

Member Report

Climate Change Strategy



Report to: Cabinet
Report from: Executive Director for Growth, Enterprise and Environment
Portfolio: All
Report Date: 17th September 2024
Decision Type: Executive
Council Priority: Clean and tidy

HEADLINE POSITION

1.0 Summary of report

1.1 The proposed Climate Change strategy documents which is appended to this report is one of a series of high-level strategies that will support the council in delivering its corporate plan priorities, in particular Clean and tidy.

2.1 Recommendation

2.1 That Cabinet agree the following documents Climate Change Strategy.

DETAILED PROPOSALS

3.0 What are the objectives of the report and how do they link to the Council's priorities

3.1 The Organisational Plan which was agreed by Cabinet in March 2024 sets out the Council's approach to delivering upon the priorities set out within the Corporate Plan, which are:

- Start life well
- Live and age well
- Prosper and flourish
- Clean and tidy
- Strong and sustainable.

3.2 The approach being to develop a suite of key strategy documents, twenty in total, which set the strategic imperative and parameters of council operations. Each strategy document will be underpinned by a plan of how it will be delivered as well as suite of performance measures. Subject to their approval, elected members will own and oversee the delivery of the strategies, with regular update reports provided.

3.3 It is important to recognise that the suite of strategies are interdependent, whilst this strategy focuses on climate the work done here will impact and influence outcomes elsewhere. Equally, the work done within other areas of the organisation will shape

the outcomes for children or impact adults. It is fundamentally important to recognise that each of these strategies must align with the Finance Strategy, both in terms of realistic levels of ambition but also strive to improve outcomes whilst saving money where possible.

- 3.4 **Climate Change Strategy**– the Council’s first [Climate Change Strategy](#) was agreed in March 2021. This strategy builds on the work done to date setting out how the authority will strive to deliver its climate change objectives over the coming years. This will involve close alignment with operational services, staff and residents, working together to improve the local environment. It is the ambition that climate is embedded in local authority decision-making, with decisions on procurement, budget, and service-delivery cognisant of environmental impact.

4.0 What options have been considered

- 4.1 In agreeing the Organisational Plan members determined the approach to be taken to delivering upon Corporate Plan objectives. This strategy is a product of that approach, focussing on climate change, as such there were no further options to consider.

5.0 Impact Assessment

- 5.1 Climate Emergency** – this strategy articulates the council’s climate change priorities as such it will seek to positively impact the borough’s environment. .
- 5.2 Health and Safety** – health and safety is a vital element of council operations, this includes in the areas covered by the strategies presented for agreement.
- 5.3 Social Value** – the suite of strategies included in the Organisational Plan cover the key elements of council business, which collectively contribute significant social value in service delivery, commissioning and procurement.
- 5.4 Legal** – there are no direct legal implications to this strategy.
- 5.5 Financial** – there are no direct financial implications to this strategy, in delivering the strategy the council will seek to positively impact the budget position through reducing the council’s energy consumption.
- 5.6 Human Resources** – at this stage there is no direct Human Resource impact to the strategy documents.
- 5.7 Equality and Diversity** – a key aspect of delivering services to residents of the borough is recognising diverse needs and responding accordingly. This will be a relevant consideration in the delivery of this strategy.

6.0 Implementation Plan

- 6.1 Timetable for Implementing Decision:** the climate strategy and the delivery of the associated action plan will commence immediately upon agreement.

6.2 Lead Officer: Assistant Director, Environment, Sustainability and Culture

6.3 Reporting Progress – progress reports will be provided to elected members in line with the quarterly performance reporting arrangements

6.4 Communications Plan - individual elements of this strategy will be communicated as necessary on an ongoing basis.

7.0 Consultation and Engagement

7.1 In delivering upon the strategy the Council will engage with residents and partners. In a number of instances the subject matters covered within the strategies are well known and have been the subject of extensive consultation and engagement over recent years.

8.0 Appendices and Background Papers

8.1 Appendix 1 – Climate Change Strategy

9.0 Contact Officer

9.1 Name: Michael Lyth

9.2 Position Head of Strategic Policy, Performance and Improvement.

9.3 Email address Michael.lyth@redcar-cleveland.gov.uk

9.4 Telephone Number 01642 774774



Climate Change Strategy

Strategy Aims:

- The Council will achieve sustainable carbon neutrality by 2030.
- The Council will understand present and future climate change risks for the borough and identify appropriate measures to support our communities to mitigate and adapt to the impact of climate change.
- The Council will take action to support nature recovery, ensuring that it delivers against its biodiversity duty under the Environment Act 2021.

Lead Member: Carrie Richardson

Officer leading on delivery: Chris Moon

Alignment with Council Priorities

Start Life Well	Live and Age Well	Prosper and Flourish	Clean and Tidy	A strong and sustainable Council
<p>Improving community green spaces and access to nature through nature recovery projects and nature-based climate adaptation will support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • mental and physical wellbeing. • active, healthy lifestyles • provision of leisure, recreation and learning opportunities. • social inclusion and community cohesion. • urban cooling, improved air quality, and flood risk mitigation. • community resilience and a just transition for vulnerable groups, including children. 	<p>Improving community green spaces and access to nature through nature recovery projects and nature-based climate adaptation will support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • mental and physical wellbeing. • active, healthy lifestyles. • provision of leisure, culture and recreation opportunities. • social inclusion and community cohesion. • urban cooling, improved air quality, and flood risk mitigation. • community resilience and a just transition for vulnerable groups, including older people and those with health conditions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental improvements will enhance the amenity value of our communities, encouraging new businesses to the area and making the borough an attractive place to live, work and visit. • Developing green infrastructure and sustainable transport will boost employment, leisure, and tourism opportunities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decarbonising assets and operations, minimises the Council's environmental impact. • Supporting nature recovery helps safeguard our environment for future generations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reducing energy consumption through decarbonisation projects lowers Council expenditure. Such projects significantly buffered the Council from the impact of soaring energy costs during the energy crisis. • In addition to bidding for external funding to deliver decarbonisation projects, further steps will be taken to secure private investment in projects, where appropriate and seek opportunities to generate income. • Investment in reducing the Council's carbon emissions as much as possible through decarbonisation and natural carbon sequestration, will help the budget by minimising the amount of carbon that the Council will need to pay to offset to achieve sustainable carbon neutrality by 2030. • Understanding current and future climate risks and investing in adaptation measures, will safeguard Council budgets in the longer-term from high capital investment in engineered solutions and associated maintenance costs, and the risk of unpredictable budget pressures arising from the impact of climate change.

Principles

Principle 1	Principle 2	Principle 3	Principle 4
A cleaner, greener organisation	Collective responsibility	Nature recovery	Be involved in the bigger picture

		Actions		
Principles	Actions and Timescales	Survive: Years 1 -2 – Quarter to be delivered: 2024/25, 2025/26	Strive – Years: 3 - 5	Thrive: Years 6 - 10
Principle 1 – A Cleaner, Greener Organisation				
P1/A1	Deliver programme of solar PV installation projects to Council buildings	Seafield House 2024/25 Q2 Fairway House 2024/25 Q2 Guisborough Branch Walkway 2024/25 Q2 Guisborough Library 2025/26 Q2	South Bank Family Hub 2026/27 Q2 Fairway House Depot 2027/28 Q2 I2L 2027/28 Q2 Meadowgate Care Home 2027/28 Q2	To be developed in-line with asset strategy
P1/A2	Deliver programme to increase public EV charging infrastructure rollout across the borough	2024/5 Q4 20 additional chargers Combination of TVCA, ORCS funded and concessionary models 2025/6 Q4 40 additional chargers Combination of TVCA and RCBC concessionary models	2026-2028 70 additional chargers Combination of TVCA and concessionary models	2029 Onwards Based upon EV vehicle adoption
P1/A3	Ongoing decarbonisation of Council Fleet	2024/5 Q3 Pilot Solar PV Mats on RCVs 2024/5 Q4 Add hydrogen 3.5t Truck to Fleet Investigate expanding use of HVO	Assess pilot projects, any new technology and funding landscape to determine future project scoping.	Assess pilot projects, any new technology and funding landscape to determine future project scoping.
P1/A4	Implement new carbon management software for more detailed understanding and tracking of RCBC carbon emissions	2024/5 Q4 Reproduce 2023/4 carbon emissions calculations in new carbon management software 2025/6 Q2 Carbon emissions calculations utilising new carbon reporting software	Support SMEs to assess and report carbon emissions within RCBC software platform	Using the data captured to develop action plan to reduce RCBC scope 3 emissions.
Principle 2 – Collective Responsibility				
P2/A1	Delivery of Carbon Literacy training for elected members and senior officers	2025/26 Q2	N/A	N/A
P2/A2	Increase the number of SLAs (service level agreement) in place with schools and external bodies for energy management services.	2024/5 Ongoing	Minimum maintain existing clients and capitalise on opportunities to engage new clients.	Minimum maintain existing clients and capitalise on opportunities to engage new clients.
P2/A3	Increase the number of DECAs (Display Energy Certificate) undertaken on behalf of external customers.	2024/5 Ongoing	Minimum maintain existing clients and capitalise on opportunities to engage new clients.	Minimum maintain existing clients and capitalise on opportunities to engage new clients.
Principle 3 – Nature Recovery				
P3/A1	Increase the number of community and school orchards across the borough	2025/26 Q4	2028/29 Q4	2034/35 Q4
Principle 4 – Be Involved in the Bigger Picture				
P4/A1	Launch Climate Champions within the council and schools.	2024/25 Q3 Council launch 2025/26 Q3 School launch	N/A	N/A

Measures of Success	Performance indicator/outcome	Outturn position 2023/24	Survive – Years 1-2	Strive – Years: 3 - 5	Thrive: Years 6 - 10
Performance measure					

Measures of Success	Performance indicator/outcome	Outturn position 2023/24	Survive – Years 1-2	Strive – Years: 3 - 5	Thrive: Years 6 - 10
P1/A2	Number of public EV chargers in the borough	56 public EV Chargers	2024/5 76 public EV Chargers (in total) 2025/6 116 public EV Chargers (in total)	2028/29 Q4 186 public EV chargers (in total)	Increase number of chargers in-line with demand – subject to public EV adoption.
P1/A1	Value of annual reductions in Council energy consumption from the grid	7,820,866 kWh	2024/5 20,777 kWh reduction/£5,194 reduction 2025/6 62,330 kWh reduction/£15,583 ongoing (5% depreciation) Seafield House 2024/25 Q2 21,916 kWh/£5,479* Fairway House 2024/25 Q2 11,739 kWh/£2,935* Guisborough Branch Walkway 2024/25 Q2 12,474 kWh/£3,119* Guisborough Library 2025/26 Q2 16,201 kWh/£4,050* *Based on 25p per kWh rate	Determined by projects approved	Determined by projects approved
P1/A1, P1/A3	Annual reduction in Greenhouse Gas emissions in line with target to be carbon neutral by 2030	5,333 tCO ₂ e	2024/5 10% reduction 2025/6 10% reduction	Determined by projects approved	Determined by projects approved
P3/A3	Published biodiversity duty report evidencing actions taken to comply with the biodiversity duty	First report required 1 January 2026.	Biodiversity Duty Report published by 1 January 2026	Biodiversity Duty reports published in-line with statutory timescales	Biodiversity Duty reports published in-line with statutory timescales
P1 A4	Implementation of new carbon management system	LGA Spreadsheet	2024/5 Creation of 2023/4 baseline in carbon management system 2025/6 Emissions for 2024/5 presented in new system	2027/28 Q4 – 50 SMEs supported 2028/29 Q4 – 50 SMEs supported	2029/30 – 50 SMEs supported 2030/31 – 50 SMEs supported 2031/32 – 50 SMEs supported 2032 – 2035 – development and delivery of initial action plan to reduce scope 3 emissions
P2/A2	Number of SLAs (service level agreement) in place with schools and external bodies for energy management services.	41 school 20 non-school	2024/25 Q4 – 46 school, 25 non-school (in total) 2025/26 Q4 – 51 school, 30 non-school (in total)	Minimum maintain existing clients and capitalise on opportunities to engage new clients. Determined by resource capacity in team to take on additional work and the nature of the market.	Minimum maintain existing clients and capitalise on opportunities to engage new clients. Determined by resource capacity in team to take on additional work and the nature of the market.
P2/A3	Number of DEC's undertaken for external customers	88	2024/25 Q4 – 100 (in total) 2025/26 Q4 – 120 (in total)	Minimum maintain existing clients and capitalise on opportunities to engage new clients. Determined by resource capacity in team to take on additional work and the nature of the market.	Minimum maintain existing clients and capitalise on opportunities to engage new clients. Determined by resource capacity in team to take on additional work and the nature of the market.
P2/A4	Number of schools actively engaged with the Council on carbon reduction, nature recovery, and environmental sustainability.	5	2024/25 Q4 15 schools (in total) 2025/26 Q4 25 schools (in total)	Minimum maintain existing relationships, with a view to expanding. Determined by resource capacity in team.	Minimum maintain existing relationships, with a view to expanding. Determined by resource capacity in team.
P2/A5	Number of BBB articles	Ad Hoc	Minimum 8 articles per annum	Maintain	Maintain