

<b>DECISION-MAKER:</b>	OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	DRAFT CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN
<b>DATE OF DECISION:</b>	14 SEPTEMBER 2023
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	CLLR KEOGH CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT & TRANSPORT

<b><u>CONTACT DETAILS</u></b>			
<b>Executive Director</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Executive Director for Place</b>	
	<b>Name</b>	<b>Adam Wilkinson</b>	<b>Tel: 023 8254 5853</b>
	<b>E-mail:</b>	<b>Adam.wilkinson@southampton.gov.uk</b>	
<b>Author</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Sustainability Service Manager</b>	
	<b>Name</b>	<b>Steve Guppy</b>	<b>Tel: 02380 917525</b>
	<b>E-mail:</b>	<b>Steve.Guppy@southampton.gov.uk</b>	

<b>STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY</b>
N/A

<b>BRIEF SUMMARY</b>
----------------------

Southampton City Council declared a climate emergency in 2019 and soon after set itself the challenge of being a net zero organisation by 2030. More recently, the Southampton City Council Corporate Plan (2022-2030) sets a vision for a zero carbon city by 2035, so that the council can be part of the solution to tackling climate change.

This strategy and action plan is Southampton City Council's response to the climate emergency and provides the framework for the Council's actions to deliver net zero carbon. It builds upon the actions introduced in the Green City Plan 2030 and explores in more detail why tackling climate change is important; priorities requiring attention; the outcomes we want to achieve; and, the wider benefits on offer. Key projects and actions to achieve those outcomes are provided with timescales.

Originally named the 'Net Zero Strategy' when presented for public consultation in early 2023, the current title reflects the feedback received and the subsequent inclusion of climate adaptation and resilience measures and an action plan.

The current version has been developed following a thorough process of internal and external engagement to ensure our approach remains ambitious whilst also being achievable in its scale and scope, and strikes the right balance for SCC and those service areas who have more direct responsibility for delivering the actions.

<b>RECOMMENDATIONS:</b>
-------------------------

	(i)	That the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee reviews and provides feedback on the appended Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan prior to it being presented to Cabinet in November 2023 for adoption.
--	-----	---

<b>REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS</b>	
1.	To enable the Committee to scrutinise the Draft Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan prior to adoption.
<b>ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED</b>	
2.	Not applicable.
<b>DETAIL (Including consultation carried out)</b>	
3.	The scientific consensus is that human induced climate change has already started. Our world is warming causing more extreme weather events, and sea levels to rise. The consequences include increased flooding, more frequent and severe heat waves, water scarcity, more pollution, and loss of biodiversity. There will be a detrimental impact on people's lives including health, and damage to homes and businesses. Climate change is already having an impact, with parts of the UK reaching over 40°C in July 2022.
4.	To lead by example, and contribute to reducing emissions across the city, our Climate Change Strategy addresses our aim for the council to be net zero carbon by 2030 (across scope 1 and 2 emissions). Scope 3 emissions targets will be set when an adequate reporting method has been established.
5.	In order to take action to reduce emissions, we need to understand and measure where they come from in the first place. Scopes are the most widely used method of categorising an organisation's emissions. Scope 1 are direct emissions that the council controls, mainly from fossil fuel use such as for heating or our vehicles. Scope 2 are indirect emissions generated from producing the energy used in our buildings. This is mainly electricity use.
6.	Scope 3 are indirect emissions from sources the council uses but does not own or control, but can influence such as staff travel, all goods and services bought by the council, council building waste disposal and water. While the Council cannot directly control many sources of scope 3 emissions, it can influence them.
7.	We are a landlord for nearly 18,000 properties and while we are not in direct control of these emissions, we are responsible for them. The housing stock that we own and manage is a significant source of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions with an estimated 42,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide emitted per year.
8.	By improving insulation, making our stock more energy efficient and less reliant on fossil fuels, we can significantly reduce the emissions associated with essentials like heating and hot water, plus our tenants' energy bills will be reduced. Due to the timeframes surrounding repair and maintenance of our stock this is a longer-term target which is why we will be measuring and reporting on these emissions separately to this strategy.
9.	Some of what needs to be done will happen outside Southampton – for example through the ongoing decarbonisation of electricity or the development of electric vehicles. However, numerous options could also be adopted within Southampton to reduce energy use and carbon emissions in homes, buildings, transport and industry, therefore we are also addressing how we can influence and support wider change in the city outside the Council's direct control.

10.	<p>With all the above in mind, we have split out what we want to achieve into four goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Goal 1: Achieve net zero for the council's scope 1 and 2 emissions</li> <li>• Goal 2: Reduce the council's scope 3 emissions and establish a practical solution to achieving net zero</li> <li>• Goal 3: Social housing stock to be net zero by 2035</li> <li>• Goal 4: Apply authority and use influence to support the city in becoming net zero and climate ready by 2035.</li> </ul>
	<b>Delivering the Strategy</b>
11.	<p>We have previously reported emissions through the Carbon Reduction Commitment to the Environment Agency, but this reporting mechanism has been discontinued. We have developed a toolkit to capture our organisational emissions and going forward we will be using the toolkit which follows industry best practice, has a wider scope and is more comprehensive than its predecessor. The data reported in this strategy is from this toolkit and will offer SCC the opportunity to monitor its progress. We will publish our outputs and reporting methodology to ensure transparency.</p>
12.	<p>Calculating current emissions can be difficult. As part of this Strategy, the Council will need to refine and ensure accuracy in what we report. Accurate emission reporting is critical to measuring progress and understanding if we have been successful and our offsetting needs are accurate and valid.</p>
13.	<p>We are further along in some areas (measuring emissions from our council buildings) than others (our housing stock, which is based on modelling and assumptions). As we go forward, the data will change to reflect more and more accurate measurements as well as changes in the actual measurements.</p>
14.	<p>We have set 2019 as the baseline year for reporting emissions. This is to ascertain an accurate picture of pre-pandemic conditions as there were significant changes in travel and the use of buildings during the pandemic.</p>
15.	<p>Aligning with the Corporate Plan 2022/23, we have set a city-wide target to be net zero by 2035. Reducing city wide emissions can only be achieved in partnership with communities across the city. We are proposing to use a Climate Commission and Citizen's Assembly as tools to facilitate the level of engagement required to make this happen.</p>
	<b>Consultation</b>
16.	<p>From September to November 2022 the Draft Climate Change Strategy went through an internal consultation process. External consultation commenced in January 2023 and ran until the pre-election period, covering 10 weeks in total.</p>
17.	<p>The external consultation was supported by the Council's Data, Intelligence &amp; Insight Team and the Communications Team to ensure all stakeholders were made aware of the opportunity to comment on the draft strategy. 444 responses were received and analysed and fed into the final version. A document setting out the response to categorised comments is available.</p>
<b>RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS</b>	
<b><u>Capital/Revenue/Property/Other</u></b>	

18.	The Strategy does not establish any new financial commitments in relation to the actions that will subsequently need to be delivered. As part of the delivery process, those actions will be subject to the usual project management and decision-making process and include an assessment of costs and benefits. In many cases the measures being pursued promise to offer significant opportunities for both SCC and the city. For example, SCC has already been able to demonstrate that phase 1 of its corporate property decarbonisation scheme was able to reduce the annual energy bill by £329,000 whilst reducing our carbon emissions by 255 tonnes per year. Whilst estimates suggest that a citywide retrofit programme of buildings could reduce carbon emissions by 40% and reduce the city's total energy bill by £62M per year and create 744 employment years.
-----	---

### LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

#### Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:

19.	N/A
-----	-----

#### Other Legal Implications:

20.	Through the Climate Change Act 2008, the UK Government in June 2019 committed to a 100% reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 compared with 1990 levels. This is referred to as the net zero target.
-----	--

### RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

21.	The warming of our planet, which emissions are contributing towards, threatens our natural environment, human health and wellbeing. Reaching net zero will require commitment from across all departments of the council. We have introduced carbon literacy training so that all staff can understand why and how we can achieve this and are working on integrating climate change into the decision-making process. Individual departments will need to set out more detailed plans on how they will achieve this e.g. a detailed retrofit strategy for SCC housing stock.
-----	---

### POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS

22.	The Council have made a public commitment to reduce emissions by 2030. The Corporate Plan 2022/30 sets a further ambition for Southampton to be a Zero Carbon City by 2035. The Green City Plan describes how we will deliver our environmental commitments, including reaching net zero emissions by 2030 across council buildings and operations. The Strategy and Action Plan will assist with delivery of the Corporate Plan 2022/30 and satisfy actions identified in the Green City Plan. They will form part of an integrated policy framework that will ultimately replace the Green City Plan and ensure that the council is able to demonstrate an ongoing commitment to address the challenges of climate change and ecological decline by creating a cleaner, greener, healthier and more sustainable city.
-----	---

<b>KEY DECISION?</b>	No
<b>WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:</b>	ALL
<u>SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION</u>	
<b>Appendices</b>	

1.	Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan
----	---

**Documents In Members' Rooms**

1.	N/A
----	-----

**Equality Impact Assessment**

Do the implications/subject of the report require an Equality and Safety Impact Assessment (ESIA) to be carried out?	Yes
--	-----

**Data Protection Impact Assessment**

Do the implications/subject of the report require a Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) to be carried out?	No
---	----

**Other Background Documents**

**Other Background documents available for inspection at: N/A**

<b>Title of Background Paper(s)</b>	
-------------------------------------	--

1.	N/A
----	-----