

Equality and Safety Impact Assessment

The **Public Sector Equality Duty** (Section 149 of the Equality Act) requires public bodies to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations between different people carrying out their activities.

The Equality Duty supports good decision making – it encourages public bodies to be more efficient and effective by understanding how different people will be affected by their activities, so that their policies and services are appropriate and accessible to all and meet different people’s needs. The Council’s Equality and Safety Impact Assessment (ESIA) includes an assessment of the community safety impact assessment to comply with Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act and will enable the Council to better understand the potential impact of proposals and consider mitigating action.

Name or Brief Description of Proposal	Southampton City Council Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan. (formerly Net Zero Strategy)
Brief Service Profile (including number of customers)	
<p>This strategy is Southampton City Council’s response to the climate emergency and provides the framework for actions to deliver net zero carbon.</p> <p>The strategy explores why net zero carbon is important; the principles for achieving net zero; what needs to be considered to achieve that goal; if net zero is reached what it will achieve; and finally highlight key timescales and projects for delivery. It will be accompanied by an action plan which will provide more detail and assign actions to lead officers or teams and will be reviewed on an annual basis, whilst the overarching strategy itself will be reviewed every three years.</p> <p>Net zero means reducing emissions as close to zero as possible and to balance any remaining emissions by removing them from the atmosphere. The term net zero is important because this is the state at which global warming stops. Our world is warming causing more extreme weather events, and sea level rise. The scientific consensus is that human induced climate change has already started. The further warming of the atmosphere threatens our planet including our natural environment, but also human health and wellbeing.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Southampton is a bustling multi-cultural city with a growing prosperous economy and population. With continually evolving attractive investment opportunities bringing more people and businesses into the region, it is essential that social, economic, and environmental sustainability (sustainable development) is not lost for the sake of</p>	

economic growth without the consideration of climate risk and sustainable processes, such as the circular economy.

Summary of Impact and Issues

The council has identified four goals to achieve net zero:

- Goal 1: achieve net zero for the council's scope 1 and 2 emissions
- Goal 2: reduce the council's scope 3 emissions and establish a practical solution to achieving net zero
- Goal 3: social housing stock to be net zero by 2035
- Goal 4: apply authority and use influence to support the city in becoming net zero by 2035

The costs and impacts of a failure to do anything in the face of climate change will be significant, and the primary role of the strategy is to mitigate these impacts by taking action. There will be many positive co-benefits from the Strategy such as better air quality, improved wellbeing, and more accessible, liveable communities.

The Strategy will affect the way that most council services operate, given the wide ranging services which may affect, and be affected by climate change. There may be impacts on the way people need to behave, so more inclusive participation is important. There will also be changes to planning and city infrastructure and technologies and any impacts of these on different groups of people.

Although this is a high-level strategy, individual projects arising from the Strategy may have unintended consequences. We have tried to future proof the strategy by being mindful of what this impacts may be, however individual projects will also require assessment of impacts.

Potential Positive Impacts

Net zero will have many environmental, social, and economic benefits such as job creation, equity and social cohesion, health and wellbeing, resilience, and citizen engagement. Without the commitment toward net zero and the pledge to strive toward clean economic growth, not only will Southampton struggle to deliver the net zero goal; climate adverse events will arrive without the preparedness and resilience that is needed to prevent localised climate catastrophe.

Responsible Service Manager	Steve Guppy
Date	12/06/23
Approved by Senior Manager	Ian Collins
Date	12/06/23

Potential Impact

Impact Assessment	Details of Impact	Possible Solutions & Mitigating Actions
Age	<p>The impacts of climate change and extreme weather events can have a disproportionate effect on more vulnerable groups such as the old, young and disabled and this will require specific attention when delivering actions described in the Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan.</p>	<p>Ensure the proposed Climate Change Risk and Vulnerability Assessment accounts for impacts on all recognised groups that might be disproportionately affected including the old, young and disabled.</p>
	<p>There is some concern that seeking more liveable cities and localised services will have an isolating effect for older age groups.</p>	<p>We have clarified in the final version of the strategy what we mean by liveable cities. They are intended to make services more accessible and sustainable.</p>
Disability	<p>The impacts of climate change and extreme weather events can have a disproportionate effect on more vulnerable groups such as the old, young and disabled and this will require specific attention when delivering actions described in the Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan.</p>	<p>Ensure the proposed Climate Change Risk and Vulnerability Assessment accounts for impacts on all recognised groups that might be disproportionately affected including the old, young and disabled.</p>
	<p>There may be concern that encouraging more sustainable modes of travel will not be suitable for all people with mobility issues.</p>	<p>We have clarified in the final strategy that whilst sustainable modes of travel are being encouraged and made more accessible, that there be individuals or instances where individual car use will be necessary and this is acceptable.</p>
Gender Reassignment	<p>No impact identified.</p>	
Marriage and Civil Partnership	<p>No impact identified.</p>	
Pregnancy and Maternity	<p>No impact identified.</p>	

Race	There is a need to ensure that the strategy is inclusive and considers the needs of different community groups.	Southampton Citizen's Climate Assembly will look to engage with a wide range of community groups in order to understand their needs and how to best communicate climate change to these groups. Findings of the Assembly will feed into the specific actions we need to take in order to meet the goals of the Climate Change Strategy.
Religion or Belief	There is a need to ensure that the strategy is inclusive and considers the needs of different community groups.	Southampton Citizen's Climate Assembly will look to engage with a wide range of community groups in order to understand their needs and how to best communicate climate change to these groups. Findings of the Assembly will feed into the specific actions we need to take in order to meet the goals of the Climate Change Strategy.
Sex	No impact identified.	
Sexual Orientation	No impact identified.	
Community Safety	No impact identified.	
Poverty	Whilst the strategy places no requirements on homeowners, low income households may struggle with the costs of energy efficiency and decarbonisation measures in their properties (and vehicles)	Pursue funding to offer local homeowners, low-income households and the fuel poor with financial support to retrofit energy efficiency and decarbonisation measures in their property.

<p>Health & Wellbeing</p>	<p>Improvements in public health will be delivered as co-benefits of many of the actions detailed in the strategy, including more active travel and more green space.</p> <p>We will work more closely with Health colleagues to ensure integrated strategies which enhance health and wellbeing through improving opportunities for exercise, improving air quality and improving green spaces for mental wellbeing.</p>	
<p>Other Significant Impacts</p>	<p>A detailed retrofit strategy for SCC housing stock will be developed to prioritise properties and measures to identify the best opportunities and timescales. This will impact tenants and there may be concern around disruption caused as a result of the retrofit.</p> <p>We propose to adopt zero carbon technologies in SCC housing stock that will be phased in where there are appropriate opportunities, with a need to identify a target date for no new gas installations. This will impact tenants and there may be concern around disruption.</p> <p>We propose to explore and determine a model for solar electricity generation and how this works for tenants. This will impact tenants and there may be concern around disruption.</p>	<p>The council will engage with tenants to agree on the new approach and offer guidance on using new systems.</p>