

CARBON AND WASTE REDUCTION PANEL

11 March 2020

Commenced: 4.30 pm

Terminated: 6.25 pm

Present: Councillors Boyle (Chair), Affleck, Cooper, Mills, Patrick and Pearce

In Attendance:

Alison Lloyd-Walsh	Head of Environmental Development
Danielle Bamford	Project Support Officer
Christina Morton	Environmental Development Officer
Garry Parker	Head of Waste Management
Lee Holland	Head of Engineering Services
Mark Ellison	Group Engineering Manager

Apologies for Absence: Councillors Gosling, B Holland, Lane and Taylor

38. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

39. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Carbon and Waste Reduction Panel held on 27 November 2019 were approved as a correct record.

40. CLIMATE EMERGENCY

The Panel received a presentation on the declaration of a Climate Emergency from the Head of Environmental Development.

Members were informed that the Executive Leader of the Council had declared a Climate Emergency at the meeting of Full Council on 25 February 2020. The declaration by Tameside Council meant that all ten boroughs within Greater Manchester, and the Greater Manchester Combined Authority, had now declared a Climate Emergency. The Declaration was intended to encompass Tameside in its broadest sense and include all of the Boroughs' communities.

The Panel were informed of the measures that the Council had committed to undertake as part of the declaration:

- To continue to build on the work of the Tameside 2018 Green Summit;
- Ensure the Council's operations were net-zero carbon in line with the Greater Manchester commitment of 2038;
- Support and work with all other relevant agencies toward making the area zero carbon within the same timescale;
- Request that the Carbon and Waste Reduction Panel continue to consider the impact of climate change and inform the Council's policies and strategies;
- Continue to work with 'Just Transition' as part of the UK's transition to a zero carbon and sustainable economy; and
- Play an active role in the Greater Manchester Combined Authority's aim to achieve net-zero carbon across Greater Manchester and support the mayor to deliver his ambitions for the region.

The declaration also requested that the Chief Executive of Tameside Council write to Government requesting additional funding and powers to enable local authorities to deliver the Paris Agreement as well as urging Government to accelerate plans to decarbonise energy and the economy.

A discussion ensued regarding the need to formulate a governance process and action plan to take the measures required as part of the Declaration. The Head of Environmental Development advised that steps were already being taken to ensure formal structures were in place. Members were also keen to ensure that a list of actions were formulated that could be measured to evaluate the progress being made.

RESOLVED

That the content of the presentation be noted.

41. ICHOOSEN SOLAR SCHEME UPDATE

The Panel received an update on the iChooser renewable energy scheme from the Environmental Development Officer.

The registration window for the iChooser scheme closed in January 2020 and Members were informed that 219 households across Tameside and 3749 households across Greater Manchester had registered their interest. The Panel were then advised of the number of accepted applicants with 38 across Tameside and 532 in Greater Manchester as a whole. Members queried the discrepancy in the number of registrations and the number of accepted applicants. It was explained that some households were merely assessing the offer and the advertisement of the scheme around Christmas had reduced the number of residents accepting the offer. It was expected that the scheme would be re-advertised in late spring when it was hoped that the number of accepted applicants would be higher.

Installation for the December and January tranche had now commenced and it was expected to be completed by the end of 2020.

RESOLVED

That the content of the presentation be noted.

42. DE-CARBONISING THE PUBLIC ESTATE

The Panel received a presentation of the Head of Environmental Development outlining the steps being taken by the Council to decarbonise the Tameside estate. The project formed part of the Greater Manchester Five Year Plan and a wider initiative to de-carbonise buildings across the city region.

Members were informed that all buildings belonging to Tameside Council, including leisure centres, swimming pools and schools, had been assessed to establish which used the most energy. The buildings had been assessed using floor areas; electricity and gas consumption; and display energy certificate ratings. It was explained that leisure centres were the biggest emitters of carbon as swimming pools were often inefficient in their use of energy.

The Head of Environmental Development explained that further detailed surveys were to be undertaken on a number of high energy use buildings to determine their current condition, particularly those elements contributing to potential energy loss. The surveys would also include an assessment of the potential to retrofit energy saving solutions and low carbon energy provision. Members enquired as to the funding streams available for retrofitting buildings and it was advised that there were a number of ways to finance the investment, including:

- Salix, funded by the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, to fund energy efficiency projects across local authority estates, with over 100 energy efficiency technologies supported; and
- Possible Greater Manchester-wide buy in to reduce costs.

It was stressed that investment in the retrofitting of buildings was part of a strategy of investing to save, with the energy created and the reduction in energy lost, lowering costs in the longer term. Members were keen to ensure that the Council's standards were fit for purpose and milestones were put in place to review the progress of schemes.

RESOLVED

That the content of the presentation be noted.

43. GREENING THE FLEET

The Panel received a presentation on 'Greening the Fleet' outlining the Council's progress and plans to introduce lower or zero carbon vehicles. The steps being taken toward a greener fleet were part of a commitment to improve air quality; reduce the number of premature deaths, reduce hospital admissions for people with respiratory illnesses; improve the health and wellbeing of residents; and lead by example.

Members were informed that the Council had a fleet of 154 vehicles, reduced from 256 in 2010, that included a range of vehicle types. Since 2015 a rolling programme had made significant progress in replacing the less efficient fleet and all vehicles were now compliant with the Clean Air Plan to be rolled out across Greater Manchester from 2021. The new fleet of vehicles included:

- Twenty two new refuse vehicles since 2017;
- Nine new refuse vehicles, with electric lifts, ordered for delivery in August 2020;
- A new light van fleet; and
- Ten electric vans delivered in January 2020.

The Group Engineering Manager explained that the new technology and vehicles introduced would make important contributions to reducing the Council's carbon emissions and fuel consumption. The fleet had reduced the amount of fuel used by 200,000 litres over the past decade, down from 950,000 litres of fuel per year in 2010 to 750,000 litres of fuel most recently. This had contributed to a 500 tonne reduction in carbon emissions annually. An additional benefit had been a reduction in costs with a new electric van costing just 0.05 pence per mile compared to a diesel van at 11 pence per mile.

A discussion ensued regarding the infrastructure in place across the Borough to charge electric vehicles. The installation of charging points had been completed at Ashton and Stalybridge libraries and was in progress at Dukinfield Crematorium and Tame Street Depot. It was also hoped that installation would be commenced on rapid charging points at Tame Street for fleet support. Members also queried whether the mayoralty could introduce an electric vehicle and it was explained that the current contract was due to expire this year and steps could be taken to test the market for a new low emission car.

RESOLVED

That the content of the presentation be noted.

44. BEELINES CYCLING SCHEMES

The Panel received a presentation on the delivery of the Bee Network in Tameside and Greater Manchester, designed to deliver a fully joined up cycling and walking network covering 1800 miles across the city region.

Members were informed that the delivery of the Bee Network was a once-in-a-generation opportunity to revolutionise the way in which individuals across Tameside moved around the Borough. It was explained that there were a number of challenges that the Bee Network sought to address including physical inactivity; air quality issues; and congestion. Around 80% of people across Greater Manchester were physically inactive and walking or cycling to work could reduce people's risk of cardiovascular disease by 46%. In addition, every trip switched from a mechanised mode to cycling or walking would see a reduction in both pollutants and greenhouse gases.

The Head of Engineering Services advised the Panel that the Bee Network was being delivered as part of the Greater Manchester mayor's £240 million 'Congestion Deal' which included £80 million to improve the tram network and £160 million for cycling and walking schemes. The Council had been asked to map the existing cycling and walking infrastructure across Tameside to establish locations with particular issues. Eleven Borough-wide projects had then been approved and a four week consultation period had closed on 6 March 2020. The consultation had taken place at nine venues and over 3000 leaflets had been distributed to members of the public.

The Borough had been allocated £11.5 million of funding for the projects from the Mayor's Challenge Fund and a £2 million bid for funding from Highways England had been successful, subject to approval of a scheme between Hattersley and Hyde. The projects were part of a two year delivery scheme and it was hoped the first would be on site by the summer of 2020.

Members were keen that the timescales and delivery of the projects were monitored and the Panel were advised that Transport for Greater Manchester would ensure this would happen as part of the business case.

RESOLVED

That the content of the presentation be noted.

45. WASTE UPDATE

The Panel received an update on Waste and Recycling from the Head of Operations and Neighbourhoods. The Panel were informed of the work being undertaken to reduce contamination and improve recycling rates across the Borough.

Members were informed that Tameside Council currently had a domestic, doorstep recycling rate of 55.48% which placed the Borough third in Greater Manchester. The current European Union recycling target for local authorities was 50% and the Borough was aspiring to recycle 60% of waste by 2022.

The issue of recycling contamination was discussed as such instances were on the rise across Tameside and Greater Manchester. It was explained that over a nine month period, Tameside Council had 49 rejected loads and 45 of these were cardboard and paper recycling. As a consequence over 200 tonnes of paper and cardboard had been rejected and processed as general waste. The negative financial impact was highlighted as it cost double the amount to process general waste compared to paper and cardboard. It was in the Council's and taxpayer's interest to ensure that loads were of the best standard in order to achieve the highest commodity price.

Members enquired as to why cardboard and paper recycling was especially vulnerable to contamination and it was explained that the higher capacity and the ability to disguise waste were contributory factors.

The Head of Operations and Neighbourhoods informed the Panel that a number of steps were being taken to address the issue of contamination. Areas with lower recycling performance had been heat mapped to analyse trends, demographics, groups and barriers. It was intended that resources would be targeted at areas of lower performance through a range of measures, including:

- Swing tags;

- Leaflets
- Bin stickers;
- High profile presence in areas of high football;
- YouTube, social media and press coverage; and
- An aligned communications plan with the Greater Manchester Combined Authority.

RESOLVED

That the content of the presentation be noted.

46. URGENT ITEMS

There were no urgent items.

CHAIR