

North Tyneside Council Report to Council 25 July 2019

ITEM 6 Climate Emergency Declaration

Portfolio(s): Environment & Transport

Cabinet Member(s): Councillor Carl Johnson

Report from Service Area: Environment Housing and Leisure

Responsible Officer: Phil Scott, Head of Environment, Housing and Leisure (Tel: (0191)6437295)

Wards affected: All

PART 1

1.1 Executive Summary:

In June 2019 Cabinet received a progress report on the Authority's Low Carbon Plan. This report provided Cabinet with a summary of the progress being made to reduce the carbon footprint of the Authority and the Borough. Whilst Cabinet recognised excellent progress was being made against original targets and paid credit to the leadership shown on this issue by the Youth Council, they requested that a Climate Emergency should be declared by Full Council along with the steps the Authority proposes to take in response to this emergency.

1.2 Recommendation(s):

It is recommended that Council:

1. notes the significant progress made to date by the Authority in reducing carbon dioxide emissions;
2. agrees that the Authority:
 - a. declares a climate emergency;
 - b. seeks to halve the Authority's and the Borough's carbon footprint by 2023, four years ahead of the current target;
 - c. commits that itself and Borough will be carbon neutral by 2050 in line with the national target; and
3. notes that Cabinet will receive an update report within six months.
4. requests the Elected Mayor to instruct the Head of Environment, Housing and Leisure, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport to:
 - a. publish an annual report on the Authority's website that details performance against carbon reduction targets;

- b. include young people in the development, delivery and review of actions, ensuring that they have a voice in shaping the future;
- c. work with partners across the Borough and region to deliver this new goal through all relevant strategies and plans;
- d. call on Central Government to provide powers and resources to reduce carbon emissions;
- e. ensure that all strategic decisions, budgets and approaches to planning decisions are in line with this climate emergency declaration; and
- f. ensure that the Authority Senior Leadership Team embed carbon reduction work across the Authority and take responsibility for reducing, as rapidly as possible, the carbon emissions resulting from the Authority's activities.

1.3 Forward Plan:

This report first appeared on the Forward Plan that was published on 28 June 2019. This report was requested by the Deputy Mayor at the Cabinet meeting on 24 June 2019.

1.4 Council Plan and Policy Framework

This report relates to the following priorities in the 2018-20 Our North Tyneside Plan

Our Places will...

- Provide a clean, green, healthy, attractive, safe and sustainable environment
- Be great places to live

1.5 Information:

1.5.1 National & International Policy

In 2015, the UK Government signed the Paris Agreement as part of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. It marked a major step in tackling climate change by strengthening the commitments to limit global warming to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels.

At the request of the United Nations, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) published a report in 2018 on the impacts of limiting global warming to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels. This concluded that the impacts and risks of 1.5°C global warming are lower than that of the previous 2°C target. It stated that the “pathways limiting global warming to 1.5°C with no or limited overshoot would require rapid and far-reaching transitions in energy, land, urban and infrastructure (including transport and buildings), and industrial systems. These systems transitions are unprecedented in terms of scale, but not necessarily in terms of speed, and imply deep emissions reductions in all sectors, a wide portfolio of mitigation options and a significant upscaling of investments in those options.”

In 2019 the UK Government asked the independent Climate Change Committee (CCC) to reassess the UK's long-term emissions targets. The subsequent “Net Zero” report recommended that the Government legislate as soon as possible to ensure that the UK reaches net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.

On 12 June 2019 the UK Climate Change Act 2008 was amended in Parliament using a statutory instrument to set a zero emissions target of 2050.

The Local Government Association passed a motion at its July 2019 annual conference in support of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the role of local government in delivering them. This included a declaration of a 'Climate Emergency' and committed to supporting Local Authorities in their work to tackle climate change by providing a strong unified voice for local government, and sharing best practice across all Local Authorities.

1.5.2 Local Policy & Performance

The North Tyneside Low Carbon Plan 2016-2027, adopted by Cabinet on 14 March 2016, sets an ambitious target to reduce the carbon footprint of the Authority and the Borough of North Tyneside by 50% by 2027.

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 used to operate over 400 fleet vehicles 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.

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 Low Carbon Plan ('the Plan') was developed to ensure a holistic approach to carbon reduction in the Authority's operations and services, and across the Borough, to achieve the national target of a 50% reduction in carbon emissions by 2027.

The Plan aims to build on the Authority's success in reducing carbon dioxide emissions and places an increased focus on exploring the opportunities associated with energy generation and energy services. However, to maintain and improve on recent carbon reduction successes, the Plan also recognises that the energy reduction and energy efficiency stages of the energy hierarchy are essential building blocks and includes actions to further develop these areas.

The Authority submits an annual performance report to the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS) that details the year on year measurement of the Authority's carbon footprint. This is also published on the Authority's website and is attached as Appendix 2.

At the end of 2017/18, the Authority's carbon footprint had decreased by 39% since the baseline year of 2010/11. The 2018/19 report will be available in July 2019 and is anticipated to show a 45% reduction of the Authority's carbon footprint.

Given this current and projected performance, it is highly likely that the Authority will achieve the 50% reduction target in advance of the 2027 target date.

An annual report is provided to the Authority by BEIS detailing the carbon footprint of the Borough.

The most recent report shows that between the baseline year of 2005 and 2017, absolute carbon emissions have decreased by 39% and carbon emissions per head of population have decreased by 42%.

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

- Authority – 18,166 tonnes of CO₂
- Borough – 865,569 tonnes of CO₂

In June 2019 Cabinet noted the progress in delivering the Authority's Low Carbon Plan and in reducing the carbon footprint of the Authority and the Borough. This Cabinet report is attached at Appendix 1 and details the actions taken to achieve current performance.

1.6 Decision options:

The following decision options are available for consideration by Council:

Option 1

To agree to the recommendation 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:

Agreeing the recommendations set out in paragraph 1.2 of the report will support the acceleration of the Authority's carbon emission reduction programme.

1.8 Appendices:

Appendix 1: Low Carbon Plan Performance Update, Cabinet Report June 2019.

Appendix 2: North Tyneside Council's Annual Greenhouse Gas Report 2017-18

1.9 Contact officers:

Paul Nelson, Environmental Sustainability & Street Lighting Manager, Technical & Regulatory Services, tel. (0191) 643 6467

Colin MacDonald, Senior Manager, Technical & Regulatory Services, tel. (0191) 643 6620

Michael Keenlyside, Environmental Sustainability Officer, tel. (0191) 643 6505

Cathy Davison, Principal Accountant Investment (Capital) and Revenue, tel. (0191) 643 5727

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) [Low Carbon Plan 2016-2027](#)

(2) [BEIS Local Authority and regional carbon dioxide emissions national statistics 2005-2017](#)

- (3) [Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report 2018: Summary for Policymakers.](#)
- (4) [Committee on Climate Change: Net Zero](#)

PART 2 – COMPLIANCE WITH PRINCIPLES OF DECISION MAKING

2.1 Finance and other resources

The development of a detailed action plan will require specialist external consultancy support. This can be met from existing budget provision.

The financing of specific additional 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, with analysis of any savings projected and how these are to be accounted for as appropriate, for a decision before any expenditure is incurred.

2.2 Legal

There are no direct legal implications arising from this report.

2.3 Consultation/community engagement

Individual residents, community groups and businesses have demonstrated a passion to ensure North Tyneside is sustainable. Our low carbon work has been informed by working with business on specific technologies, with cycling organisations as we increase North Tyneside's cycling infrastructure and working with our Young Mayors, Members of the Young Parliament and Youth Councillors to listen to their views about how we protect North Tyneside for their future. As a landlord, the Authority has worked with Tenants' representatives and individual tenants on energy efficient products and how to use them. As a leisure business, the Authority has worked with its customers, experts and the sector to reduce energy consumption and as a waste business, the Authority has spent time working on best practice with the sector and local universities to review and revise operations. Recently we have been working closely with our bus operators to apply Government funding to their fleet to reduce emissions.

2.4 Human rights

There are no human rights implications arising from this report.

2.5 Equalities and diversity

There are no equality and diversity issues directly arising from this report.

2.6 Risk management

Risks arising from this report will be raised and managed via the normal NTC Risk Management Process.

2.7 Crime and disorder

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

2.8 Environment and sustainability

This report sets new carbon emission reduction targets for the Authority and the Borough, and a number of actions to achieve these.

PART 3 - SIGN OFF

- Chief Executive x
- Head(s) of Service x
- Mayor/Cabinet Member(s) x
- Chief Finance Officer x
- Monitoring Officer x
- Head of Corporate Strategy and Customer Service x