

North Tyneside Council

Report to Cabinet

Date: 24 June 2019

ITEM 5(a)

Title: Low Carbon Plan
Performance Update

Portfolio(s): Environment & Transport

Cabinet Member(s): Councillor Carl Johnson

Report from Service Area: Environment Housing and Leisure

Responsible Officer: Phil Scott (Tel: (0191)6437295)

Wards affected: All

PART 1

1.1 Executive Summary:

The North Tyneside Low Carbon Plan 2016-2027, adopted by Cabinet on 14 March 2016, sets an ambitious target to reduce the carbon footprint of the Authority and the Borough of North Tyneside by 50% by 2027. It seeks to continue the Authority's successful track record of reducing carbon emissions and protecting the environment.

This report informs Cabinet of the progress made to date in delivering the Low Carbon Plan.

1.2 Recommendation(s):

It is recommended that Cabinet:

- (1) Notes the content of this report and associated supporting information contained in Appendix 1.

1.3 Forward Plan:

It has not been possible to give twenty-eight days' notice for this report and it is therefore not included on the Forward Plan. An increasing number of Local Authorities are declaring a Climate Emergency, 67 in total as at 30 May 2019, and Cabinet has requested an urgent update on the Authority's performance in reducing carbon emissions.

1.4 Council Plan and Policy Framework

This report relates to the following priorities in the 2018-20 Our North Tyneside Plan

Our Places will...

- Provide a clean, green, healthy, attractive, safe and sustainable environment
- Be great places to live

1.5 Information:

1.5.1 Background

The Authority's carbon footprint is made up of the power, heat and water used to run its operational buildings, including the sheltered accommodation offer but not schools, the electricity used to power over 31,000 street lighting apparatus, the fuel used to operate over 400 fleet vehicles and the business miles staff travel in their own vehicles (not including commuting to and from work). This definition of the Authority's carbon footprint is in line with Central Government's Greenhouse Gas Protocol.

The Borough's carbon footprint is made up of the power and heat used in the commercial, industrial and domestic buildings across the whole of the Borough, emissions from road and rail transport, and land use and forestation activities, which can result in either a release into or removal of emissions from the atmosphere.

The Low Carbon Plan ('the Plan') was developed to ensure a holistic approach to carbon reduction in the Authority's operations and services, and across the Borough, to achieve the national target of a 50% reduction in carbon emissions by 2027.

The Plan aims to build on the Authority's success in reducing carbon dioxide emissions and places an increased focus on exploring the opportunities associated with energy generation and energy services. However, to maintain and improve on recent carbon reduction successes, the Plan also recognises that the energy reduction and energy efficiency stages of the energy hierarchy are essential building blocks and includes actions to further develop these areas.

1.5.2 Performance

The Authority submits an annual performance report to the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS) that details the year on year measurement of the Authority's carbon footprint. This is also published on the Authority's website and is attached as Appendix 1.

At the end of 2017/18, the Authority's carbon footprint had decreased by 39% since the baseline year of 2010/11. The 2018/19 report will be available in July 2019 and is anticipated to show a 47% reduction of the Authority's carbon footprint. Given this current and projected performance, it is highly likely that the Authority will achieve the 50% reduction target in advance of the 2027 target date.

An annual report is provided to the Authority by BEIS detailing the carbon footprint of the Borough. The most recent report shows that between the baseline year of 2005 and 2016, absolute carbon emissions have decreased by 37% and carbon emissions per head of population have decreased by 40%. The publication date for the next annual report, showing 2017 performance, is June 2019.

The most recent data shows that the respective carbon footprints are;

- Authority – 18,166 tonnes of CO₂
- Borough – 892,176 tonnes of CO₂

1.5.3 How have we achieved this?

Within the Authority's own operations, we have followed the Energy Hierarchy; reduction, efficiency, low carbon energy generation.

At the energy reduction stage, the Authority recognises the importance of effective energy management of its buildings and vehicles. This includes the training of key staff in managing the consumption of energy, setting performance targets for reducing energy consumption and reducing the number of buildings and vehicles the Authority operates. The Authority has:

- Introduced 'carbon budgets' for our most energy intensive buildings, nominated a responsible team member to manage the budget and trained key staff in the principles and practical application of good energy management. This innovative approach was highlighted as a best practice case study by the Association of Public Sector Excellence (APSE).
- Delivered environmental related behaviour change campaigns across the Authority.
- Introduced a hub and spoke service delivery model which has enabled the closure of 50 buildings; and
- Reduced the vehicle fleet by 25% and improved fuel efficiency through route optimisation, zoned working and vehicle tracking.

At the energy efficiency stage, the Authority recognises the importance of using modern technology to reduce the energy it uses in the delivery of services.

The Authority has:

- Installed LED lighting in several energy intensive public buildings.
- Reduced electricity consumption of street lighting by almost 50% through a programme of efficiency measures including a £2m investment in LED lights in over 7,000 street lighting columns, 'trimming and dimming' over 10,000 columns and switching off over 3,000 lights overnight in non-residential areas.
- Completed the North Tyneside Living Sheltered Accommodation PFI that rebuilt and refurbished 26 schemes.
- Installed a range of energy efficiency equipment such as voltage optimisation units and variable speed drives in several Authority buildings; and
- Installed fewer, more powerful servers in the Authority's IT data centre, reducing electricity consumption by over 40%.

At the energy generation stage the Authority recognises the potential to build on good energy reduction and energy efficiency practices through generating zero or low carbon energy.

The Authority has:

- Installed 4 Combined Heat and Power Units in leisure facilities to improve energy efficiency and generate electricity for use on site.
- Secured external grant funding to install a range of renewable and low carbon energy systems as part of the refurbishment of the Killingworth Depot.
- Developed business cases for the installation of low carbon and renewable energy systems in Authority buildings.

The Authority has fewer levers to deliver carbon emission reductions across the Borough compared to in its own estate, however there have still been significant achievements, including;

- Working in partnership with E.On to install solar panels on over 1,500 Council homes, providing free electricity to tenants. At the time this was the biggest Solar PV social housing project in the country.
- Working in partnership with Warm Zones Community Interest Company between 2008 and 2018 to install over 20,000 energy efficiency measures in resident's homes, including loft, cavity wall and solid wall insulation, replacement boilers and brand-new central heating systems.
- Installing a range of energy efficiency measures in the Authority's housing stock, raising the average Standard Assessment Procedure (SAP 2009) rating for the past 5 years from 69.8 to 71.4 in 2018.
- Securing a Central Government Grant for retrofitting of 69 buses to reduce emissions along the A1058 Coast Road.
- Working with partners on a 'Green Board' to engage businesses and community and voluntary organisations across the Borough to reduce energy consumption and carbon emissions.
- Annual data from cycle counters indicates growth in cycling trips ahead of our target, and the Authority is supporting increased participation in everyday cycling, e.g. by delivering Bikeability training in schools across the borough.

1.6 Decision options:

The following decision options are available for consideration by Cabinet:

Option 1

Cabinet may note the content of this report.

Option 1 is the recommended option.

1.7 Reasons for recommended option:

No alternative options have been outlined as no further direct decisions by Cabinet are sought in relation to this report.

1.8 Appendices:

Appendix 1: North Tyneside Council's Annual Greenhouse Gas Report 2017-18

1.9 Contact officers:

Paul Nelson, Environmental Sustainability & Street Lighting Manager, Technical & Regulatory Services, tel. (0191) 643 6467

Colin MacDonald, Senior Manager, Technical & Regulatory Services, tel. (0191) 643 6620

Michael Keenlyside, Environmental Sustainability Officer, tel. (0191) 643 6505

Cathy Davison, Principal Accountant Investment (Capital) and Revenue, tel. (0191) 643 5727

1.10 Background information:

The following background papers/information have been used in the compilation of this report and are available at the office of the author:

- (1) [Low Carbon Plan 2016-2027](#)
- (2) [BEIS Local Authority and regional carbon dioxide emissions national statistics 2005-2016](#)

PART 2 – COMPLIANCE WITH PRINCIPLES OF DECISION MAKING

2.1 Finance and other resources

There are no financial and resource implications directly arising from this report. This report provides a performance update against the Low Carbon Plan.

The financing of specific additional projects to support delivery of the Low Carbon Plan will be considered as part of the development of each business case. Any investment required in addition to existing budgets will be reported to Cabinet / Council, with analysis of any savings projected and how these are to be accounted for as appropriate, for a decision before any expenditure is incurred.

2.2 Legal

There are no direct legal implications arising from this report.

2.3 Consultation/community engagement

Individual residents, community groups, businesses and individuals have demonstrated a passion to ensure North Tyneside is sustainable. Our low carbon work has been informed by working with business on specific technologies, with cycling organisations as we increase North Tyneside's cycling infrastructure and working with our Young Mayors, Members of the Young Parliament and Youth Councillors to listen to their views about how we protect North Tyneside for their future. As a landlord, the Authority has worked with Tenants' representatives and individual tenants on energy efficient products and how to use them. As a leisure business, the Authority has worked with its customers, experts and the sector to reduce energy consumption and as a waste business, the Authority has spent time working on best practice with the sector and local universities to review and revise operations. Recently we have been working closely with our bus operators to apply Government funding to their fleet to reduce emissions.

2.4 Human rights

There are no human rights implications arising from this report.

2.5 Equalities and diversity

There are no equality and diversity issues directly arising from this report.

2.6 Risk management

There are no risk management issues directly arising from this report.

2.7 Crime and disorder

There are no crime and disorder implications arising from this report.

2.8 Environment and sustainability

There are no environment and sustainability issue arising from this report. However, the report details the progress made in delivering The Low Carbon Plan and reducing the carbon footprint of both the Authority and the Borough.

PART 3 - SIGN OFF

- Chief Executive ☒
- Head(s) of Service ☒
- Mayor/Cabinet Member(s) ☒
- Chief Finance Officer ☒
- Monitoring Officer ☒
- Head of Corporate Strategy and Customer Service ☒