

BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

This matter is not a Key Decision within the Council's definition and has not been included in the relevant Forward Plan.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PLACE

Sustainable Energy Action Plan (SEAP) Zero Carbon Engagement, Governance and Delivery Proposals

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT:

- 1.1 This report seeks approval of the Council's Sustainable Energy Action Plan (SEAP) and sets out the approach to developing measures to deliver the council's net Zero Carbon objectives. In order to deliver these objectives it will be necessary to develop a suitable engagement framework, establish a 'road map' setting out how we get from where we are to where we need to be, the proposed governance arrangements, the thematic aims we will need to develop, and the performance framework we will need to put in place.
- 1.2 The COVID-19 pandemic has had tragic consequences for many of Barnsley's residents and this has challenged people's values. It is important that we engage now with our residents regarding how we reduce carbon in order to produce a better more sustainable and inclusive future. It will be necessary to identify the links to Barnsley 2030, Inclusive Economy and the Recovery and renewal Strategy, and link into the Sheffield City Region Mayoral Economic Plan.
- 1.3 The recommendations set out in Section 2 seek approval of the SEAP and to the specific measures that need to be put in place.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

It is recommended that Cabinet:

- 2.1 Approve the council's Sustainable Energy Action Plan.
- 2.2 Support the plan to procure and appoint one or more organisations to support Barnsley Council officers with strategic expertise to develop a specialist engagement framework and a 'road map' to show how we achieve net zero carbon and to develop a framework to measure performance.
- 2.3 Agree to the proposed governance structure which includes the establishment of an externally focussed partnership, and an internally focused group which will both report into the emerging Barnsley 2030 Board arrangements.
- 2.4 Agree that the council demonstrates civic leadership in order to increase carbon awareness by ensuring governance arrangements adequately identify and assess carbon impacts of our future activities.

- 2.5 Agree that the zero carbon targets set by Cabinet in September 2019 be redefined as net zero targets aligning us with government ambitions.

3. INTRODUCTION:

- 3.1 In September 2019, the council declared a Climate Emergency and set a target for the council to be zero carbon in its operations by 2040 and for the borough to be zero carbon by 2045. This was a response to growing concern about an imminent climate crisis, as set out in the IPCC Report that said the global rise in temperature needed to be contained to 1.5c above preindustrial levels, and government setting a target of zero carbon by 2050.
- 3.2 Since the council's Climate Emergency declaration the COVID-19 pandemic has interrupted the original implementation plan making it difficult to move forward. With a clear Recovery and Renewal strategy in place at both a council and City Region level, and services returning to new normalities, we can begin to recover this area alongside the current work to deliver our Barnsley 2030 plans and our work on the Inclusive Economy Strategy.
- 3.4 A reflection of the current position across key sectors:
- 3.5 **Transportation:** A third of all the borough's carbon emissions are the result of transportation. Lockdown has made people operate in different ways; the number of vehicles on the roads has reduced significantly and the number of people cycling, or walking has increased. This has resulted in lower carbon emissions and has also shown that by reducing vehicle journeys it is possible to reduce pollution increase physical activity and create a more welcoming urban environment.
- 3.6 Clearly the gains that have been made are to a large degree the result of lockdown and the prohibition on all but essential travel, however it would be wrong to accept that we should return to the pre-pandemic situation. The government has made limited funding available during the pandemic to support active travel and this suggests a change of priority that the council can benefit from in the future.
- 3.7 **Residential:** A further third of all emissions are the result of heating and lighting from residential properties. If government are to meet their 2050 net zero carbon target, they know that measures need to be introduced to retrofit existing housing stock. It is likely that significant funding will be made available to support a national programme of domestic refit and Barnsley already has a strong track record of realising opportunities in this area through the Better Homes Barnsley programme.

Recent announcements suggest that this funding will be made available through the North East Yorkshire and the Humber Energy Hub in the form of Housing Upgrade Grant (HUG). This new funding will offer significant opportunities to Barnsley by providing skilled secure jobs in construction and manufacturing. It has been clearly established that by improving housing conditions, a range of positive benefits can be achieved in relation to health, educational achievement, employment and general wellbeing. Without good quality housing we risk undermining the work being undertaken across the council to improve the life chances of all our citizens.

3.8 **Industrial:** Industry is responsible for a further third of the borough's emissions. There will be a role for the council, to assist businesses in developing more sustainable operating models, by for example the provision of new low carbon district heating and cooling infrastructure, and advice in relation to improved efficiency of buildings and operating processes. This support can be provided by working with national and regional government and through the council's existing business support mechanisms. The effect of COVID-19 is currently unknown and further work will look at this sector, albeit many cities across the UK are reviewing the need for large industrial assets, particularly in the service sector.

4. PROPOSALS:

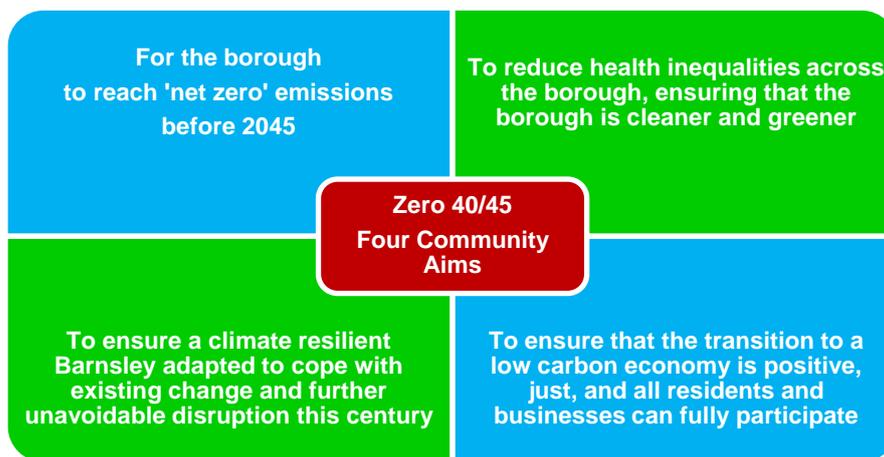
4.1 Sustainable Energy Action Plan

4.1.1 The aim is to develop a reduction pathway which aims to deliver significant reduction in carbon emissions through to 2030. This will give the council the best opportunity to bring forward being zero carbon to 2035. It sets for the period 2020-2025 a reduction of 60 per cent in emissions from the 2019 baseline. (Full draft plan Appendix A)

4.1.2 The SEAP proposes that zero carbon becomes a Foundation for Change for the Council and makes links to the [UN's 17 sustainable development goals](#), pictured below.



These UN Goals will inform the delivery of **four** Zero Carbon **Community Aims**; these are detailed over the page and aim to deliver a healthier and greener borough.



4.1.2 Community Goals will be delivered by focusing on delivering projects based on the following **Five Themes**

1. **Energy Efficiency:** To reduce the overall demand for energy in Barnsley across residential, commercial and industrial sectors and improve public health outcomes.
2. **Renewable energy:** To generate and/or source local energy needs from zero carbon and renewable sources by around 2045.
3. **Sustainable Transport:** A complete transition to fossil fuel free local travel by around 2030.
4. **Resource Efficiency:** Use resources; materials, land and food in a sustainable way.
5. **Decentralised Heating:** In order to provide local resilience and empower communities too heat and light homes through local zero or low carbon generation rather than by centralised natural gas supply.

4.2 Engagement Framework

- 4.2.1 It is important that the council engages with all communities across the borough in order that citizens can take an active part in deciding their future. We have looked to learn from the success in using external support to develop the Barnsley 2030 plan and at other cities that have positively engaged around carbon with their residents and businesses. Therefore, the intention is to utilise available funding for this third party engagement support.
- 4.2.2 Because of the complex nature of achieving carbon reductions the intention is to appoint a suitably experienced organisation or organisations to develop an engagement plan and a carbon reduction 'road map'.
- 4.2.3 Four different groups can be identified when designing a consultation approach for carbon reduction; broadly these are the general public, council staff, senior managers and politicians and communities. Within these broad groupings specific programmes will be developed for young people via the Youth Council, colleges of further education and Area Councils. Different approaches will be required for each group; and consultation will involve the use of workshops (especially via the Area Councils

and their membership), carbon literacy training and use of the council's POD training application.

- 4.2.4 To oversee the programmes a restructure of the existing energy team will be required. It is anticipated that this will require additional project management resources. This will be contained within the existing service budget.

4.3 Governance and Delivery

- 4.3.1 We will look to build on the proposed governance arrangements for Barnsley 2030. The intention will be to establish two separate bodies to oversee the delivery of the SEAP. Carbon reduction is explicit in everything we do, so the overriding aim will be to use all existing boards wherever possible to bring focus to achieving our goals.
- 4.3.2 We propose a newly formed Positive Climate Partnership for the Zero 45 programme, and that we restore the existing Carbon Management Group for the Zero 40 programme. Other boards including the existing Health and Wellbeing Board will report on various carbon related health issues.
- 4.3.3 The Positive Climate Partnership will champion and co-ordinate local action on climate change. It will be supported by, but independent of, the council. The council will seek partnership from a range of community voluntary statutory and business groups.

It is anticipated that the emerging Barnsley 2030 Board in terms of Zero Carbon will:

- Act as the main board overseeing the delivery of zero carbon.
- Oversee a number of subgroups that will address the various carbon reduction, health and inclusive economy themes set out in the SEAP.

(The draft terms of reference for each group can be found at the end of Appendix 1 Draft SEAP)

- 4.3.4 Zero 40 and the emissions reduction pathway will adopt a 'One Council' approach, though ownership of the council's emissions will sit with individual directorates commensurate with the control they have over relevant revenue and capital budgets. Overall control and direction sit with the carbon management group. Each Directorate will receive individual greenhouse gas reports linked to the overall reduction target for the council. It will be the responsibility of the directorates to determine how to achieve the necessary savings using existing budgets and promoting behavioural change. Where this is not possible the directorate will look to secure additional funding either internally or from external sources. Where possible carbon emission targets will be achieved by integration into existing schemes rather than by new programmes, it is felt that this will deliver greater value to the council.
- 4.3.5 Each carbon 'owner' will be required to assess the carbon impact of future projects to ensure that the premise of 'Do No Harm' is embedded as part of the council's business as usual approach. The council's governance structures will be updated to enable this assessment to take place.

4.3.6 In order to drive performance it will be necessary to develop and agree a suite of Corporate and Operational KPIs to monitor and measure success. Discussions have already been initiated with Business Intelligence to set and agree these KPIs

4.4 Demonstrating Civic Leadership

4.4.1 In order to demonstrate civic leadership it is proposed that carbon impacts and mitigations are identified and assessed in all cabinet reports. There is a need to improve carbon literacy and for carbon to become embedded in all considerations and decisions the council makes. Discussions have already commenced with corporate governance to establish how this can be achieved.

4.4.2 To develop carbon literacy skills an assessment of what our current state across the organisation will be undertaken as part of the engagement work. It is anticipated that there will be a 'tool kit' developed thereafter.

4.5 Net Zero Targets

4.5.1 The zero-carbon target contained in the council's Climate Emergency declaration was based on the existing Council Energy Strategy 2015-2025 that set a target for the council achieving zero carbon by 2045. We are aligning our vision and plans with government strategy which centres on the adoption of a net zero carbon position for our 2040/2045 targets. This means that carbon will be reduced as far as possible with any remaining carbon being offset.

5. CONSIDERATION OF ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES:

5.1 It is essential that the council put in place engagement and governance structures to deliver the carbon reductions that were set by the council when a Climate Emergency was declared in September 2019. If no action were taken, then the council would fail to deliver on its commitments and risk adverse impacts in relation to the climate and wider employment and health outcomes.

6. IMPLICATIONS FOR LOCAL PEOPLE/SERVICE USERS:

6.1 No direct impact in terms of the measures proposed, however if action is not taken there will be impacts in relation health wellbeing and prosperity of local people.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

7.1 Consultations have taken place with representatives of the Service Director – Finance (S151 Officer).

7.2 The costs of developing an engagement framework and a 'road map' to show how we achieve net zero carbon and to develop a framework to measure performance are estimated to total in region of £85,000.

7.3 In addition it is proposed to seek to create recruit two new additional Project Officers to the Sustainability and Climate Change Team to support the implementation of the Sustainable Energy Action Plan and work with services to help embed carbon reduction in the culture of the council. It is estimated that these two posts will cost in

the region of £100,000 (subject to job evaluation).

- 7.4 The above costs will be funded from the Zero 40 Feasibility resources set aside as part of the 2020/21 budget setting process.
- 7.5 In addition to the above, there may be further costs that need to be considered in order to introduce measures to reduce carbon emissions. These costs will need to be considered in due course as schemes or projects come forward for consideration against other council priorities.
- 7.6 The financial implications are contained with Appendix A to this report.

8. EMPLOYEE IMPLICATIONS:

- 8.1 There are no direct employee implications from the proposals.

9. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS:

- 9.1 There are no legal implications from the proposals.

10. CUSTOMER AND DIGITAL IMPLICATIONS:

- 10.1 There are no direct customer and digital implications as a result of this report.

11. COMMUNICATION IMPLICATIONS:

- 11.1 A programme of extensive consultation will be put in place through the engagement proposals set out in the report.

12. APPENDICES

Appendix A: Financial Implications

Appendix 1: Barnsley Metropolitan Council Sustainable Energy Action Plan (SEAP)

Appendix 2: Terms of Reference for Positive Climate Partnership and Climate Management Group