

Executive Board – 16th June 2020

Subject:	2028 Carbon Neutral Action Plan
Corporate Director(s)/Director(s):	Andy Vaughan, Corporate Director - Commercial & Operations
Portfolio Holder(s):	Councillor Sally Longford, Portfolio Holder for Energy, Environment and Democratic Services
Report author and contact details:	Wayne Bexton, Head of Energy Services Wayne.bexton@nottinghamcity.gov.uk Jonathan Ward, Principal Energy Policy Officer Jonathan.ward@nottinghamcity.gov.uk
Subject to call-in:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Key Decision:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Criteria for Key Decision:	
(a)	<input type="checkbox"/> Expenditure <input type="checkbox"/> Income <input type="checkbox"/> Savings of £1,000,000 or more taking account of the overall impact of the decision
and/or	
(b)	Significant impact on communities living or working in two or more wards in the City <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Type of expenditure:	<input type="checkbox"/> Revenue <input type="checkbox"/> Capital
Total value of the decision: £0	
Wards affected: All	
Date of consultation with Portfolio Holder(s): 15th May 2020	
Relevant Council Plan Key Theme:	
Nottingham People	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Living in Nottingham	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Growing Nottingham	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Respect for Nottingham	<input type="checkbox"/>
Serving Nottingham Better	<input type="checkbox"/>
Summary of issues (including benefits to citizens/service users):	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This report presents the final Carbon Neutral Action Plan document, following an extensive consultation, and details the structure to make Nottingham Carbon Neutral by 2028, commencing actions to tackle the Climate and Ecological Emergency declared in January 2020. The key recommendation is to adopt the revised 2028 Carbon Neutral Action Plan following public consultation, which is required to successfully deliver on the city's Climate and Ecological Emergency commitments, including the 2028 carbon reduction target and ensuring the city is more resilient and adapting to a changing climate. Appropriate management and governance arrangements are required to ensure successful delivery of the programme over the course of the Action Plan. This will provide impetus, leadership, direction and commitment to making Nottingham the country's first carbon neutral city, and to maximise the significant economic, environmental and social benefits that it will bring. The Action Plan delivery in the next 12 months will be adjusted to account for ongoing impacts from COVID-19 upon the city. Delivery of this vital and ambitious programme can spearhead the renewal of the city and provide a stimulus for the local economy following the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and avoid significant costs from climate change in the coming years. The Council should now put sustainable carbon neutrality at the core of its service delivery and decision-making. Nottingham's approach, putting climate action at the heart of a wider 	

sustainability vision that delivers for people and planet, will provide the foundation for future prosperity in the city and deliver wellbeing for future generations

Exempt information:

None

Recommendation(s):

1 To adopt the revised Action Plan to make Nottingham Carbon Neutral by 2028 along with the proposed governance structure and management arrangements.

2 To endorse a review of the above arrangements in 12 months' time (July 2021) to ensure they continue to effectively deliver the overall commitment.

1 Reasons for recommendations

Adoption of 2028 Carbon Neutral Action Plan

- 1.1 The city has already made substantial carbon dioxide (CO₂) emission reductions (41%) from 2005 to 2017, building on a long history of leadership in energy and climate projects that has forged a national reputation for innovation and excellence.
- 1.2 A significant commitment was made in January 2019 at Full Council for Nottingham, and the City Council, to become carbon neutral by 2028. This is now part of the Council Plan 2019-2023 as one of the Council's priority pledges for delivery.
- 1.3 In autumn 2019, the City Council, working with the One Nottingham Green Partnership, created a vision for sustainable carbon neutrality with the Carbon Neutral Charter. This set out the principles, priorities and parameters of the city's approach and proposed a Carbon Budget for the city area emissions.
- 1.4 The Carbon Budget will ensure the city's historical emissions are factored into its share of a global science-based budget to prevent dangerous climate change. The current rate of emissions reduction would see the city's notional carbon budget until 2100, used up by 2028.
- 1.5 At Full Council on the 13th January 2020, the Council declared a Climate and Ecological Emergency, and a draft 2028 Action Plan was published by the City Council to achieve sustainable carbon neutrality for Nottingham.
- 1.6 A public consultation on the Action Plan ran from 20th January to 15th March 2020. An online survey was complemented by a range of engagement events, workshops and detailed submissions to reach out across the city and its communities.
- 1.7 This resulted in nearly 1,000 responses from citizens, organisations and businesses across the city. These included organisations in higher education, enterprise, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and the civic sector. A summary of the responses can be found in Appendix A.
- 1.8 The consultation demonstrated widespread support for the plan, and learning from the process has been incorporated into a revised 2028 Carbon Neutral Action Plan, which this report recommends for adoption (see Appendix B).

- 1.9 The 2028 Carbon Neutral Action Plan sets out the actions from the City Council, with a consideration for what is required from partners and national government in order for it to be successfully delivered.
- 1.10 The 2028 Carbon Neutral Action Plan covers four key areas: carbon reduction, carbon removal, ecology and the climate, and resilience and adaptation. Carbon reduction is further split into five thematic areas: Transport, Built Environment, Energy, Waste and Water, and, Consumption. It links to a range of other policies and plans.
- 1.11 The 2028 Carbon Neutral Action Plan sets out the objectives and outcomes required to meet the 2028 target and the key steps identified so far to get there. It is designed to be a live document, with an annual review process that will include updates on progress and performance, and opportunity for citizens and organisations to participate in updating the plan in a lasting city-wide partnership.
- 1.12 Priority areas from the 2028 Carbon Neutral Action Plan, such as retrofitting of buildings, can provide the basis for moving forward for a plan to renew and regenerate the city in a just and sustainable way in response to the impacts of COVID-19. Priority programmes can support jobs, reduce costs for businesses and householders, boost supply chains, and incentivise new products and services.
- 1.13 Unless action to manage and deliver this 2028 Carbon Neutral Action Plan is continued in the next 12 months, crucial momentum will be lost towards the target of 2028, jeopardising the plan's core aim. Furthermore, the ability to put this agenda at the very heart of the city and its renewal following the COVID-19 pandemic, and all the opportunities that this offers, will be squandered.

Delivering the 2028 Carbon Neutral Programme

- 1.14 Becoming carbon neutral by 2028 can only be achieved by the effort and commitment of ALL Council employees, every citizen, visitors, businesses and organisations across the city.
- 1.15 The 2028 target requires an immediate and rapid acceleration of CO₂ emissions reduction within the Council, and across the city. In order to achieve carbon neutrality, UK cities and their economies will need to transform how they operate, placing climate change and sustainability firmly at the heart of decision making and business models.
- 1.16 Within the City Council, every role will be affected, and every role will have a part to play. The aims of the 2028 Carbon Neutral Action Plan will need to be reflected in job descriptions and become part of the organisational culture.
- 1.17 The Council is already actively working on changing the way it operates and to foster and support a culture of sustainable carbon neutrality. This includes:
 - Developing proposals for how, when and where to consider sustainable carbon neutrality in decision making to ensure actions are delivered and Council activity aligns with the 2028 Carbon Neutral Action Plan
 - E-learning and training for staff, with proposals being considered for how to support communities and partners to improve citywide literacy on the agenda
 - Undertaking service level pilots to embed core principles in business and service plans, linking carbon footprints to service provision

- 1.18 In the current context of fiscal impacts arising from the COVID-19 pandemic related additional demands upon the Council and loss of revenue, resourcing proposals have been considered in the perspective of the requirements of the next 12 months, and the length of the 2028 Carbon Neutral Action Plan.
- 1.19 It is proposed that a dedicated programme management team is formed within the City Council and is resourced through existing budgetary and workforce arrangements, led by Energy Services.
- 1.20 The resourcing arrangements will be reviewed in 12 months as part of the annual reporting and review period of the 2028 Carbon Neutral Action Plan. It will be necessary to have sufficient resources to deliver the increase in scale and urgency required over the lifetime of the 2028 Carbon Neutral Action Plan.
- 1.21 It is proposed that aligned with this initial management approach, there is a short-term prioritisation of actions in the Plan that deliver against a set of criteria to support the urgent needs of the city following the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. These criteria would likely include:
- Cutting energy and waste costs, improving efficiency at home and at work
Safeguarding existing and creating new jobs
 - Improving wellbeing for citizens and productivity for organisations
 - Supporting and stimulating supply chains and attracting investment
 - Being the catalyst for new markets, products and services.

Governance

- 1.22 The Council acknowledges and embraces its role as a leader for the City, but we recognise that we cannot deliver the ambitions of this commitment alone. Not only does it need everyone in the Council and the City to play their part, delivery will also be enhanced by developing regional collaboration building on the excellent arrangements already in place such as with the Midlands Energy Hub, D2N2 Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP), Nottinghamshire County and District Councils and other city partnerships. In addition to the City Council leading the drive for the city of Nottingham, it will position NCC as the region's leader in Carbon Neutrality working collaboratively with our fellow East Midlands cities.
- 1.23 Drawing upon experiences from prior, and existing programmes, a governance structure has been proposed and developed through the Council's Energy and Sustainability Board (See appendix C). It reflects the corporate nature of this programme, encompassing the key directorates and services across the Council.
- 1.24 This proposed governance structure places designated senior officer leads across programme streams that relate to the thematic areas of the 2028 Carbon Neutral Action Plan. An implementation group will ensure the necessary alignment and interaction between the thematic areas, many of which are interdependent, and ensure overall progress is maintained, resourced and developed.
- 1.25 The implementation group will report to a CN2028 Board with an Executive Portfolio Holder as chair, with core officers from the implementation group. The CN2028 Board will report to the Council's Executive Board, through which the strategic city-wide governance can be connected. This will be

complemented by existing officer level engagement with the One Nottingham Green Partnership for delivery and governance of stakeholder arrangement.

2 Background (including outcomes of consultation)

- 2.1 A range of weather events and changes in climate affect the City; disrupting infrastructure, transport, the economy, council services and the lives of citizens. Without action to adapt, this will have profound negative impacts upon the city and its citizens.
- 2.2 The impacts of climate change are often felt most acutely by more vulnerable people in society. This relationship with income and other characteristics creates a climate justice issue, particularly as those on lower incomes have historically emitted fewer carbon emissions.
- 2.3 Recent economic studies have suggested that putting a range of carbon, ecological and sustainability related policies provide the best the economic return in the short and long-term against traditional fiscal stimulus. They also improve the quality of life for citizens, make the city more resilient.
- 2.4 Acting early and investing in reducing emissions and adapting to a changing climate has been shown to be the most cost-effective approach – avoiding significant future costs and providing economic benefits in the near term. It will position the city and council to benefit from providing products and services to the national and international economy in its fastest growing sector.

3 Other options considered in making recommendations

- 3.1 Not adopt the 2028 Carbon Neutral Action Plan. This option was rejected, as it would leave the Council in contradiction to its declaration and commitments made under the Climate and Ecological Emergency and unable to deliver against the Carbon Neutral target, and other legal requirements for Councils relating to Climate Change.

4 Finance colleague comments (including implications and value for money/VAT)

- 4.1 This decision does not capture the need for any additional funding. If any financial investment is required this will need to form part of a separate decision and will need to take in to account the financial context of the organisation and its Medium Term Financial Plan.
- 4.2 Any grants received to support this plan will require a separate decision and where ever possible back office costs need to be aligned to the grants.
- 4.3 Section 1.17 refers to the plan being captured in all future organisational decisions where appropriate.
- 4.4 Any savings generated by those initiatives captured in 1.21 will require transparent monitoring and including in monthly forecasting.
- 4.5 It is assumed that there will be no additional resources to support the delivery of this plan and that any income targets that the team have budgeted in the MTFP will still need to be achieved through the normal business activity.

5 Legal and Procurement colleague comments (including risk management issues, and legal, Crime and Disorder Act and procurement implications)

- 5.1 This report seeks authority for the Executive Board to adopt the Carbon Neutral Action Plan. This is on the basis that Full Council considered the proposal for an Action Plan in January and agreed for the decision whether to adopt the Action Plan to be subject to undertaking a public consultation. The Executive Board is now asked to consider adopting the Action Plan taking into consideration the outcome of that consultation.
- 5.2 It should be noted that the Action Plan is a plan and not Council policy. Action taken in accordance with the Action Plan if adopted will be subject to the requirements of any relevant legislation.
- 5.3 Further legal and other professional advice will be needed where future action is to be taken based on the Action Plan, for example, at paragraph 16 in this report it suggests that job descriptions will need to be changed to reflect the Action Plan. Any proposal to change job descriptions must be subject to discussions with HR, legal advice and following appropriate consultation with stakeholders.

Andrew James Team Leader, Commercial, Employment and Education, 1st June 2020.

5.4 Procurement – N/A

6 Strategic Assets & Property colleague comments (for decisions relating to all property assets and associated infrastructure)

6.1 N/A

7. HR comments

- 7.1 There are no people management issues in terms of recruitment of staff, appropriate exit strategy and any associated costs etc however HR support will be provided in any review of JDs and also in the recruitment of a management team to support the delivery of the strategy albeit this will be from existing resource and staff. Comments provided by Shakeel Khalil, Senior HR Consultant, 28/05/20.

8 Social value considerations

- 8.1 As described above, the Action Plan will deliver a sustainability vision that delivers for people and planet, providing the foundation for future prosperity in the city and delivering wellbeing for future generations.

9 Regard to the NHS Constitution

9.1 N/A

10 Equality Impact Assessment (EIA)

- 10.1 Has the equality impact of the proposals in this report been assessed?

No
An EIA is not required because:

N/A - Actions will be delivered on a city-wide scale with no potential for discrimination – equality is at the heart of the Action Plan.

Yes

11 List of background papers relied upon in writing this report (not including published documents or confidential or exempt information)

11.1 Revised 2028 Carbon Neutral Action Plan (Appendix B)

12 Published documents referred to in this report

12.1 Nottingham 2028 Carbon Neutral Charter
(<https://www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/cn2028>)

12.2 Draft 2028 Carbon Neutral Action Plan (<https://www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/cn2028>)

12.3 Council Plan 2019-2022