

Halton Borough Council Climate Change Action Plan 2022 - 2027

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A Greener Future for Halton

Working towards a greener future - Halton's Vision.

This Action Plan is predominantly focused on reducing the Council's own carbon production. During the lifetime of the Plan, the Council will seek to broaden the scope and develop proposals to provide a broader Borough-wide Strategy. The Action Plan is intended to have short-term and long-term actions and will be renewed every five years. This does not preclude any actions being undertaken during the five-year period that enhances progress in the themes/programmes of work for this plan. By 2040, Halton Borough Council's own operations will aim to be:

Climate friendly - having transformed the way it delivers services, works with businesses and other partners, uses buildings, land, and energy to decarbonise & encourage sequestration.

Climate ready - with plans and projects having increased the resilience of Halton Council's operations in the communities and the economy it serves to help minimise the impacts from unavoidable climate change; and

Climate just - ensuring that all of Halton and its environment has benefited from this transition.

Climate friendly refers to activities, which cut carbon emissions i.e. climate change mitigation. Becoming climate friendly will mean Halton achieving its net zero carbon target of 2040, 10 years ahead of the current Government target year of 2050. It will also include sequestration measures that are not aimed at reduction but removal of carbon from the air.

Climate ready refers to increasing resilience to the impacts of climate change – being climate ready is also known as climate change adaptation. The stable climate that society and the economy have historically been based on can no longer be assumed, so society must adapt infrastructure and our way of life to cope with the changed climate.

Climate just refers to ensuring Halton is a resilient, fair and prosperous place to live and work, and puts fairness and social justice at the heart of achieving climate goals. To be successful, all of Halton needs to benefit from the transition to a decarbonised economy and no sections of the population can be left behind.

Themes/Programmes of Work.

Underpinning our vision, are four core areas of climate action that will guide the Council:

- Cutting emissions / decarbonisation – this is called climate change **mitigation**;
- Adapting to the physical changes of climate change – climate change **adaptation**; and
- Actively removing greenhouse gas emissions from the atmosphere (such as by tree planting or direct capture of flue gases) – **carbon sequestration**.
- Securing local economic benefits and social value from the Council moving to net zero carbon - **Green Growth**.

In terms of the climate emergency, the priority has to be on rapid decarbonisation and sequestration because this is what is essential to reduce global warming and achieve longer-term carbon removal. For example, trees can remove carbon from the atmosphere, but they take time to grow, so an early start on this forms one of the Council's 2022 initiatives – The Big Halton Forest.

The above four core areas of climate action have been applied to Council activities listed under 'Key Actions'. A number of the actions specifically address the fuel poverty agenda and the work contained within the Affordable Warmth Plan. Most of the actions of the Plan focus on mitigation and sequestration. The broader strategy that the Council is seeking to develop will be a focus on green growth and adaptation.

Halton's Commitment to Carbon Reduction

The Council has been working to reduce its emissions since 2006/07. Since that time, overall emissions have reduced from 26338 tonnes of CO2 to 9770 tonnes. In October 2019, the Council strengthened its commitment to carbon reduction by declaring a climate change emergency.

<https://councillors.halton.gov.uk/documents/s59116/Climate%20Change.pdf>

In making these commitments, the Council has recognised the impacts that climate change is having on communities across the UK and the world and the need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to limit global warming in line with limits recommended by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

Halton's Climate Change Emergency Declaration focuses initially on the Council's activities but our ambition is to reduce carbon emissions to net zero by 2040. This plan sets out a series of actions across key themes to allow us to work to that ambition.

Although the Council only has direct control over approximately two per cent of borough-wide carbon emissions, the Council has a role as a community leader to set an example and to encourage and influence others. Our initial ambition is to build on the work completed to date and get our own house in order first. We will do this by delivering actions where the Council has direct control and can deliver an outcome.

We aim to embed climate change in to our decision-making processes. The Council Leader has appointed a Portfolio holder for climate change on the Council's Executive Board.

The Strategic Officer Lead is the Strategic Director Enterprise, Community and Resources. Having declared a climate emergency, we will seek to ensure that the Council's actions are embedded in the organisation through the Executive Board, Policy and Performance Boards, and Policy and Performance Plans. We will also review all policies and plans of the Council that can assist in achieving the aims of this strategy.

A Climate Change Advisory Group of officers has also been established to advise the Portfolio Holder for Climate Change, chaired by the Strategic Director. Further work is to be undertaken from 2022, to refine the costing of the Plan's actions, register the data underpinning the Plan online, develop further information on Bio Diversity, and further explore other issues such as nature-based solutions for climate change mitigation and adaptation and options for refurbishment of empty/void homes.

This is an evidence-based, living plan that will evolve as the Council responds to climate change and as the full extent of climate change impacts become clearer. It is recognised that more actions are needed to make Halton as resilient as possible to the effects of Climate change and to achieve full decarbonisation. The intention is that the Action Plan will grow as technology evolves and improved knowledge and funding becomes available.

The Council has limited powers, finance and responsibilities and much of the change required will need co-operation and support from the private, third sectors and individuals. We will seek to do this by:

- Supporting and encouraging others to take action
- Influencing changes to national policy
- Lobbying for legislative, policy change and funding at national level.

Halton's Priorities and Themes

Our aim is to be net zero by 2040 for Council activities. This is a significant challenge and we will need to adapt our plans as new technologies and opportunities arise.

This Plan aims to set out a framework for change, identifying some early actions and priorities and setting out our ambitions over the short, medium and long term.

Our Strategic goals and priorities are to:

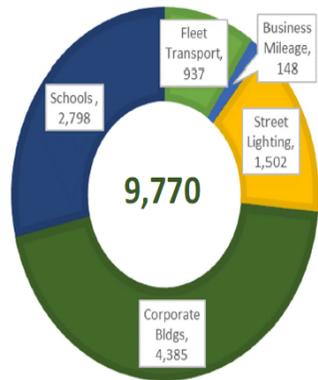
- Decarbonise the Council estate
- Reduce emissions from transport
- Develop opportunities to increase the amount of renewable energy used by the Council
- Develop and expand our green and open space infrastructure
- Expand the existing walking and cycling routes
- Minimise waste
- Promote health and wellbeing among council residents and staff through its climate policies and actions, including maximising the health co-benefits of climate action.
- Ensure climate action is implemented equitably, through working to reduce rather than exacerbate health and wellbeing inequalities and proportionally targeting areas of greatest need.
- Develop greater understanding of the public health implications of both climate change and council mitigation/adaptation/sequestration strategies locally to inform borough-wide actions.

Measuring the Council's Greenhouse Gas Emissions

HBC CO2



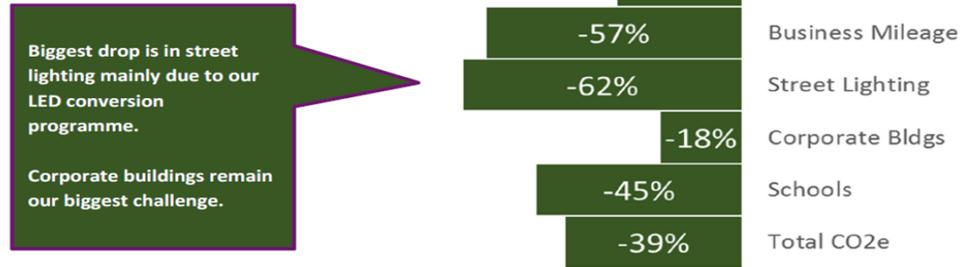
Current Breakdown (2020/21) tonnes CO2e



Change since 2019/20

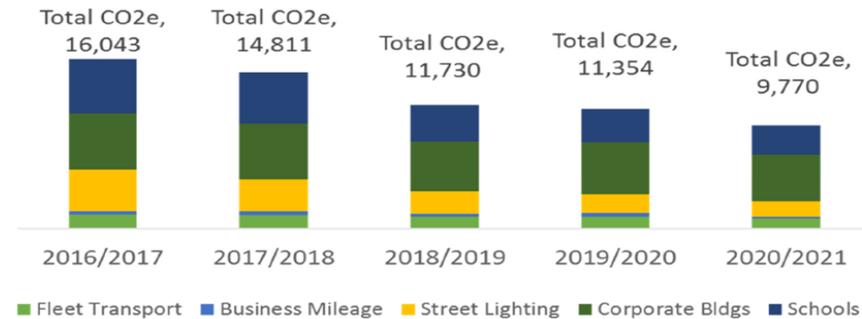
- 14% reduction in overall CO2 emissions
- 17% Reduction in electric consumption
- 16% reduction in CO2 emissions associated with fleet transport.
- 58% reduction in CO2 emissions associated with Business Miles.
- 16% reduction in CO2 emissions associated with Street Lighting
- 10% reduction in CO2 emissions associated with Corporate Buildings
- 13% reduction in CO2 emissions associated with School buildings

5 year change



Biggest drop is in street lighting mainly due to our LED conversion programme.

Corporate buildings remain our biggest challenge.



Definition - In terms of measuring carbon reductions there are 3 scope emissions as defined by the most widely used international accounting tool, the Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Protocol.

Scope 1 covers emissions from sources that an organisation owns or controls directly – for example from burning fuel in our fleet of vehicles (if they're not electrically-powered).

Scope 2 are emissions that an organisation causes indirectly when the energy it purchases and uses is produced. For example, for our electric fleet vehicles the emissions from the generation of the electricity they're powered by would fall into this category.

Scope 3 encompasses emissions that are not produced by the organisation itself, and not the result of activities from assets owned or controlled by them, but by those that it's indirectly responsible for, up and down its value chain. An example of this is when we buy, use and dispose of products from suppliers. Scope 3 emissions include all sources not within the scope 1 and 2 boundaries.

Essentially, scope 1 and 2 are those emissions that are owned or controlled by an organisation, whereas scope 3 emissions are a consequence of the activities of the organisation but occur from sources not owned or controlled by it.

Impacts of Climate Change

There is a substantial body of evidence that emissions from human activities are causing global temperatures to rise, resulting in melting ice caps and leading to a rise in sea levels. These also increase severe weather events impacting on our local communities.

Warmer temperatures over time are changing weather patterns and disrupting the usual balance of nature. This poses many risks to human beings and all other forms of life.

The impacts of climate change are being felt locally most notably in increased flooding, storms and heatwaves. Nearly all land areas are seeing more hot days and heat waves; Higher temperatures increase heat-related illnesses and can make it more difficult to work and move around. Wildfires start more easily and spread more rapidly when conditions are hotter.

Changes in temperature cause changes in rainfall. This results in more severe and frequent storms. They cause flooding and landslides, destroying homes and communities, costing millions of pounds.

Drier seasonal weather can also impact on water shortages and crop failure. These impacts may also result in the destruction of biodiversity, wildlife habitats and increase the risk of increased levels of pest and invasive species.

The human health impacts of climate change are wide reaching and increasingly apparent. Increased ambient temperatures and heat stress are directly associated with increased morbidity and mortality from conditions including respiratory and cardiovascular disease, specific heat-related conditions (e.g. dehydration and heat stroke), food and waterborne diseases, and mental illness. Children and the elderly are at particularly high risk from these negative health impacts. Climate change has the potential to result in increased spread of vector-borne (e.g. mosquitos) infections.

Extreme weather including storms and flooding are also associated with injury, death, strain on health services and adverse mental health impacts. In the longer term, increased food and water insecurity is anticipated as a result of climate change, which has massive health impacts.

What we've done to date

The Council has already taken significant action to reduce its carbon emissions – since we started to measure our carbon footprint in 2006/2007, overall emissions have reduced from 26338 tonnes of CO₂ to 9770 tonnes.

From 2009 until 2020.

The Council was given guidelines by the government in 2009, which led to an expectation that public bodies would aim to reduce their carbon emissions by 30% of their 2009 carbon emission baseline by 2020.

The Council calculated its baseline carbon emissions in 2009 as 26825 Carbon tonnes. In reporting year 2020, the Council had managed to reduce its carbon emissions to 11354 carbon tonnes.

This was a reduction of 57%.

From 2017 until 2021.

The Government now expects public bodies to reduce their carbon emissions by 50% by 2031. The new baseline set is now 2017.

The Council's 2017 baseline was 14811 carbon tonnes. In reporting year 2021, the Council had managed to reduce its carbon emissions to 9770 tonnes.

This was a reduction of 34%.

Whilst these figures are encouraging, it may be slightly enhanced by the impact Covid has had on the Council's carbon hungry activities. We will see in the next reporting year if there is any adjustment.

Projects that have contributed to the reduction included:

- LED Street Lighting Replacement Programme – over 15000 columns switched.
- Solar PV installed at various Council sites – producing over 750,000 kWh of renewable energy.
- Installation of a 1.25 MW Solar Farm in Widnes producing energy for the DCBL Stadium – producing on average 900,000kwh per annum.
- Retrofit of the DCBL stadium to install air source heat pumps and LED throughout the building and at pitch level.
- LED retrofits in Council buildings.
- Reduced the number of building we operate.
- Provided over 70km of cycle and walking paths including a dedicated cycle path on the deck of the Silver Jubilee Bridge and improved cycling facilities at Runcorn Station.
- New vehicles entering the Council's fleet, for example Refuse Vehicles, meet the latest European engine emission standards;

Euro 6 is currently the highest standard for vehicles and 95% of the Council fleet are Euro 6 with the remainder being Euro 5 & 4 making it one of the cleanest fleets in the Liverpool City Region.

We have two electric vehicles in the Halton Borough Council fleet and are reviewing vehicle procurement options.

Council vehicles are fitted with IT software to ensure the best routes are used and driver behaviour is monitored so they use less fuel.

- Installed EV chargers at Council locations and throughout residential areas.
- Increased the number of trees and woodland we have in the Borough which improve the character of an area and provide environmental benefits to reduce carbon and encourage natural habitats. We also manage 11 nature reserves in the Borough.
- Supported the delivery of various housing retrofit schemes in partnership with registered social landlords and Energy Project Plus, and undertaken affordable warmth campaigns and approved numerous eco-funding and Eco-Flex applications.

Future Key Actions

| BUILDINGS | Action to be taken | Time frame for Delivery | Council Lead |
|------------------|---|--|--|
| B1 | Carry out decarbonisation works at the DCBL Stadium, inclusive of LED lighting, increased insulation, and electrification of heat and hot water via installation of ASHP's. | Completion by Spring 2022. | Divisional Manager Property |
| B2 | Commission decarbonisation feasibility studies to all buildings in phases and subject to funding to develop a decarbonisation work programme required. | Initial 6 studies to be completed by Spring 2022. All feasibility studies completed by 31.3.27. | Divisional Manager Property |
| B3 | Create a MicroGrid energy network between The DBCL Stadium, Lowerhouse Lane Depot, The Municipal Building & the proposed New Halton Leisure Centre, subject to funding. | Completion by 31.3.24 | Assistant to the Chief Executive & Divisional Manager Property |
| B4 | Undertake decarbonisation works at various buildings on a phased rolling basis, subject to funding. | Phase 1 buildings completion by 31.3.26. Phase 2 buildings completion by 31.3.30. Phase 3 buildings completion by 31.3.34. Phase 4 buildings completion by 31.3.38. | Divisional Manager Property |

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| B5 | Irrespective of B4 above, develop an LED Lighting retrofit programme to Corporate buildings on a phased basis, subject to funding. Initial phase has commenced to the Municipal Building, Runcorn Town Hall and Rutland House. | Completion of initial phase by 31.3.23. Completion of further phases by 31.3.32. | Divisional Manager Property |
| B6 | Irrespective of B4 above, develop a Solar/PV installation programme to suitable Corporate buildings on a phased basis, subject to funding. | Completion by 31.3.32. | Divisional Manager Property |
| B7 | Ensure carbon reduction is a key feature of the design and construction of the new Halton Leisure Centre | Completion by 31.9.24. | Divisional Manager Property |
| B8 | As part of the Council's approach to hybrid working undertake a building rationalisation review | March 2023 | Divisional Manager Property |

| FLEET TRANSPORT | Action to be taken | Time frame for Delivery | Council Lead |
|------------------------|--|--|------------------------------|
| F1 | Undertake feasibility studies for charging infrastructure and the introduction of low carbon emission vehicles at all Council sites that operate fleet vehicles / plant & machinery. | December 2023. | Divisional Manager Transport |
| F2 | Continue the rollout of EV charging infrastructure. | 2022/2026. | Divisional Manager Transport |
| F3 | In line with the current vehicle replacement cycle, phase out combustion engine fleet assets. | 2022/2035 Subject to alternatively fuelled asset availability, charging infrastructure and funding. | Divisional Manager Transport |

| HOMES & REGENERATION | Action to be taken | Timeframe for Delivery | Council Lead |
|---------------------------------|---|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| H1 | Implement the strategy for decarbonisation of existing homes, prioritising the approximately 7,700 most energy inefficient homes and those households experiencing or at risk of fuel poverty. | 2030 | Green Growth Officer |
| H2 | Develop a strategy to accelerate delivery of Net Zero new build homes within the Borough ahead of UK Government targets and introduction of new Future Homes Standards, including use of Council land to deliver a demonstration project. | 2025 | Green Growth Officer |
| H3 | The Council will work with partners to explore establishing a Green Growth Business Alliance – to secure the local economic benefits from the transition to Net Zero. | 2023 | Business Improvement & Growth Team |
| H4 | Explore options to address Empty /void homes. | 2022 - 2040 | Operational Director Regeneration |

| ENVIRONMENT SERVICES | Action to be taken | Time frame for Delivery | Council Lead |
|-----------------------------|---|--------------------------------|---|
| ES1 | To explore opportunities to help develop the Borough's 'green infrastructure' through the creation of a diverse forest in Halton - The Big Halton Forest Project. The ambition is to plant at least one tree per person in the Borough by 2030 - circa 130,000 trees. | 2022-2030. | Divisional Manager - Environment Services |
| ES2 | To seek appropriate funding required to provide the necessary resources and finances to realise each ambition of The Big Halton Forest Project and the delivery of Actions ES3-ES5. | 2022-2029 | Divisional Manager - Environment Services |
| ES3 | Appoint Project Lead Officer. Establish project parameters and develop a Project Action Plan. | 2022-2023 | Divisional Manager - Environment Services |
| ES4 | Commission studies to identify potential suitable sites, including public and private locations through consultation with landowners, and carry out other | 2022-2030 | Divisional Manager - Environment Services |

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| | studies including, but not limited to, ecological surveys. | | |
| ES5 | Create package of deliverable schemes that meet project targets and ambitions with a range of tree planting that best suits each particular situation. | 2022-2030 | Divisional Manager - Environment Services |
| ES6 | Habitat loss caused by any new development within the Borough will be mitigated to ensure that there will be an overall increase in biodiversity post-development. | Ongoing | Divisional Manager - Environment Services |
| ES7 | To introduce initiatives and services to achieve a target to re-use or recycle 60% of municipal waste by 2030, and 65% of municipal waste by 2035. | 2022-2035 | Divisional Manager - Environment Services |

| PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT | Action to be taken | Timeframe for Delivery | Council Lead |
|---------------------------------|---|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| PL1 | Through the Local Plan, the Council will seek to support the deployment of low carbon solution will seek to build and expand on this. (Halton Local Plan Policy GR5). Develop guidance for developers. | Summer 2023 | Divisional Manager Planning |
| PL2 | Through the Local Plan, the Council will support the protection enhancement and expanding infrastructure (including but not exclusively, parks and open spaces, amenity green space and cycle and pedestrian routes). (Halton Local Plan Policy CS21). Develop guidance for developer. | Summer 2023 | Divisional Manager Planning |
| PL3 | Through the Local Plan, the Council will seek to ensure that development will only be permitted where there is no flood risk (Halton Local Plan policy HE9). Develop guidance for developer. | Summer 2023 | Divisional Manager Planning |

| EDUCATION, INCLUSION & PROVISION. | Action to be taken | Time frame for Delivery | Council Lead |
|--|--|--------------------------------|--|
| E1 | To continue working with colleagues in Transport Co-ordination to promote the Council's Home to School Travel & Transport Policy ensuring sustainable modes of transport are the preferred choice. | Reviewed Annually | Interim Operational Director: Education, Inclusion and Provision |
| E2 | To work with the Department for Education (DfE) on delivery of the Social, Emotional & Mental Health Free School (secondary provision) in Widnes to reduce the need for pupils to attend out-borough provision with the associated transport implications. | September 2023 | Divisional Manager Inclusion |
| E3 | To work in conjunction with colleagues in Property Services to identify a rolling programme of capital works to support Halton's schools in reducing their overall carbon footprint, including the replacement of lights to LED fittings as part of electrical rewiring works. | September 2030 | Capital Programme Officer |
| E4 | To work in conjunction with colleagues in Property Services to replace single glazing windows in Halton schools with double glazing windows. | August 2026 | Capital Programme Officer |
| E5 | Undertake a programme of roof replacement works in Halton schools, including the provision of insulation in roof spaces where appropriate. | Ongoing | Capital Programme Officer |
| E6 | To develop existing programmes of sustainable modes of travel to school. | Ongoing | Road Safety Co-ordinator |

| PUBLIC HEALTH | Action to be taken | Time frame for Delivery | Council Lead |
|----------------------|---|--------------------------------|--|
| PH1 | Examine carbon emissions from public health service work to identify areas for improvements in terms of decarbonisation and increasing sustainability. | March 2023 | Consultant in Public Health; Public Health registrar; Foundation Doctors |
| PH2 | Advocate for and work towards reducing carbon footprint within programmes and services e.g. through building localisation of products and workforce into service contractual arrangements, procurements and commissioning; developing sustainability-related scoring criteria for commissioning and procurement; developing mechanisms for monitoring sustainability performance within internal service delivery and external contract management. | Ongoing | Consultant in Public Health; commissioning leads; service delivery leads; contract managers |
| PH3 | Integrate systematic consideration of climate change impact and sustainability within public health planning, commissioning and service delivery (e.g. impact assessments). | March 2023 | Consultant in Public Health; Public Health registrar; commissioning and service delivery leads |
| PH4 | Oversight of the ECO Flex funding scheme (partly efforts to tackle fuel poverty) 1): Define and approve future revisions to local eligibility criteria for Energy Company Obligation flexible eligibility (ECO Flex), jointly with Liverpool City Region local authorities; ensuring funding is | April 2022 | Consultant in Public Health |

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| | available to target vulnerable and energy inefficient households. | | |
| PH5 | Oversight of the ECO Flex funding scheme (partly efforts to tackle fuel poverty) 2): Review and approve applications for ECO funding according to eligibility criteria, | Ongoing | Consultant in Public Health |
| PH6 | Building Healthy Homes: continued oversight and regulation of home standards for the private rented sector. | Ongoing | Environmental Health Team |
| PH7 | Continued air quality monitoring, data sharing, licensing and advocacy; continued management of air quality issues and working to meet air quality standards. | Ongoing | Environmental Health Team |
| PH8 | Advocate for health-in-all policy making and prioritisation of public health across the council; specifically promoting systematic consideration of public health implications and health impacts of the council's sustainability actions, and promoting targeting of areas/groups in need and alleviation rather than exacerbation of health inequalities. | March 2023 | Consultant in Public Health; Climate Change Advisory Group public health representative(s); commissioning leads |
| PH9 | Build awareness and understanding within the council and more widely of the public health implications of climate change and the potential co-benefits to health and wellbeing from adaptation and mitigation sustainability actions. | December 2022 | Consultant in Public Health; Public Health registrar; Public Health Intelligence Team |

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| | <p>This will be done through advocacy, data/information collection & sharing, supporting climate literacy training, and development of a joint strategic needs assessment (JSNA) on local public health impacts of climate change and adaptation/mitigation actions. The JSNA will feed into the borough-wide climate change strategy, ensuring prioritisation of health and crucially will involve identifying evidence-based public health actions and interventions for climate change adaptation and mitigation.</p> | | |
|--|--|--|--|

| PROCUREMENT | Action to be taken | Time frame for Delivery | Council Lead |
|--------------------|---|--------------------------------|---------------------|
| PR1 | Environment – Social Value Donation to parks/open spaces of trees/shrubs/ bench or playground equipment. | 2022-2025 | Procurement Manager |
| PR2 | Minimise Waste – introduce Eco-friendly products within contract specifications where relevant and proportionate i.e. catering and cleaning materials. | 2022-2025 | Procurement Manager |
| PR3 | Locally Based Supply Chain - Increase value thresholds to support local trading opportunities to SME's and VCSE's. | 2022-2025 | Procurement Manager |
| PR4 | Influence the supply chain to improve sustainability in the supply of goods and services ensuring that relevant Social, Environmental and economic issues are considered where appropriate. | 2022-2025 | Procurement Manager |
| PR5 | Consider the carbon impact of any purchasing decisions, ensuring products can be recyclable at the end of their life cycle wherever possible. | 2022-2025 | Procurement Manager |

| TRAINING/EMBEDDING CLIMATE CHANGE INTO COUNCIL POLICIES | Action to be taken | Timeframe | Council Lead |
|--|--|----------------------|----------------------------------|
| T1 | Develop a carbon reduction/climate change training programme for elected members, key officers and staff. | Commence Autumn 2023 | Learning and Development Manager |
| T2 | Incorporate requirement to carbon reduction in the development of Service Business Plans. | Ongoing | Learning and Development Manager |
| T3 | As existing policies are reviewed, carbon reduction and alignment with the Council's climate change declaration be reviewed. | Ongoing | All Operational Directors |
| T4 | The impact of climate change be assessed for all Council Capital Projects and external funding bids. | Ongoing | All Operational Directors |
| T5 | Corporate Plan review to include climate emergency as part of the review of priorities. | 2022 | Management Team |

Monitoring and Evaluation

Implementation of the Action Plan will be overseen by the Council's Climate Change Advisory Group and actions will be monitored by key officers identified in the Plan.

Progress will be reported quarterly to the Lead Portfolio Holder. Annual Progress reports will be made to the Executive Board and appropriate Policy and Performance Board, as part of the Council's Performance reporting framework. This process will set out progress against each action, review its appropriateness and revise actions as appropriate.

Implementation of the Plan will require significant financial resources. This will be required at a time when the Council continues to face significant financial pressures. However, The Council will look to be innovative with its existing resources.

During the lifetime of the plan, the Council will explore alternative funding opportunities and investments to support the delivery of the actions contained within the Plan. The Council's External Funding Team will prioritise sourcing additional funding to help deliver the priority climate change initiatives. The Team will also promote 'green' funding opportunities to external partners.

Partnerships

We recognise in the longer term the need to working with partners, local business and our communities to tackle carbon emissions in the wider Borough. There are already many communities, business and organisations that are exploring greener ways of working and living.

We recognise there is much more to do and as we develop our internal actions, we will seek to strengthen partnerships, and support and influence people and organisations to develop ideas around the climate change agenda.

Housing

The Council are in a good position for future delivery, with a number of established and newer partnerships formed. These are focussed on working collectively, both locally and across the City-Region, to secure investment in local housing stock to reduce carbon emissions and support residents to reduce impact of fuel poverty and help them warm their homes.

Since early 2021, the Council has held a monthly meeting with social housing providers to plan and coordinate retrofit housing energy improvement projects within the Borough. More recently, the Council has entered into a service level agreement with Energy Projects Plus, a local fuel poverty and environmental charity, to provide residents with free, impartial support to warm homes and reduce energy costs.

Business

Investment in the transition to Net Zero in Halton (and indeed across the Country) present a significant economic and business growth opportunity. The Council's Business Improvement and Growth Team already works with different sector businesses to help them to have the right networks, skills and accreditations to secure contracts and supply chain opportunities; and are talking to training providers to develop Halton's workforce with the skills and knowledge in green technologies to deliver Net Zero. In recognition of the likely acceleration in pace to Net Zero and associated economic

opportunities, the Council will work with partners including Halton Chamber and Riverside College to explore establishing a Green Growth Business Alliance.

Community Partnerships

Whilst the Council recognises it is well placed as community leader to shape and influence carbon reduction within the borough, it recognises that partners and local residents also play a significant role in reducing carbon production across the borough.

Whilst this Plan focus predominantly on the Council activities during the lifetime of the plan, it will seek to explore the development of a Climate Change Community Partnership. To include representatives from colleges, housing providers, faith and voluntary groups, etc.