



Working Together to Achieve Carbon Neutral Nottingham 2028

Purpose

This briefing paper introduces the response of the Council to climate change and the impact this is having and will have on public health and wellbeing. The scale and pace of change needed to reduce the city's carbon emissions to net zero by 2028 will require all health and social care sector partners to play their part and work collaboratively with the Council to achieve this.

The Council's Head of Energy Services leads the Council's efforts on climate change and carbon neutrality, and will attend the meeting of the Board to provide more detail on this and discuss the importance of engaging effectively with health partners to work collaboratively to tackle this threat.

Background

Average global temperature has increased at the fastest rate in recorded history and the trend is accelerating. Rising temperatures caused principally from humans burning fossil fuels releasing CO₂ into the atmosphere are now altering the global climate resulting in longer and hotter heat waves, more frequent droughts, heavier rainfall and more powerful storms and hurricanes. This poses an immense threat to our livelihoods with substantial risks to health, social well-being, economies and the natural environment. The Lancet Countdown (2015) regarded climate change as the greatest threat to human health in the 21st Century.

Mitigating climate change presents unrivalled opportunities for improving public health. The policies that are being implemented to reduce CO₂ and other greenhouse gas emissions will also bring about substantial reductions in heart disease, cancer, obesity, diabetes, road deaths and injuries, and air pollution. Also evidence shows that marginalised, deprived and vulnerable groups and communities often face the worst consequences of climate change.

Nottingham has reduced city wide CO₂ emissions by over 43% since 2005. However, the city still emitted 1.17 million tonnes of CO₂ in 2017, enough to drive the average car 6 billion miles in a year. Now, Nottingham must go further and faster to reduce emissions and lower its carbon footprint to play its part in preventing a dangerously warmer world. So in January 2020, the Council declared a Climate and Ecological Emergency, followed by publishing a Carbon Neutral Charter, which is partnership agreement to achieve net zero by 2028 and jointly tackle climate change across the city. In March 2020, it published a Carbon Neutral Nottingham 2028 Action Plan. The contribution to improving public health is reflected in numerous actions such as improving air quality, reducing fuel poverty, warmer and better housing, dietary choices, access to open spaces and nature, etc.

The Council cannot achieve this ambition on its own. The carbon emissions from the Council's direct activities alone only constitutes around 4% of the city's overall carbon footprint. Therefore, it is imperative that all organisations, businesses, residents and visitors in the city need to play their part. With the potential severe impact on health from climate change, the understanding, involvement and





contribution of the sector is crucial. The Council has been recognised nationally for its work on climate change and is already leading and working on multiple levels with other city partners, such as the city's universities, to support and develop a wide range of mitigating actions and strategies.

Extending and adopting 'system thinking' is necessary to more effectively embrace the whole range of health sector partners so all can work together to achieve this shared ambition of achieving carbon neutrality. To this end, the Council is looking to work with, support and advise health partners to help collectively deliver the city's ambition.

Recommendations

1. The Board and its partner members, in discussion with the Climate Change Team in the Council's Energy Services, consider how the city's ambition of carbon neutral by 2028 can be achieved, and the particular opportunities across the health and care sector towards this.
2. A representative of the Board attends future quarterly Carbon Neutral Nottingham 2028 Board meetings, which are chaired by the Council's Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Energy, Environment and Democratic Services.

