

SCRUTINY REPORT



MEETING: Overview and Scrutiny Committee

DATE: 20 July 2021

SUBJECT: Climate Action Strategy and Action Plan

REPORT FROM: Councillor Alan Quinn – Cabinet member
Environment, Climate Change and Operations

CONTACT OFFICER: Laura Swann – Assistant Director of Operations
(Strategy)

1.0 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The "Let's Do It" Strategy approved by Cabinet on 23 February 2021 included a commitment for the whole borough to be carbon neutral by 2038, which responds to the Council's declaration of a Climate Emergency in 2019. This carbon neutral target aligns with the Greater Manchester target included in the 5 Year Environment Plan for Greater Manchester.
- 1.2 The Council has produced a Draft Climate Action Strategy and Climate Action Plan for Bury to set out what needs to be done to achieve the target. A 10-week public consultation is currently being carried out on these draft documents.

2.0 ISSUES

- 2.1 Achieving the Council's carbon neutral commitment will require a step change in the way our communities live. This represents a huge challenge, but one that we must face to protect the health and wellbeing of our residents.
- 2.2 To help achieve this change the Council must provide leadership for all individuals and organisations in the borough to reduce emissions and must lead by example.
- 2.3 In January 2021, Bury Council's Greenhouse Gas Report 2019/20 (Appendix 1) was published and showed that the council had reduced its emissions by 47% from the 2008/09 base year.
- 2.4 Reductions in emissions from electricity were significant and some of this was attributed to an increase in the purchase of renewable energy. With the current electricity contract for the council 30.7% of the electricity we purchase is from renewable generation.
- 2.5 To tackle the wider emissions from across the borough the Draft Climate Action Strategy and Action Plan were produced. Approval to take these documents out to public consultation was provided by the Cabinet on 26 May (Cabinet report – Appendix 2).

- 2.6 The Draft Climate Action Strategy sets out the background information, the scale of the challenge facing the Borough and the need to work together and take action now. It breaks down the change needed into 11 Key Action areas:
1. Our Energy Supply
 2. Our Homes, Workplaces and Public Buildings
 3. Clean Travel
 4. The Things we Buy and Throw Away
 5. Food
 6. Our Natural Environment
 7. The Green Economy
 8. Environmental Justice
 9. Climate Resilience and Adaptation
 10. Putting Climate Change at the Heart of Council Action
 11. Carbon Offsetting
- 2.7 The Draft Climate Action Plan sets out individual actions that need to take place across the 11 key action areas. This will be a more fluid document that will be updated each year in conjunction with the community and will be used to monitor progress / delivery and keep things on track.

3.0 Consultation

- 3.1 Delivering the ambitious carbon neutral target by 2038 will require communities across Bury to work together to meet this challenge. The Climate Action Strategy and Action Plan needs to be owned by the Council, residents and stakeholders and the current consultation seeks the views of the wider community to ensure their views are considered.
- 3.2 The consultation will last for 10 weeks from 3 June to 12 August 2021.
- 3.3 With the current restrictions due to Covid and the impact on social gatherings, the consultation has been required to have a strong emphasis on online and digital engagement. The Council web site is the main point of contact where stakeholders can provide feedback via an online questionnaire.
- 3.4 To supplement the online resources, a dedicated phone line and email address have also been established, to enable people to find out more information and to request hard copy documents.
- 3.5 To ensure the responses captured are reflective of the diverse nature of the community in Bury a communications plan has been developed. Details of promotion of the consultation to date and planned promotion and engagement going forward are contained in Appendix 3.
- 3.6 The consultation has now been open for 5 weeks and the latest figures in relation to responses are shown below :

Date	Visits to Consultation Site	Questionnaires Completed
5/7/21	524	87

- 3.7 Following the consultation, a further report will be produced for Cabinet approval, with the final draft Climate Action Strategy and Climate Action Plan, taking into account the results and feedback from the consultation. The Climate Action Plan will then continue to be a fluid document that will be updated and revised each year.

4.0 CONCLUSION

- 4.1 The Draft Climate Action Strategy and Plan sets out Bury Council's approach to meeting carbon neutral targets and addressing the climate emergency.
- 4.2 Achieving carbon neutral targets requires actions from all sections of our community and the current consultation on the Draft Climate Action Strategy and Plan aims to engage our local residents, businesses and other stakeholders in the development of practical deliverable actions.
- 4.3 Increasing engagement in relation to the Climate Strategy, through various engagement options (Appendix 3) will be the main focus of the team until 12 August when the consultation closes.

5.0 APPENDICES

- 5.1 Appendix 1 – [Bury Council's Greenhouse Gas Report 2019/20](#)
- 5.2 Appendix 2 – Cabinet Report – 26 May 2021 - [Public Consultation on the Draft Climate Strategy and Climate Action Plan](#)
- 5.3 Appendix 3 – Climate Action Strategy Consultation Progress Briefing Note

List of Background Papers:-

N/A Appropriate documents attached as Appendices.

Contact Details:-

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