

Appendix 4: May Cabinet Report



Classification	Item No.
Open	

Meeting:	Cabinet
Meeting date:	26 May 2021
Title of report:	Public Consultation on the Draft Climate Strategy and Climate Action Plan
Report by:	Cabinet Member for Environment and Climate Change
Decision Type:	Key Decision
Ward(s) to which report relates	All

1.0 Executive Summary:

- 1.1 In 2019 Bury council declared a climate emergency and set an ambitious target to be carbon neutral by 2038. This is reflected as a commitment in the Council Let's Do It Strategy.
- 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 and it is proposed to consult residents and other stakeholders on the draft documents.
- 1.3 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.
- 1.4 The Climate Action Plan is a more fluid document that will be updated each year and will be used to monitor progress across the community, partners and the council to ensure delivery and keep things on track.

- 1.5 Climate change is a long lasting and universal problem that will affect everyone and those most impacted will be our most vulnerable residents. It will be the young people who will have to deal with our legacy into the future and we owe it to them to take the drastic action required.

2.0 Recommendation(s)

That the Cabinet:

- 2.1 Acknowledge the work to date on developing the draft Climate Action Strategy and Climate Action Plan.
- 2.2 Approve the draft Climate Action Strategy and Climate Action Plan for public consultation for a period of ten weeks.
- 2.3 Note that a further report will be presented to Cabinet for adoption, with the final Climate Action Strategy and Climate Action Plan, that takes into account the results and feedback from the consultation.

3.0 Background

- 3.1 The "Lets 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.
- 3.2 Achieving this 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.
- 3.3 To help achieve this change the Council must provide leadership for all individuals and organisations in the borough and enable anyone and everyone to take climate action.
- 3.4 The draft Climate Action Strategy (See Appendix 1) 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. Low-Carbon 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

- 3.5 The Climate Action Plan (See Appendix 2) sets out individual actions that need to take place across the 11 Priority Action Areas. The actions listed will provide organisations across Bury the opportunity to take part in our drive towards carbon neutrality, through the commencement of local projects and initiatives. 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
- 3.6 We have listed the progress against actions to date that the Council are aware of, but there will be much more taking place within communities, businesses and other public sector organisations across the borough that we have not yet captured. This can be added to the progress as we move forward, to give a true picture of all the action taking place in Bury.

4.0 Consultation

- 4.1 The Council has produced a draft Climate Action Strategy and Climate Action Plan, but to deliver the ambitious target by 2038 will require communities across Bury to work together and support the delivery. The Climate Action Strategy and Action Plan needs to be owned by the Council, residents and stakeholders and the consultation will seek the views of the wider community to ensure feedback is considered and the importance of different aspects of the strategy are understood across the different neighbourhoods.
- 4.2 A set of consultation questions have been developed to capture the feedback from the community and a copy of the consultation document is attached as Appendix 3.
- 4.3 The Council plans to undertake a 10-week consultation, which will commence on the 3rd June 2021.
- 4.4 With the current restrictions due to Covid and the impact on social gatherings, the consultation will have a strong emphasis on online and digital engagement and the Council Web site will be used as the main point of contact for the formal consultation. Feedback will be encouraged via an online questionnaire and a dedicated phone line and email address will be established, to enable people to find out more information or request hard copy documents.

- 4.5 To ensure the responses captured are reflective of the diverse nature of the community in Bury, a communications plan is also attached with further details of the engagement that will take place (See Appendix 4).
- 4.6 Following the consultation, a supplementary report outlining the results and feedback will be produced and will be submitted alongside the final draft Climate Action Strategy and Climate Action Plan.
- 4.7 Post-consultation, the Council will have a better understanding of the community and local action groups and actions can then start to be distributed and delegated. The Climate Action Plan will then be used to keep track of these actions through annual updating and revision.

Other options considered

The Council did consider having one document that included both the Strategy and Action Plan. However, it was felt that some people may not be interested in the background and detail of the Strategy but may still be keen to get involved and take action. By having a separate and fluid Climate Action Plan the community and stakeholders can commit to helping to deliver one or a number of actions and see how these fit into the wider strategy.

Community impact/links with Community Strategy

The proposals are designed to protect the climate and safeguard the health and wellbeing of our communities in line with Section 4.2 re "Place" in the Bury 2030 Strategy.

Equality Impact and considerations:

An Equality Impact Assessment has been carried out and is attached at Appendix 5.

The Climate Action Strategy will promote equality by actively encouraging and engaging all members of society to participate and take action. Those who suffer societal injustices and discrimination are those most likely to suffer environmental injustices and be worst hit by changes in climate. It is therefore imperative that these people are not left behind. As we look towards carbon neutrality and begin to lay the groundwork by setting actions that will get us there; we must remember that many protected characteristics will require certain considerations not only to avoid being negatively impacted but also to ensure they can fully engage with the process.

Assessment of Risk:

The following risks apply to the decision:

Risk / opportunity	Mitigation
--------------------	------------

<p>That the target to be carbon neutral by 2038 is not met.</p>	<p>By producing a Climate Action Strategy and Climate Action Plan and consulting on the documents we hope that everyone will understand the need for change and the role they can play in helping to deliver action.</p> <p>The Climate Action Plan will be a fluid document that will be reviewed annually so progress is tracked and monitored.</p>
<p>The community is not engaged in the delivery of the actions required to meet the 2038 target.</p>	<p>The consultation will seek to understand the priorities of the community and their preferred delivery methods.</p>
<p>Lack of engagement in the consultation and responses not representative of the communities in Bury.</p>	<p>Engagement plan in place to detail varied methods of engagement with different communities. Equality Impact Assessment carried out.</p>

Consultation:

Discussions have taken place with Council Officers and Members in relation to specific sections of the strategy that relate to their services.

The 10-week consultation period will provide an opportunity for the wider views of the community and key stakeholders to be considered so their feedback can be incorporated into the Strategy and Action plan.

Legal Implications:

There are no legal implications for this report, the consultation to be carried out will be used to inform the next steps in the development of the strategy. A full suite of consultation documents are appended to this report.

Financial Implications:

There are no financial implications at this stage however implementing the strategy will have costs that will need to be funded. The extent and timing of these cannot yet be quantified and it is anticipated that funding from central government will be made available. All implementation plans will be subject to robust business cases and the identification of funding and financing options.

Report Author and Contact Details:

Laura Swann – Assistant Director Operations Strategy

Background papers:

N/A