

REPORT TO: Environment and Urban Renewal Policy and Performance Board

DATE: 22 June 2022

REPORTING OFFICER: Operational Director – Policy, Planning & Transportation

PORTFOLIO: Environment & Urban Renewal

SUBJECT: Climate Change Action Plan

WARDS: Borough wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 Following Policy and Performance Board (PPB) Members' requests and the earlier Executive Board report (April 2022) providing a Corporate Plan for Climate Change, this report provides an opportunity for the PPB to consider how it wishes to receive updates, information, and the monitoring of indicators to 2040.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That the Board

- 1. records its continued support for the Corporate Climate Change Action Plan; and**
- 2. considers how it wishes to receives updates and monitoring information in relation to the Climate Change Action Plan (Appendix 1).**

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 Appendix 1 to this report provides a copy of the adopted Climate Change Action Plan.
- 3.2 This provides a clear direction for the Council. It sets a target to be carbon neutral by 2040 and provides an initial focus on buildings, vehicles and the Borough's blue / green infrastructure.
- 3.3 Page 10 of the Action Plan (Appendix 1 to this report) sets out the projects already achieved. For many of these achievements, the PPB has set the policy direction, for example the rollout of on-street electrical vehicle charge points, 70km of new active travel routes, solar initiatives to power Council buildings, electric fleet vehicles, and over 15,000 street lamps replaced with energy efficient LEDs.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are two key considerations which are brought to Members attention in considering the Plan and these are, having the necessary resources to deliver the action plan and the second being the development of technologies to help deliver the action plan.
- 4.2 At this stage there are many aspects of the plan which are either difficult to cost or are indeed costly in themselves. However, it is vital that the Council sets out a direction and a commitment to reducing its carbon footprint, particularly as there are numerous sources of external funding becoming available to support such initiatives. Funds are being made available, by both Central Government and the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority.
- 4.3 Success at accessing those funds is greatly enhanced where the Council has a Strategy and a Plan to support its actions. Many of the projects the Council has already delivered have been funded in this way. The momentum and variety of external funding is likely to increase.
- 4.4 Whilst the use of external funds will be important, that is not to say that the Council will not use its general fund in support the action plan's objectives. Opportunities will be taken when they arise to use core funding to change the way the Council does its business to help in reducing its carbon footprint. A careful balance will always have to be struck between the Council's "carbon" ambitions and the requirements it has placed on it in delivering its statutory responsibilities.

5.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 It is clear that significant resources will be required to help the Council reach its 2040 objective, much of which it does not have presently at its disposal. However, it is important to recognise that an aspirational plan will allow it to be responsive and flexible as resources become available and provide leadership across the Halton community.

6.0 RISK ANALYSIS

- 6.1 There is a risk that if the Council does not have a plan in place that it will miss opportunities to access the funding necessary to achieve its objectives.

7.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

- 7.1 There are no equality and diversity issues associated with this report.

8.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

None under the meaning of the Act.