

CARBON AND WASTE REDUCTION PANEL

17 March 2021

Commenced: 4.30 pm

Terminated: 6.10 pm

Present: Councillors Boyle (Chair), Affleck, Cooper, Gosling, B Holland, Jones, Lane, Mills and Patrick

In Attendance:

Ian Saxon	Director of Operations and Neighbourhoods
Paul Smith	Assistant Director, Strategic Property and Growth
John Hughes	Housing Growth Lead
Alison Lloyd-Walsh	Head of Environmental Development
Garry Parker	Head of Waste Management and Fleet Services
Danielle Bamford	Project Support Officer
Murray Lloyd	Director, Continuum
Helen Wilson	Development Manager, Continuum

Apologies for Absence: Councillor Pearce

23. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

24. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Carbon and Waste Reduction Panel held on 18 November 2020 were approved as a correct record.

25. CHAIR'S OPENING REMARKS

The Chair and the Head of Environmental Development had attended a meeting of the Greater Manchester Green City Region Board on 22 January 2021.

The Chair advised Members that a Green City newsletter would be released on a bi-monthly basis and would be distributed to all elected Members.

26. ENERGY EFFICIENCY FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES - UPDATE ON SCHEMES

The Panel received a presentation from the Environmental Development Officer updating Members on the energy efficiency funding schemes available to both the Council and residents within the borough. The schemes formed part of point seven of the Government's Ten Point Plan for a Green Industrial Revolution.

Members were informed that as part of the Government's £1 billion public sector decarbonisation scheme, the Council had been awarded £2.5 million in funding to improve energy efficiency and decarbonise 11 buildings, including eight corporate buildings and three schools. The schools to benefit from the funding were Audenshaw Primary School, Hurst Knoll Primary School and Gorse Hall Primary School. It was explained that the heating systems at these schools had reached the end of their useful lives and were therefore given priority for funding.

The Environmental Development Officer explained that the projects, which included the installation of insulation, draught proofing, solar PV, improvements to Building Management Systems (BMS) and window replacements, would need to be completed by September 2021. A detailed survey was

currently being undertaken by AECOM and it was anticipated that the Council would be able to meet the deadline for the delivery of the projects. It was hoped that once the measures had been implemented there would be a significant reduction in carbon emissions of around 355.86 tonnes CO₂e per annum.

An update was also provided on the delivery of the Green Homes Grant Local Authority Delivery (LAD) scheme. The funding was targeted at low income residents, specifically those with a combined gross annual household income of less than £30,000 per annum. In addition, qualifying homes would need to have an Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) rating of band E, F or G. Band D properties could also be included provided they were a minority of the total. Owner-occupiers could receive up to £10,000 in funding whilst landlords (social and private) could receive up to two-thirds of the cost of measures up to £5,000 per property.

The primary and secondary measures available under the scheme included:

Primary Measures:

- Insulation – solid wall, cavity wall, underfloor, loft, room-in-roof, flat roof and park home;
- Low Carbon Heat – air source heat pump, ground source heat pump and solar thermal water heating; and
- Solar PV.

Secondary Measures:

- Heating Controls – smart controls, thermostatic radiator valves and hot water cylinder insulation;
- Windows and Doors; and
- Draught Proofing.

Panel Members were advised that the delivery of Phase 1a of the scheme, in partnership with E.ON, was well underway and was on course to be delivered by the end of March 2021. Phase 1b would need to be delivered by September 2021. The 10 Greater Manchester local authorities would also be applying for Phase 2 funding that would total £17.8 million. Work on these projects would need to be completed by December 2021.

A discussion ensued regarding public engagement with the schemes and it was explained that Phase 1a had been hugely oversubscribed. A press release had recently gone out for Phase 1b and the schemes would be promoted through the Council's social media channels. Leaflet drops would also be taking place in those areas of Tameside where it was believed that residents would meet the criteria for the schemes. Further leaflets would be distributed as part of Phase 2 of the scheme.

The Environmental Development Officer stressed that it would be important to manage expectations and numbers during Phase 1b of the scheme to ensure that the projects could be delivered in a timely manner.

RESOLVED

- i. That the content of the presentation be noted.**
- ii. That a presentation on the Ten Point Plan for a Green Industrial Revolution be brought to the next meeting of the Panel.**

27. GODLEY GREEN GARDEN VILLAGE

The Panel received a presentation from the Housing Growth Lead updating Members on the proposed Godley Green Garden Village development. The site, on the outskirts of Hyde, had the potential to deliver up to 2000 new, high quality homes. It was highlighted that without this site, there

would be a shortfall of land supply to meet the need for new homes required in the borough over the next 20 years. All suitable brownfield sites had already been earmarked for development.

Members were informed that the planning application preparation was well underway and this included technical surveys, engagement with the Local Planning Authority (LPA) and public consultation. The planning application would be submitted to the Local Planning Authority in April 2021 with determination likely by December 2021.

The Project Director explained that the main site comprised of 110.9 hectares of undulating land between Werneth Low Country Park and the Manchester to Hadfield railway line at Godley and Hattersley. The development would comprise two village centres with health and retail facilities to reduce the need of residents to leave the site. At the heart of the proposals was the desire to create a green site that had a safe and attractive network of cycle ways and public footpaths with generous proportions of open space for both residents and wildlife. Existing areas of woodland and bodies of water would be retained as part of the project.

A key priority of the development was to ensure that homes were energy efficient and cheap to run. The project team were engaging with Electricity North West to establish if the site could achieve carbon neutrality. Electricity North West had developed a flexible distribution network from its "SMART Street" innovation project that had the potential to be rolled out as part of the development. This would result in the minimum number of distribution substations being required.

A number of carbon reduction measures that it was hoped would form part of the development were highlighted to Members and included:

- Solar PV;
- Wind (central turbine);
- Energy Storage (centralised and domestic);
- Electric Vehicle Charging; and
- Heating – community heat network and air source heat pumps.

A discussion ensued regarding the capacity on the local railway network if the proposed development came to fruition. Members explained that before the Covid-19 pandemic, passengers at Hattersley and Godley railway stations often struggled to board trains during the morning rush hour. The Assistant Director, Growth explained that strategic reviews of planning relating to transport were still ongoing and a transport strategy update would be brought to the next meeting of the Panel. It was also highlighted that the pandemic had the potential to significantly reduce the number of individuals commuting to work on a regular basis, thus leading to reduced demand for all forms of transport.

Panel Members were keen to ensure that the aspirations for energy efficient homes were met. The Project Director explained that because the Council had a controlling interest in the development of the site, only those developers that were prepared to deliver the green premium would be considered as a partner. It was hoped that the green elements of the development would become an exemplar for other local authorities to follow in the future.

RESOLVED

- i. That the content of the presentation be noted.**
- ii. That a presentation updating Members on the transport strategy be brought to the next meeting of the Panel.**

28. LOW CARBON STRATEGY UPDATE

The Panel received a presentation from the Head of Environmental Development providing an update on the Council's Low Carbon Strategy.

Members were informed that the first draft of the Strategy and accompanying Action Plan was almost complete. The Action Plan had been discussed with key officers from across the Council but further work needed to be undertaken to establish how progress could be measured and success tracked.

The Environmental Development Service had conducted a survey through the Council's website to gather views on environmental issues and behaviour from staff, residents and businesses. During the initial consultation exercise, which ran from 15 December 2020 to 29 January 2021, 372 responses were received to the online survey. The results of the survey were summarised for Members and showed that:

- 93% of respondents either lived or worked in Tameside;
- 90% of respondents either agreed or strongly agreed that they were worried about climate change;
- 92% of respondents either agreed or strongly agreed that they were willing to take personal action to reduce the impact of climate change;
- 86% of respondents either agreed or strongly agreed that they supported the Council taking action on climate change and the wider environment; and
- 67% of respondents were not aware that the Council had declared a climate emergency in February 2020.

A majority of respondents to the survey were also keen that the Council, residents and businesses took action to:

- Reduce carbon emissions from homes, workplaces and Council buildings;
- Reduce carbon emissions from transport in Tameside;
- Implement actions to improve greenspaces, biodiversity and adapt to a changing climate; and
- Improve sustainable consumption, production and disposal opportunities.

Officers from the Environmental Development Service had attended a meeting of the Tameside Partnership Engagement Network (PEN) to discuss the Plan and the Tameside Youth Council was also consulted. It was considered particularly important to engage with as many young people as possible given they often did not engage with the Council's traditional consultation methods. Members considered wider public engagement and consultation essential.

It was anticipated that the first phase of the Environment Strategy could be presented in June 2021 and officers were keen that Members had significant input into the development of the Action Plan. A discussion ensued regarding the Action Plan and Members were of the opinion that a smaller working group consisting of Members of the Panel be formed to agree objectives and targets that would form part of the Plan. Members also agreed that the Action Plan should become a standing item so that the progress of the Plan could be monitored going forward.

RESOLVED

- i. That the content of the presentation be noted.**
- ii. That a smaller working group consisting of Members of the Panel be formed to agree objectives and targets that would form part of the Action Plan.**
- iii. That the Action Plan be a standing item at the Panel to enable Members to monitor progress.**

29. WASTE UPDATE

The Panel received an update on waste and recycling from the Head of Waste Management and Fleet Services. Members praised the work of Waste Services, which had successfully maintained a full collection service throughout the pandemic with 98 per cent of all rounds completed as scheduled during 2020/21.

Members were informed that the domestic recycling rate for Tameside was 50 per cent but it was highlighted that this was a seasonal figure. Currently, the Council was processing less bio and garden waste but it was anticipated that this would increase later in the year once the growing season commenced.

The Head of Operations and Neighbourhoods advised Members that blue bin contamination was a persistent problem in some parts of the borough with contamination peaking during July and August 2020. It was explained that any contamination over six per cent by weight led to a full load being rejected and this proved costly for both the Council and taxpayers.

Following concerns around blue bin contamination, a campaign funded by the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA), was launched in February 2021 to address the issue. The campaign utilised leaflets, stickers, social media and Facebook Live web chats to reinforce the message to reduce blue bin contamination. Whilst the results in relation to the campaign were still being analysed, initial data showed a 90.75 per cent reduction in the cost of dealing with contaminated waste in blue bins. In addition, there were only three rejected loads in February 2021 compared with 37 previously. Members praised the campaign for its success in reducing recycling contamination.

Panel Members received details of the England Waste Strategy Consultation that looked to mandate certain materials for collection, set the frequency of collections and bin space. The consultation was, in part, a means of replacing European Union (EU) targets following Brexit in January 2021. The Head of Waste Management and Fleet Services raised concerns that if the changes were mandated they could be costly to Tameside and Greater Manchester without bringing any equivalent benefit. It was explained that Greater Manchester already had a core model of household waste collection that delivered consistency and local flexibility.

A discussion ensued regarding the Waste Strategy Consultation and Members queried the cost implication for the Council if they were required to change the colour of bins and the way that waste was collected. Members were informed that it would cost £32 million across Greater Manchester to standardise bins but it was highlighted that it was difficult to estimate costings regarding the all-England plans at the current time.

The Council was particularly concerned about mandated separate weekly food waste collections, preferring to deliver a local solution rather than a blanket requirement.

RESOLVED

That the content of the presentation be noted.

30. URGENT ITEMS

There were no urgent items.

CHAIR