

SCRUTINY REPORT



MEETING: Overview and Scrutiny Committee

DATE: 19 July 2022

SUBJECT: Climate Action Strategy

**REPORT FROM: Councillor Quinn
(Exec Member for Environment, Climate Change
and Operations)**

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

1 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The Council declared a climate emergency in 2019 and has made a commitment to become carbon neutral by 2038. This aligns with the target for Greater Manchester.
- 1.2 The Council's Let's Do It strategy and Corporate Plan identify achieving carbon neutrality by 2038 as a key priority for Bury.
- 1.3 In October 2021, following public consultation, the Council published its Climate Action Strategy and Climate Action Plan. These documents outline how the Council will work towards achieving carbon neutrality by 2038.

2 STRUCTURE/GOVERNANCE

- 2.1 To ensure delivery of the Climate Strategy and Action Plan a Climate Action board has been established.
- 2.2 Following a Team Bury Away day, the delivery of the Climate agenda was identified as a priority across the Team Bury Partnership. As a result, the Climate Action Board will report into the Team Bury Structure as part of the governance process going forward.
- 2.3 The Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) has established a group that is comprised of local authorities and other partners who are working towards their Five-Year Environment Plan. This group highlights opportunities for

collaborative working and good practice. The Climate Action Team represents the Council on this group.

3 PROGRESS

3.1 Later this year an updated Climate Action Plan will be published to demonstrate what progress the Council is making towards carbon neutrality. This will be a comprehensive overview of climate actions across the whole council and beyond. There are some highlights outlined below.

3.2 The Council will also publish its latest Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emission report later this year. The 2020/21 report identified the council has reduced its GHG emissions by 53% since 2008/09.

3.3 In 2021/2022 the following actions towards carbon neutrality were delivered:

- The Climate Action Strategy and Climate Action Plan were published in October 2021 following public consultation.
- The Climate Strategic Board representing the Council, other public sector organisations, cultural organisations, the business sector, and community groups was established and held its inaugural meeting on 3 March 2022.
- £100k of Community Climate Action funding was distributed to 12 community groups and organisations around Bury to take action to address climate change.
- Work has commenced to develop Climate Action Forums in each neighbourhood, with Prestwich Environmental Forum and Whitefield Environmental Forum are already established.
- Successful bid from Six Town Housing alongside the GMCA for the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund (SHDF). Work is now commencing on roughly 100 properties at Chesham Estate.
- Working with Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM) rapid electric vehicle charging infrastructure was installed at the Rock and Millgate Shopping Centre

3.4 So far in 2022/23 delivery has included:

- Trial of Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO) as a replacement for diesel in our larger fleet vehicles.
- Second meeting of the Climate Strategic Board on 7 June 2022.

- Installation of Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure (EVCI) at Bradley Fold and Bury Cemetery for impending arrival of Electric vans into the Council fleet.
- The replacement of the Councils vehicle fleet with lower emission vehicles continues to progress and 42% of vehicles are now Euro 6 diesels. Orders are in place for the remaining 58% of the fleet. As part of this process 13 electric vans have been ordered. Please see the spreadsheet in appendix 1 for a further breakdown and detail.
- Delivery of the following building decarbonisation measure using funding from the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS):

Site	Measures installed
Bury Adult Learning Centre	Double glazing
Bury Fish and Meat Market	Solar PV and New Variable Refrigerant Flow (VRF) heating system
Ramsbottom Pool	Solar PV
Ramsbottom Library	Internal works for solar PV – panels to be installed with reroofing works in late Summer
Ramsbottom Civic Centre	Solar PV
New Kershaw Centre	Solar PV
The Met	Solar PV
Bury Town Hall	Double glazing

Bury Council was originally awarded £8.5m of PSDS funding to spend on decarbonisation measures, which included additional sites to those listed above and the installation of heat pumps at a number of buildings in addition to the above measures.

Unfortunately, the scope of the project had to later be reduced due to impractical deadlines for completion. The original scheme was announced in October 2020, but the actual go ahead from Government was not given until February 2021, with a required completion date for all works of September 2021. Following complaints from many local authorities that this was not deliverable, the deadline was extended until end March 2022, which was still very tight.

Within this time frame Bury Council had to procure a project manager and then a contractor to audit the relevant premises, produce detailed and costed designs and fully deliver the decarbonisation measures. Despite best efforts to deliver the original works it became necessary to reduce the scope in order to meet the agreed timescales and ensure the Council was not liable for the costs (if work ran over). The extremely challenging

timelines were made even more difficult by late notification of award, timescales changing throughout the project, the impact of COVID and long lead in times for delivery of equipment.

In January 2022 a further extension was given for the final completion of projects to end June 2022, despite the council being told this would not be possible in December 2021. Everything possible was done to enable works that were achievable in the timeframe to be delivered and the above works lists were completed by end June 2022. The total value of the funding received by Bury Council was £2.257 million.

3.5 The table below outlines the key deliverables identified for the Climate Action Team in 2022/23, however it should be noted that this does not include action from across the whole Council. This will be captured in the updated Climate Action Plan later this year, as stated above:

3.6 Climate Action Key Deliverables:

The tables below demonstrate the key deliverables for the Climate Action Team for 2022/23. Those in green have been completed and a further update is provided below for the Q1 actions that are still in progress.

The business case to use the Go Neutral smart energy framework will be developed when the asset rationalisation project is complete, and we have an understanding of what buildings the council will keep going forward.

The Carbon Literacy e-learning is drafted and should be available from the end July. A refresh of the single use plastic action plan has been produced.

A report is going to Cabinet in July to seek approval to run a procurement process to appoint a supplier to install Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure on Council land under a concessionary arrangement. This will significantly increase the number of EV charge points in Bury.

There are some delays on the delivery of the five highways vehicles, but one gully vehicle was delivered on 1 July 2022, and another is due three weeks later. In addition, three road sweepers have been delivered week commencing 4 July 2022.

Action	Deadline
Distribute all £100k Community Climate Action Funding (CCAF)	Q1
Complete Public Sector Decarbonisation projects	Q1
Develop business case together to use Go Neutral	Q1

Carbon Literacy – E-Learning rolled out	Q1
School Climate Conference	Q1
Climate Action Board established and meeting quarterly	Q1
Contribute to the town regeneration plans to ensure Carbon Neutrality is considered	Q1
Commence Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund project if bid successful	Q1
E car club pilot commenced	Q1
Delivery of 5 Highway vehicles and 3 road sweepers with diesel 6 engines	Q1
Start trial of HVO fuel	Q1
Determine the baseline around single use plastic and develop an action plan with quarterly targets to be single use plastic free	Q1
Fleet EVCI installed at Bradley Fold and Bury Cemetery	Q2
Bury Means Green Business Breakfast Event	Q2
Community Environmental Forums established and running in each Neighbourhood	Q2
Carbon Literacy Training – rolled out for decision makers	Q2
Publish Greenhouse Gas report for 21/22	Q2
Take an active part in the Retrofit Accelerator project	Q2
Produce a Climate Action Communications Plan	Q2
Delivery of 2 gully wagons with diesel 6 engines	Q2
Implement targeted quarterly programme to reduce single use plastic	Q2
10 public Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure installed	Q3
Completion of E-hub trial	Q3
Developing case studies from the (CCAF)	Q3
Contribute to the Local Plan to ensure Carbon Neutrality is considered	Q3
Roll out of HVO fuel across the fleet (if trial successful)	Q3
Delivery of 2 gully wagons, 2 waste vehicles, 26 vans and tippers with diesel 6 engines	Q3
Delivery of 13 electric vans	Q3
Implement targeted quarterly programme to reduce single use plastic	Q3
Support Community Energy Company Set up	Q4
Delivery of 47 vans and tippers with diesel 6 engines.	Q4
Implement targeted quarterly programme to reduce single use plastic	Q4

2.0 ISSUES

The target of reaching carbon neutrality by 2038 is very challenging and significant progress needs to be made as soon as possible. The Council's carbon budget will be spent in the next 5 years according to the Tyndall Centre, highlighting the need to act quickly.

There is a small temporary team in place to help drive the delivery of the Climate change agenda. However, we need to continue to build a whole council commitment to making changes that reduce carbon emissions quickly.

3.0 CONCLUSION

Considerable progress has been made over the last few years and the Council now has a detailed strategy and action plan in place with a clear governance structure to monitor progress and ensure delivery.

List of Background Papers: -

Climate Action Strategy -

<https://www.bury.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=22153&p=0>

Climate Action Plan - <https://www.bury.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=22155&p=0>

Greenhouse Gas Emissions Report 2020/21 -

<https://www.bury.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=17257&p=0>

GMCA Five-Year Environment Plan - https://www.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk/media/1986/5-year-plan-branded_3.pdf

Appendix 1 – Vehicle Replacement Update



Appendix 1 -
Vehicle replacement

Setting Climate Commitments for Bury - [Local and Regional Implications of the United Nations Paris Agreement on Climate Change \(manchester.ac.uk\)](https://www.manchester.ac.uk/local-and-regional-implications-of-the-united-nations-paris-agreement-on-climate-change)

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Executive Director sign off Date: 7 July 2022

JET Meeting Date: _____