

Report For:	Executive	Item No: 11
Date:	13 January 2020	
Report Of:	Corporate Director, Place and Infrastructure	
Report Author:	Laura Church	

Subject:	Climate Change Action Plan	
Lead Executive Member(s):	Cllr. Tom Shaw	
Wards Affected:	All	
Consultations:	Councillors <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Scrutiny <input type="checkbox"/> Stakeholders <input type="checkbox"/> Others <input type="checkbox"/>	

Recommendations

1. Executive are asked to:
 - (i) Endorse a letter to the Prime Minister setting out the Council's concern that local authorities need urgent support on changes to legislation, policy and funding to ensure that local action on Climate Change can be effective;
 - (ii) Following the review of the data, Declare a Climate Change Emergency in Luton and support the setting of 2040 as a target for Luton to reach net zero carbon.
 - (iii) Receive the draft Anthesis report which sets the current carbon budget for Luton and outlines some key issues that need to be addressed for Luton in order to reach a net zero carbon budget by 2040;
 - (iv) Instruct the Corporate Director, Place and Infrastructure to continue work with LLAL and LLAOL in working towards the net zero carbon by 2040.
 - (v) Instruct the Corporate Director, Place and Infrastructure and Corporate Director, Public Health and Well-being to bring forward proposals on air quality.
 - (vi) Recognise the small direct proportion of the Luton carbon budget that is attributable to the activities of Luton Council and to endorse the Action Plan set out at Appendix B.
 - (vii) Support the revised timeline for developing the Luton wide Action Plan based on the engagement strategy set out in paragraph 25.
 - (viii) Support the approach of establishing a Citizens Assembly on Climate Change as a follow on to the budget consultation.
 - (ix) Instruct the Corporate Director, Place and Infrastructure to bring back proposals for a Climate Change team to lead and drive this agenda for Luton.

Background

2. Executive agreed an ambitious timeline for developing a response to Climate Change for Luton and established an Executive Working Group of Members to drive this work. An

update report was considered on 14 Oct 2019, which included the appointment of specialists to advise and support the Council.

3. The timeline agreed for a net zero carbon target date for Luton to be agreed by the Executive in January 2020 and endorsed by Full Council. The target date proposed would have been considered by a Citizens Assembly.

The Current Position

4. The announcement of the General Election has had an impact on the engagement of citizen's in setting the target date for net zero carbon for Luton and on actions around decarbonisation. Work commissioned by Anthesis has continued and the current draft document is attached as Appendix A.
5. The development of the approach to decarbonisation for Luton has also been undertaken in the context of the Development Consent Order consultation for growth of the airport being undertaken by LLAL. Aviation and shipping emissions are dealt with at a UK level rather than related to individual airports. However, given the Council's ownership of London Luton Airport Ltd the Executive Working Group have asked the consultants to look more in detail at the emissions related to the airport. Both LLAL and LLAOL are committed to this work but it has not yet been completed.
6. The report highlights that the key areas of emission for Luton are:
 - Domestic building (39%)
 - Commercial buildings (30%)
 - Transport (32%)¹

The report also highlights a hierarchy of influence that the Council has of:

- Direct Control – Our buildings
 - Strong influence – Procurement of goods and services
 - Weaker influence – Behaviours and actions of residents
 - Concern – other companies operations within our boundaries
7. Following the General Election it is anticipated that the Government will re-establish the Department for Energy and Climate Change and which will assist in driving this agenda. At the time of writing this report this has not been confirmed. It has also impacted on the timescale of the Environment Bill which would have set some of the national policy context on climate change.
 8. The original report to Executive highlighted some of the work in Manchester on Climate Change. Since that time Oxford has progressed its Citizens Assembly work which has also been considered by the Cabinet and assisted in its thinking.

¹ BEIS sector inventory for direct and indirect emissions within Luton 2017

Goals and Objectives

9. Given the impact of the General Election on the overall programme of wider engagement the overall objectives are to:
- Ensure that the Council is playing a strong leadership role on Climate Change in Luton which is also open and transparent about its role as the owner of London Luton Airport Ltd.
 - Ensure that Luton Council is leading by example in decarbonising its own activities and championing biodiversity.
 - Ensure that a cross section of the community are engaged in developing Luton's plan on Climate Change;
 - Develop strong relationships with businesses.

Proposal

10. The proposal is that Luton sets a net zero target year of 2040. This follows the scientific recommendation of the Tyndall Centre and also aligns with 2040 date agreed by Executive for work on anti-poverty. In order to achieve this there will need to be action in 4 key areas:
- Lobbying to ensure that there is sufficient support from Central Government on Climate Change.
 - Setting action by Luton Council on Climate Change.
 - Community engagement and developing the Climate Change Action Plan for the borough Resources.
 - Resources

Lobbying and influencing

11. The new government gives an opportunity to again raise the issues about the need for government action in areas such as national level regulation and on funding to support local authorities. This is likely to be a key campaign area for the Local Government Association. However, it is recommended that the Executive Working Group on Climate Change and the Chief Executive write to the Prime Minister raising concerns, issues and request support including financial resources.

Action by Luton Council

12. The Anthesis report sets out some key areas for action by Luton Council particularly relating to the direct activity in buildings and fleet. The Council has already been investing in energy schemes and there is additional investment included in the emerging capital programme including the establishment of a green energy company. However, it will be critical that these schemes are progressed early in the financial year to have an impact. Total investment in these initiatives is £7.9m including an additional £200K in the HRA budget.

13. However, to have a significant impact and to increase the pace of change there may be a requirement for additional capital investment. Projects are not yet at a stage to be included in the 20/21 capital programme but may be developed during the year.
14. The Council has already produced a revised Procurement Strategy. Further work on setting a framework for Social Value will be developed in quarter 1 of 20/21 which will include climate change issues. Once approved this will be used in the Council's procurement decisions.
15. 2020/21 will also be a significant year for new emerging policy documents. The 20/21 budget includes funding for development of the new Local Plan and in setting a new Transport Strategy for Luton. There will also need to be amendments to the Integrated Impact Assessment to ensure that.
16. There is also significant community concern about air quality issues in Luton. The Corporate Director, Place and Infrastructure and the Corporate Director, Public Health and Well-being have agreed to have this as a shared priority objective in 2020 and will progress work through Executive.
17. As the owner of LLAL there is also an expectation that LLAL will ensure that the current operator is taking action to decarbonise operations within the context of the current concession agreement. LLAL will continue to work with LLAOL on this issue. It is likely that responding to Climate Change will be a significant theme from the DCO consultation and LLAL has confirmed that it will be looking to address this as the DCO progresses and in the context of emerging national and international policy.
18. An interim Action Plan for work by Luton Council on net zero carbon is attached as Appendix B for approval by the Executive. As set out in paragraphs 12 to 15 this includes work programmed in 20/21 but may require additional capital budget in 21/22.

Community Engagement

19. Climate Change is a significant emerging issue and it is important to ensure that there is an appropriate level of community engagement in developing a Climate Change Action Plan for Luton borough. There will be many differing views on the approach and it is, therefore, proposed that there are 4 elements to our community engagement approach:
 - Climate Change Forum – to allow engagement with key interested parties. This is planned for the 11th February 2020. This will present the Anthesis report and consider some of the options for meeting the 2040 target date.
 - Engagement with Young People through the Young People's Panel and the Youth Council.
 - Establishment of a Climate Change Citizens Assembly as a follow up to the budget consultation panel which will be established in March/April 2020. This will need to have at least 3 meetings.
 - Continued engagement with businesses and other statutory agencies. This will link with the Anchor Institutions work which is being led in the new Inclusive Growth Division.

Resources

20. As identified in paragraphs 12 and 13 the Council has already made commitments in the capital programme for key initiatives and further business cases will be developed during 20/21.
21. Driving the Climate Change agenda will require an additional people resource. Funding from a vacant post in Place and Infrastructure has been used to support community engagement work. However, to be taken seriously on this agenda the Council will need to re-establish a Climate Change team. The Corporate Director, Place and Infrastructure will need to bring back a resourcing plan on this.

Revised timeline

22. Based on the work that is required to ensure that there is robust community engagement it is proposed that the Climate Change Action Plan for Luton (as opposed to the Council) would be adopted by the Council in January 2021 and mark the 1 year progress on this agenda.

Key Risks

23. There are a number of risks associated with the development of Action on Climate Change for Luton.
24. **Pace-** Many of the key activist groups consider that the Council has been too slow on addressing this agenda for Luton and are keen to see that this is progressed more urgently. *Mitigation:* There are already a number of projects and proposals that the Council has delivered or is about to deliver which also address climate changes and there needs to be a clearer message and more communications on this. The Council is now responding.
25. **Reputation –** There are a number of proposals which are being considered by the Council at the current time which are perceived as being at odds with the Council's emerging commitments on Climate Change. This may be used by campaigners and other interested parties. *Mitigation:* In considering supporting and funding schemes the Council will need to be clear about mitigation that is put in place to address climate change or why it has agreed a proposed action.
26. **Government policy –** Tackling Climate Change does need to be a government priority. Many of the national policies such as tax and regulation will need to change. *Mitigation:* The cross party Executive Working Group on Climate Change will write to the Government to ask for action.
27. **Relative prioritisation –** There remain some key priorities for the Council in addressing social services and issues such as homelessness and drive the ambitions and the anti-poverty agenda. The Council will always need to balance between competing demands. *Mitigation:* The Council will need to continue to be clear about why it is having to prioritise its activity.

Consultations

28. The draft Anthesis Report and the draft Action Plan have been consulted on with the Executive Climate Change Working Group.

Alternative options considered and rejected (please specify)

29. Do nothing on climate change - This is not considered a viable option.

Appendices Attached

30. Appendix A: Draft Anthesis Report

31. Appendix B: Luton Council Action Plan

Background Papers

32. N/A

IMPLICATIONS

For Executive Reports:

- All grey boxes must be completed
- All statements must be cleared by an appropriate officer

For CLMT Reports:

- Only the dark grey boxes must be completed
- Clearance is not required

Legal	Clearance Agreed By	Dated
There are no legal implications of this report. It should be noted that, as alluded to in the report, emissions of greenhouse gasses from international aviation are not counted as emissions from sources in the UK for the purposes of carbon reduction targets. However, the Climate Change Act 2008 gives the Secretary of State the power to make regulations to include them. If they were to be included, it is likely this would have an impact on the Council's targets and policy because of its ownership of LLAL.	Paul McArthur	20.12.19

Finance	Clearance Agreed By	Dated
The financial implications of this report are set out in paragraphs 12 to 15 for projects which are in the capital programme with any additional projects coming forward during 20/21 for inclusion in 21/22. There will need to be an additional revenue resource for which there is not a budget.		

Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) – Key Points		
Equalities / Cohesion / Inclusion (Social Justice)	Clearance Agreed By	Dated
There are no equality/cohesion/inclusion implications to this report.	Maureen Drummond, Cohesion and Equalities Adviser	19 December 2019
Environment	Clearance Agreed By	Dated
By setting a net zero carbon target the Council there will showing positive leadership on this agenda. However, as this report focuses on Luton Council action there will be a small positive benefit.	Steve Lain	20.12.19
Health	Clearance Agreed By	Dated
By setting a net zero carbon target the Council there will showing positive leadership on this agenda. However, as this report focuses on Luton Council action there will be a small positive benefit.		
Community Safety	Clearance Agreed By	Dated

Staffing	Clearance Agreed By	Dated
Other	Clearance Agreed By	Dated