of work outlined in this report. The Board is co-chaired by the Cabinet Member for Environment.

2.3.2 External Consultation/Engagement

Individual residents, community groups and businesses have demonstrated a passion to ensure a greener and more sustainable North Tyneside. The authority's Climate Emergency work has been informed by working with business on specific technologies, with cycling organisations as the authority increases the North Tyneside's cycling infrastructure and working with the Young Mayor and Youth Councillors to listen to their views about how the authority protects North Tyneside for their future.

The Authority's Residents' Survey has informed our work. For example, there is potential to decarbonise road transport with over half of residents willing to change from their traditional car to an electric or hybrid. This information on electric vehicles formed part of the authority's modelling for future charging infrastructure points provision in the borough, and what types of chargers are required.

Additionally, the Authority is working with local retailers in the provision of packaging reduction as the Resident's Survey indicates that the biggest area for change in waste management might come with a third of residents willing to begin avoiding plastic packaging in the next 5 years.

As a landlord, the Authority has worked with tenants' representatives and individual tenants on energy efficient products and how to use them.

The Authority has worked with its customers, experts and the wider public sector to reduce energy consumption. The Authority has spent time working on best practice and local universities to review and revise operations.

The Authority helped to shape and deliver the North of Tyne Combined Authority (NTCA) Citizens Assembly on Climate Change. This project ran from February to March 2021 with forty-nine people from across the NTCA area. The process resulted in thirty recommendations on how to address the Climate Emergency in our region.

The Authority hosted a 'Call for Evidence' day with other public sector organisation, businesses and stakeholders to share plans and open them up to scrutiny.

The borough-wide Climate Emergency Board has been consulted on the development of the Carbon Net-Zero 2030 Action Plan.

2.4 Human rights

There are no human rights implications arising from this report.

2.5 Equalities and diversity

An Equalities and Diversity Impact Assessment has been undertaken as part of the associated governance of the Action Plan and a link to the Equality Impact Assessment is provided at 1.10 of the report.

2.6 Risk management

There are no risk issues directly arising from this report.

2.7 Crime and disorder

There are no crime and disorder implications arising from this report.

2.8 Environment and sustainability

This report seeks the approval of the Carbon Net-Zero 2030 Action Plan to significantly reduce the carbon footprint of the authority and the borough.

PART 3 – SIGN OFF

- Chief Executive X
- Director(s) of Service X
- Mayor/Cabinet Member(s) X
- Chief Finance Officer X
- Monitoring Officer X
- Assistant Chief Executive X