

# North Tyneside Council

## Report to Cabinet

### Date: 1 August 2022

#### Title: North Tyneside Climate Emergency Action Plan 2022 Update

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<b>Portfolio(s):</b> Environment	<b>Cabinet Member(s):</b> Councillor Sandra Graham
<b>Report from Service Area:</b> Environment	
<b>Responsible Officer:</b> Samantha Dand, Director of Environment	(Tel: (0191) 643 3442)
<b>Wards affected:</b> All	

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#### PART 1

##### 1.1 Executive Summary:

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.”

This report provides a performance update since the previous report to Cabinet in November 2021 and requests Cabinet’s approval to an update of the Climate Emergency Action Plan that was produced in 2020 which includes a proposal for the Action Plan to be re-titled the ‘Carbon Net-Zero 2030 Action Plan’ and 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 to the Authority’s Climate Emergency Action Plan being renamed the ‘Carbon Net-Zero 2030 Action Plan’;
- (3) approves the Carbon Net-Zero Action Plan appended to this report; and
- (4) agrees to receive an annual refresh of the Carbon Net-Zero 2030 Action Plan.

### **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 14<sup>th</sup> April 2022.

### **1.4 Council Plan and Policy Framework**

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

#### A Green North Tyneside

- We will secure funding to help low-income households to install low-carbon heating;
- 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 Developing the Carbon Net-Zero 2030 Action Plan**

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 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.”

During 2020, the Authority worked with industry experts ‘The Carbon Trust’ and consulted with a wide range of stakeholders in the production of the Climate Emergency Action Plan. This was presented to Cabinet in October 2020. The Authority has been delivering against the strategic actions in that plan to successfully reduce carbon emissions.

The updated Action Plan further refined and updated the initial work carried out by the Authority and representatives from all stakeholder groups in 2020 in accordance with the Plan. This further Action Plan update report is informed by evolving Government policy and strategy implemented since 2020. It also provides a more comprehensive suite of actions which will be undertaken by the Authority as an organisation, or in collaboration with others.

The significant policy shift towards Carbon Net-Zero 2030 necessitates the updating of the Climate Emergency Action Plan. In line with the new policy priority, it is proposed that the Action Plan should now be called the ‘Carbon Net-Zero 2030 Action Plan’.

The Carbon Net-Zero 2030 Action Plan is based on the new Our North Tyneside 2021-25 policy commitment, and addresses areas of significant change, including;

- National policy context
- Resident survey and Citizens Assembly data
- Performance
- Governance arrangements; and

- The set of actions that the Authority will take

The Climate Change Act 2008, amended in 2019, commits the UK to a net-zero 2050 target. Throughout 2021 and 2022, and particularly in the run up to COP26 in November 2021, key Government strategies, policies, and plans have been released that set out the Government's approach to net-zero, building on the Ten Point Plan which was published by the Department of Business, Energy, and Industrial Strategy in November 2020.

The Authority has shaped the Carbon Net-Zero 2030 Action Plan around these key Government strategies, policies and plans. This ensures that the Action Plan can realise the emerging opportunities for decarbonisation and economic growth and reflects where the differing timeline of national government targets will have an impact on the Authority's Carbon Net-Zero 2030 ambition.

As an example, the natural gas used in homes and businesses makes up 45% of the Borough's carbon footprint. Understanding the current and emerging alternatives to using natural gas for heat, and the key targets and milestones within the Ten Point Plan, the UK Hydrogen Strategy and the Heat and Buildings Strategy has shaped the action plan.

A summary of key Government strategies, policies, and plans is included in the Carbon Net-Zero 2030 Action Plan.

The Carbon Net-Zero 2030 Action Plan is included as an appendix to this report.

### **1.5.2 Current performance**

The Authority's carbon footprint is made up of the power, heat and water used to run its buildings (not schools), electricity used to power over 31,000 streetlights, the fuel and power used to operate the Authority's fleet of vehicles and the business miles staff travel in their own vehicles to carry out their duties. 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 for Business, Energy and 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. At the end of 2021/22, the Authority's carbon footprint had decreased by 53% since the baseline year of 2010/11, well in advance of the 2023 target.

The Borough's carbon footprint is made up of the power and heat used in the commercial, industrial and domestic buildings in the Borough, emissions from road and rail transport, and land use and forestation activities.

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 2020, absolute carbon emissions have decreased by 47% and carbon emissions per head of population have decreased by 51% when accounting for population growth.

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

- Authority – 14,111 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>
- Borough – 767,177 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>

### 1.5.3 What action has been taken?

Whilst developing the Carbon Net-Zero 2030 Action Plan, the Authority has simultaneously been delivering an ambitious programme of work. Key highlights of actions taken by the Authority include but are not limited to the following;

- Convened a borough-wide Climate Emergency Board with representatives from public sector organisations and commercial and industrial businesses.
- Commenced a £4.3m programme of work to convert almost 20,000 street lights to energy efficient LED. This will complete the street lighting LED programme.
- Undertaken projects which are financially supported by the Green Homes Grant Local Delivery Scheme to install low carbon heating, energy efficiency measures and renewable energy systems.
- Completed the installation of low carbon heating and energy efficiency measures in four of the Authority's most carbon intensive buildings.
- Planted almost 9,000 trees in the Borough as part of the North East Community Forest.
- Completed an independent review of the Authority's fleet and grey fleet options for decarbonisation.
- Included climate related questions in the resident's survey and used the answers to shape the Carbon Net-Zero 2030 Action Plan.
- Continued to manage the Authority's web based "Climate Hub" which contains useful climate emergency information, press releases, key documents and grant information.
- Commissioned a heat network feasibility study for the Killingworth township area predicated on using heat from mine-water.
- Progress to the final stages of completing 9 affordable homes utilising a Modern Method of Construction (MMC) called HUSK. These homes will utilise electricity as a form of heat and build on the Authority's fabric first approach with a combination of Air Source Heat Pumps and Solar PV arrays.
- Completed Heat Decarbonisation Plans for 22 public buildings.
- Launched a 'Sustainability Incubator Programme' to support North Tyneside businesses to improve their environmental sustainability.
- Continued working with the young, elected representatives to shape the Authority's plans around Climate Emergency, waste, recycling and reducing single use plastics usage.
- Commenced the roll-out of Carbon Literacy training.
- Published its 2021/22 Annual Greenhouse Gas Report, detailing performance on reducing the carbon footprint of the Authority and the Borough.

- Developed a scheme to create a continuous segregated cycle lane along the length of the North Tyneside Coast between St Mary's Lighthouse and North Shields Fish Quay/Town Centre.
- Secured almost £9m funding to provide an additional 14 kilometres of cycle routes and improve active travel and public transport.
- Continued to work with the North of Tyne Combined Authority to develop low carbon investment opportunities.

## **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. 643 6467  
Michael Keenlyside, 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 2021-22.pdf](#)
- (2) [BEIS Local Authority and regional carbon dioxide emissions national statistics 2005-2020](#)
- (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 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 and includes the Deputy Mayor in its membership.

#### **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.

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. Recently the Authority has been working closely with bus operators to apply Government funding to their fleet to reduce emissions.

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. This has been approved by the Corporate Equality Group Member for Environment Directorate, and the Director of Environment.

Authority officers have used a number of processes to support the development of an inclusive action plan. Officers have tracked the development of equality and diversity in a just transition to a low carbon economy as part of their on-going work associated with the Climate Emergency. COP26 for example provided detailed insights into the inclusion agenda and has informed the current and future development of local actions to meet the Authority's Carbon Net-Zero 2030 ambition.

The Authority is committed to developing equitable responses to address the climate emergency for everyone. This includes work to support those who are often marginalised in our societies and who are being hard hit by the impact of climate change.

The Climate Emergency will impact every individual, on a local, national, and international scale. Actions to mitigate the effects of extreme weather events, changes in average outdoor temperatures, and actions to reduce housing and road transport emissions are the most pertinent to issues of equality.

It is the intention of the Authority that the Carbon Net-Zero 2030 Action Plan is ultimately designed to mitigate the effects of longer-term climate change and the impact to our communities.

The protected characteristics of age, disability, and race are particularly relevant for this plan. Young children, older people, people from different ethnic communities, and those with mental or physical disabilities can be disproportionately affected by the adverse effects of climate change. Therefore, actions designed to mitigate these effects will help to minimise the disadvantages experienced by individuals with these characteristics.

## **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