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| Report to: | EXECUTIVE CABINET |
| Date: | 15 December 2021 |
| Executive Member: | Cllr Alison Gwynne – Executive Member (Neighbourhoods, Community Safety and Environment) |
| Reporting Officer: | Ian Saxon, Director of Place Paul Smith, Assistant Director of Strategic Property |
| Subject: | CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENT STRATEGY 2021-2026 |
| Report Summary: | <p>The Climate Change and Environment Strategy 2021-2026 provides a framework to determine actions in response to the climate emergency.</p> <p>The guidance given herein, reflecting regional and national policy will set direction and require officers and wider stakeholders to concerted positive action regarding climate change and the environment.</p> <p>This Strategy is the product of cooperation between departments within Tameside Council. Through public engagement and other forums, we have sought guidance from local people and regionally we have worked with colleagues in partner organisations to develop a workable document and a framework for an effective action plan.</p> <p>It is important that both residents and businesses find the support they need from us. If we can succeed in fostering a sense of collective responsibility and enthusiasm for the opportunities in the face of the climate crisis – then we are heading in the right direction. The scope of this Strategy aims to achieve a Tameside Borough net zero carbon contribution by 2038.</p> <p>The five focal points of the Strategy are, Greenspace & Biodiversity, Homes Workspaces & Council Buildings, Influencing Others, Reducing Consumption & Producing Sustainably and Travel & Transport.</p> <p>The Strategy determines issues and groups solutions into the thematic areas described above – shown as dynamic, draft action plans in the appendix.</p> <p>The Environment & Climate Emergency Working Group is positioned to maintain and oversee the resultant action plans, with assistance from affiliated task-groups to oversee each of the five thematic areas.</p> <p>Tameside Council has worked hard to reduce emissions and improve the environment and this strategy plans out the next stages of the journey.</p> |
| Recommendations: | <p>That Executive Cabinet be recommended to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Approve and adopt the draft Climate Change and Environment Strategy 2021-2026 as attached at appendix 1 of this report. (ii) Approve the draft Action Plans at appendices 2 - 6 of this report, noting that new initiatives which have budget |

implications will be the subject of separate reports to Executive Cabinet at the appropriate time.

- (iii) Approve a culture of carbon literacy, backed by a programme of carbon literacy training.

Corporate Plan:

With particular note of this component of the plan:

- (i) Modern infrastructure and a sustainable environment that works for all generations and future generations

Policy Implications:

In addition to our Climate Change and Environment Strategy helping to meet the above aim of the corporate plan, it will support fully the Greater Manchester Five Year Environment Plan (2019-2023). Read in conjunction with the Inclusive Growth Strategy, (Draft) Housing Strategy, Clean Air Strategy, Fleet Replacement Strategy, (Draft) Planning Strategy (pending adoption of GM's Places for Everyone) and STAR Procurements renewed principles (pending).

**Financial Implications:
(Authorised by the statutory
Section 151 Officer & Chief
Finance Officer)**

The report provides Members with details of the Climate Change and Environmental Strategy for the Council together with supporting details of the five key focal points ; Greenspace & Biodiversity, Homes Workspaces & Council Buildings, Influencing Others, Reducing Consumption & Producing Sustainably and Travel & Transport.

Any financial implications that arise from the component aspects of the implementing the strategy will be subject to separate governance and robust business cases that will include the necessary due diligence. This will need to ensure that the respective proposal(s) are affordable and that the budget implications (recurrent and non-recurrent) and wider benefits that will be realised across the borough are clearly identified.

**Legal Implications:
(Authorised by the Borough
Solicitor)**

This is a high level strategy to help direct Members and Officers to ensure that the climate and environment is consideration in all projects.

Each of those projects will be subject to their own due diligence, governance and decision making.

Risk Management:

Risks of inaction on climate change are predicted to include catastrophic loss of biodiversity, sea level rise, crop failure, fresh-water shortage, more severe and more frequent extreme weather events and mass migration of displaced people due to these factors. Tameside are acting in line with other UK government organisations to mitigate risk as best as is reasonably practicable.

Background Information:

The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting Graham Hall



Telephone: 07562904146



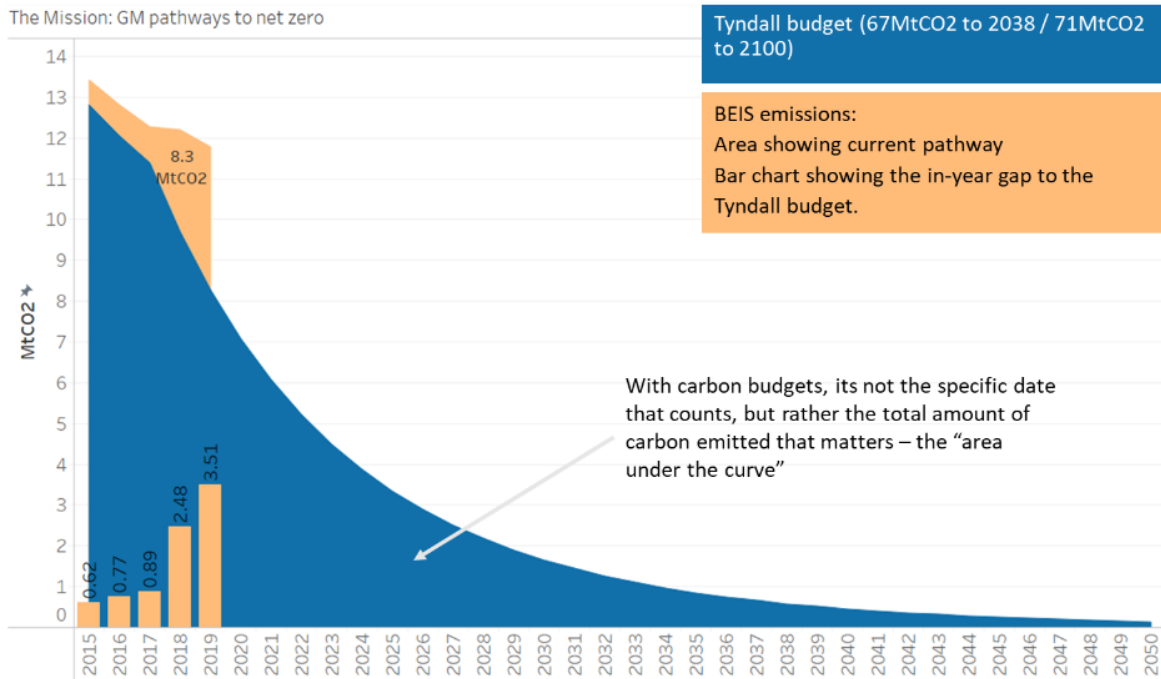
e-mail: graham.hall@tameside.gov.uk

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This Climate Change and Environment Strategy (The Strategy) is the product of cooperation between departments within Tameside Council. Through public engagement and other forums, we have sought guidance from local people and regionally we have worked with peers to develop a workable document and a framework for an effective action plan.
- 1.2 The Strategy sets out guiding principles for an organisational approach. With the thematic components defining the framework of an action plan. The detailed action plan will be a dynamic, working document – the detailed initial outline of which will form an appendix to The Strategy.
- 1.3 Elements of the action plan may need to be pursued through the governance process on individual bases and therefore only outline goals are described in some cases.
- 1.4 The underlying reason for The Strategy is to address known environmental problems and coordinate recognised and effective solutions. The principle of the adoption of climate change considerations into every decision is the backbone of The Strategy – fundamental if the target of net-zero by 2038 is to be achieved.
- 1.5 The effects of pollution, environmental degradation, biodiversity loss and climate change are significant, possibly irreversible. However, future impacts are still entirely within our power to limit.
- 1.6 If we do not act to limit global average temperature rise to 1.5°C or below, we face at the very least - irreversible biodiversity and habitat loss, more frequent extreme weather events, climate refugees and food shortages.
- 1.7 Environmental extremes have been experienced locally, Tameside witnessed flooding and wildfires in the last five years.
- 1.8 Latest predictions are that climate change is happening faster than previously thought and August 2021's IPCC report underlines the urgency to decarbonise.
- 1.9 The cost of pollution on the health service is immense too - from increased instances of asthma near busy roads and the psychological stresses caused by unbalanced urban living. The Nuffield Trust states that aggregate effects of NO₂ and PM's over the next 16 years could cost the NHS £18.6bn.
- 1.10 The UK government has published the Ten Point Plan for a Green Industrial Revolution. With a shift in consumption patterns there will be a wealth of opportunity as new markets emerge. We hope to maximise Tameside's part in this new chapter in UK domestic economics.
- 1.11 When The Strategy is read in conjunction with the Inclusive Growth Strategy, (Draft) Housing Strategy, Clean Air Strategy, Fleet Replacement Strategy, (Draft) Planning Strategy (pending adoption of GM's Places for Everyone) and STAR Procurements renewed principles - Tameside officers and wider stakeholders will be empowered to deliver services with a keen focus on achieving zero carbon activities by 2038.
- 1.12 As a Local Council, we can effect physical change to the best of our abilities on corporate operations i.e. our fleet, our buildings and to a degree - our supply chain. However, the majority of work needed must take place outside of Tameside Council's direct control. As a community - Tameside, its residents and businesses, hold the key to reducing carbon emissions.
- 1.13 To prevent catastrophic global warming, we must collectively act to reduce the further input of CO₂ into the atmosphere and champion new technologies and methods for doing so.

Additionally we must act to protect and enhance natural capital to deliver a greener and more biodiverse borough, preserving our physical and mental wellbeing as well as acting as a carbon sink – drawing down and locking in CO₂. And we must act to ensure any impacts of climate change are managed as best as can be over the coming years, as the average global temperature is predicted to continue to rise – but with our best efforts not exceeding 1.5°C.

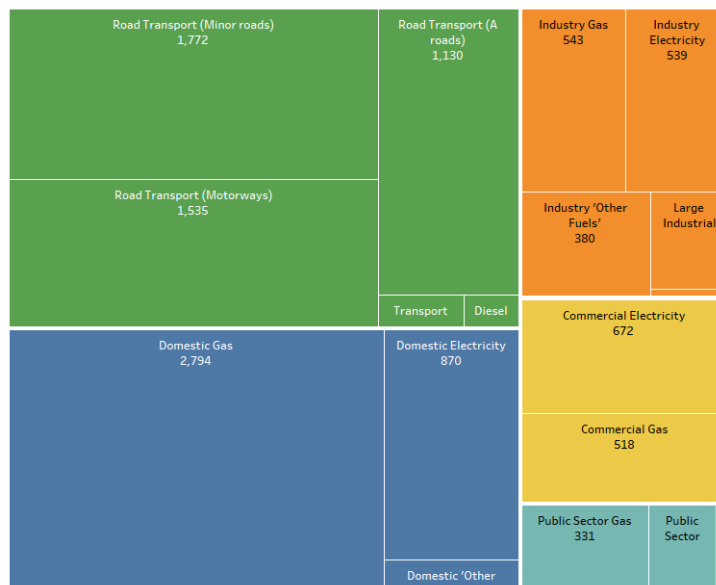
- 1.14 This Strategy does not mark the beginning of our journey. Tameside Council has worked hard to reduce emissions and improve the environment and this can be evidenced by.
- Recording a 43% reduction in borough wide carbon emissions between 2005 and 2019.
 - Installing LED street lighting across 69% of columns during phase 1 of the rollout with the remaining planned early 2022, a project in total saving of 4285 tonnes of carbon.
 - Introducing electric vehicles to the council vehicle fleet, purchasing 10 new electrically powered vans and 14 electric charging points to support this.
 - Streamlining the corporate portfolio of buildings and identifying efficiencies in the way we run our services.
 - The electricity contract for our corporate buildings ensures they are supplied by renewable power.
 - Secured £2.3m on the first round of public sector decarbonisation – investing in greener technologies across eleven of the most inefficient buildings on the estate. A further bid is under consideration for six other sites. In total over the lifetimes of these projects the carbon savings are projected to be in the region of 11,000tonnes
 - Increasing tree cover across the borough, with 18,000 trees planted in the last three years and another 14,000 planned over the next planting season.
 - Supporting the roll out of solar PV scheme for residents and we continue to roll out renewables such as solar PV across the estate when we have the opportunity to do so.
 - Accessed funding for walking and cycling improvements across the borough .
 - Provide all residents with a comprehensive recycling service for a wide range of materials, recycling 54% waste across the borough.
 - Supported the Clean Switch campaign to assist residents to switch to a green tariff.
 - Improving the energy efficiency of homes across the borough by leveraging funding such as CERT and ECO to help improve the insulation of homes. Additionally promoting the Green-homes grant local authority delivery scheme.
- 1.15 These examples demonstrate some of the terrific, inspiring action from Tameside Council but we realise that there is still much more to do to meet the dual challenges of climate change and environmental protection across the borough. A critically important component of our Climate Change and Environment Strategy 2021-2026 will be the highlighting of the need to work together as a community to deliver positive environmental impacts – with a priority focus on how we travel and how we heat our homes and buildings.
- 1.16 Across Greater Manchester, we have a tremendous resource of colleagues working to address the challenges of climate change and environmental protection. Regionally there has been great advance in collective solutions – the combined approach to public sector decarbonisation being one such example.
- 1.17 This regional support, including the assistance of Manchester Metropolitan University's Tyndall Centre has meant we can clearly analyse a measured approach to carbon reduction. Latest figures provide a stark reminder that on our current trajectory – we are not even close to being on target to reduce emissions in line with the recommended Tyndall curve – see below.



Credit: GMCA, Greater Manchester Environment Team 2021.

- 1.18 To generate the biggest impact, we must focus on is the highest impact categories – these are shown clearly below as domestic heating and road transport. These are elements where the majority of citizens can contribute to making an impact.
- 1.19 The Council is trying to show best practice and lead by example (decarbonising our building stock and fleet activities) – however by far the greatest impact will be had when residents and businesses really begin to notably reduce the carbon emissions of their activities. Tameside is embarking on a journey to partner with stakeholders to facilitate and signpost this transformation – and as communication is key, this Climate Change and Environment Strategy one important component of those efforts.
- 1.20 The transformation will not only require personal adjustments, there is an acknowledgement across the region that we need to usher in a systemic modernisation, enabling a sustainable economy, which actively reduces carbon emissions.

Emissions magnitude by sector (ktCO₂ / 2019)



Credit: GMCA, Greater Manchester Environment Team 2021

2. THEMES

- 2.1 It is important that both residents and businesses find the support they need from us and in-turn offer any support they can back to the community.
- 2.2 The focal points of the Strategy are:
- Greenspace & Biodiversity,
 - Homes Workspaces & Council Buildings,
 - Influencing Others,
 - Reducing Consumption & Producing Sustainably and
 - Travel & Transport.

3. DELIVERY

- 3.1 Delivery will require stakeholders beyond the control of Tameside Council to act. This is where one component of the Strategy is vitally important – Influencing Others.
- 3.2 Tameside officers will be expected to consider the impact on the environment of every decision they make if we are to succeed in reducing carbon emissions across the borough to net-zero by 2038 as described in our 2019 declaration of a climate emergency.
- 3.3 Using the Tyndall Centre data, as the associated action plans mature and develop with the cooperation of all Tameside departments, progress along the pathway towards net-zero will become clear, informing next steps.
- 3.4 Communities will be supported as the Council leads the way, signposting and assisting where practicable.
- 3.5 The Environment & Climate Emergency Working Group (ECEWG) will have oversight of the Strategy and the progress of components of the related action plans. Officers, elected members and specialists from across the organisation will contribute to ECEWG.
- 3.6 A task group comprising of elected members and specialist officers will monitor and manage progress and report back to ECEWG in relation to the contribution to net carbon reduction.
- 3.7 An annual report will be produced to demonstrate progress towards carbon neutrality. The report will contain:
- Aggregate and individual contributions of the five action plan themes.
 - Comparison to the target Tyndall pathway.
 - Recommendations for the coming year.

4. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 4.1 An equalities impact assessment was undertaken on the Strategy and its implications by a team from the Growth Directorate. The findings were that some consideration will need to be given to those with certain protected characteristic when promoting active travel, change and sustainable alternatives.
- 4.2 The top level summary of that assessment is that each of the task groups dedicated to the specific thematic areas, would include those equality considerations as the plans were developed and the actions realised.
- 4.3 The EIA component of each theme will feature as a standard item on the task-group report when feeding back into ECEWG.

4.4 Full detail of the EIA is found in the accompanying assessment report – appendix 7.

5. STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

- 5.1 In addition to consulting with specialist officers across the Council, external consultation was held virtually via the Youth Council in January 2021 and also through an online canvassing exercise to stakeholders across the borough over a month from December 2020 through January 2021. Youth Council feedback was supportive and urged action to tackle climate change and environmental degradation. Public engagement again through the online consultation into attitudes towards the challenges of climate change, generated useful and supportive insight.
- 5.2 A key role of the Environment and Climate Emergency Working Group will be to continue to assist in acting as a conduit between Tameside’s communities and the officers delivering on components of the appended action plans.
- 5.3 Task-groups will be formed of elected members and officers to move the action plans forward and these will report back into the Environment & Climate Emergency Working Group regularly.
- 5.4 “Influencing Others” is one of the five action plans, this specifically identifies the importance of communication in succeeding in the Strategies objectives. It is intended that this task-group will help to form a communications sub-strategy. All channels should be considered as options at this stage as permeating and sharing messages to all stakeholders may require that approach.

6. RISKS AND MITIGATIONS

- 6.1 The table below lists risks of not adopting a Climate Change and Environment Strategy and qualifies mitigations generated by positively embracing such a strategic document, it’s associated action plans and resultant activities.

| Thematic | Risk of not acting | Mitigations of action | Notes |
|---------------------------|--|--|---|
| Greenspace & biodiversity | The carbon emissions of the borough may continue to rise due to loss and/or degradation of natural capital | Protection and enhancement of natural capital will help to absorb CO2 and create a better environment | Ongoing attention on ensuring we can facilitate development whilst still achieving environmental net-gain. |
| Travel & transport | Fossil fuel powered vehicles if unchecked will continue to pollute including effects on global warming. | Enabling more active travel and creating more sustainable local communities in addition to a shift away from ICE vehicles will benefit both the local and global environments. | Developing holistic solutions to the issue of pollution and congestion will benefit residents personally and the health service too. |
| Influencing people | There is a danger that change may not happen fast enough if all people across our communities are not engaged. | Sharing resources, information, whilst enabling networks to flourish will help people to contribute what they can to the battle against climate change. | The Council is only responsible for approximately 1.5% of all borough emissions – the message needs to get out there that we all need to work together. |
| Reducing | Waste could occur | Carbon intensive | The Inclusive Growth |

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| waste & procuring sustainably | unchecked and local businesses could suffer. | practice can be habitual. We need to be keen on resource management and ensure we link into opportunities for local businesses to thrive in a new, green economy. | Strategy support this and the teams will work closely together with STaR to ensure an effective response. |
| Homes, workplaces & buildings | Wasted energy due to inefficient stock and old-fashioned high-carbon (fossil fuel) technologies. | Identifying best areas for investment in low carbon technologies and other retro-fit measures. | Additionally the planning system will support change towards low/no carbon methods. |

7. NEXT STEPS

- 7.1 The dynamic action plans will be developed in collaboration with relevant stakeholders.
- 7.2 The Environment & Climate Emergency Working Group will monitor progress and ensure that the action plans are on track to deliver the required modifications to match the aspirations of the Tyndall pathway.

8. CONCLUSION

- 8.1 Tameside Council's leadership is fundamental to supporting a regional, local government drive to reduce corporate effects on climate change and the environment.
- 8.2 Without effecting community buy-in and facilitating borough-wide action, Tameside Council's corporate impact is relatively small.
- 8.3 We have received the mandate internationally, nationally, regionally and importantly – directly from our residents to act and to help them to act to rise to the challenge of net-zero – this strategy and associated action plans develop a pathway towards achieving that aim.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 As per details given in the cover page above.