

**REPORT TO:** Executive Board  
**DATE:** 14 April 2022  
**REPORTING OFFICER:** Strategic Director, Enterprise, Community & Resources  
**PORTFOLIO:** Climate Change  
**SUBJECT:** Climate Change Strategy & Action Plan  
**WARD(S)** Borough-wide

**1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek Executive Board's approval to a Climate Change Strategy & Action Plan for the Council's operations and activities.

**2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That**

- 1. the attached Strategy and Action Plan be approved; and**
- 2. further reports be brought to the Board as and when funding decision arise to finance the actions identified.**

**3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

3.1 At its meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> December 2021, the Board agreed the following:

- That the Council set a target to be carbon neutral by 2040;
- That its initial focus to achieve the aim be on buildings, vehicles and the Borough's blue/green infrastructure (Scope 1 & 2 emissions); and
- That an action plan be developed to support the objective of becoming carbon neutral by 2040.

3.2 Work has been ongoing since that meeting to develop such an action plan and one is now attached for Member consideration.

**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 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 **FINANCIAL 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, as outlined in this report, that it has an aspirational plan that will allow it to be responsive and flexible as resources become available and provide leadership across the Halton community.

## 6.0 **IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES**

6.1 The Climate Change agenda has implications for all of the Council's priorities and it will be important for a Portfolio Holder to work closely with the Climate Change Portfolio Holder in developing initiatives and projects to reduce carbon emissions in their portfolio.

## 7.0 **RISK ANALYSIS**

7.1 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.

## 8.0 **EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

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

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

None under the meaning of the Act.