

## **CITY COUNCIL – 13 JANUARY 2020**

### **REPORT OF THE DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL AND PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR ENERGY, ENVIRONMENT AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES**

#### **CARBON NEUTRAL CHARTER AND ACTION PLAN**

##### **1 SUMMARY**

- 1.1 Nottingham City Council has responded to the climate and environmental crisis by setting an ambition to become the first carbon neutral city in the UK by 2028. In keeping with Nottingham's proud tradition of climate leadership, a Charter has been developed which sets out a vision for sustainable carbon neutrality on behalf of the City's Green Partnership.
- 1.2 Through the development of the Carbon Neutral Charter, Nottingham City Council has acknowledged the scale of the climate crisis and therefore declaring a climate and ecological emergency gives recognition to the immediate action required in order to deliver on achieving carbon neutrality.
- 1.3 Additionally, a consultation will be launched on the citywide 2028 Carbon Neutral Action Plan in order to co-create the necessary next steps as a City.

##### **2 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 To declare a climate and ecological emergency.
- 2.2 To adopt the Carbon Neutral Charter, as set out in appendix 1.
- 2.3 To consult on an Action Plan, which will be the methodology of enacting the Charter, and note that the outcome of consultation and any further recommendations or actions to be taken following the outcome of the consultation will be subject to further approval.

##### **3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 The science is clear; as is the need to act urgently to reduce our carbon emissions to limit global temperature rise to below 1.5°C, and so prevent devastating impacts around the world and closer to home.
- 3.2 Nottingham City Council has developed a Charter, in partnership with City stakeholders via the Green Theme Partnership, outlining Nottingham's approach to sustainable carbon neutrality. The role of the Council is to offer leadership, partnership, communication, planning/policy, signposting and provide skills that are all necessary to deliver the scale of action required. A clear and shared positive citywide vision is important to encourage action and build enthusiasm for change: particularly when faced with the scale of the challenge.
- 3.3 Nottingham City Council made a commitment in January 2019 to make Nottingham carbon neutral by 2028 and in the Charter there is a commitment to engaging the city

to create the path forward together. The action plan provides the next step in creating a shared citywide approach to sustainable carbon neutrality by identifying priorities for carbon emissions reduction.

#### **4 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED IN MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 4.1 Not to endorse the Charter and adopt the principles into Council policy. This would reduce the ability for effective collective citywide action on this agenda.
- 4.2 Not to consult on an action plan to enact the Charter. This would prevent citywide engagement, activity and ownership of this agenda.

#### **5 BACKGROUND (INCLUDING OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION)**

- 5.1 Globally 1,260 jurisdictions in 25 countries have declared a climate emergency. In Britain, now over 80% of the population lives in areas that have declared a climate emergency, almost 400 councils altogether. On 1 May 2019, the United Kingdom's Labour Party got unanimous support for a non-binding motion in favour of a climate emergency declaration in the House of Commons, claiming Britain thereby was the first country in the world where a bipartisan parliament had declared a climate emergency.
- 5.2 Nottingham City Council has already reduced citywide carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions by over 41% since 2005, surpassing previous carbon reduction targets. However, the City still emitted 1.17 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> in 2017.

The Council has led the way to a more sustainable and green City by:

- signing the Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change in 2000 with a follow up in 2011;
- investing in one of the UK's largest electric bus fleets as well as biogas and retrofitted buses;
- developing and expanding the tram network, running on electricity from renewable sources;
- improving cycling facilities, including bike hubs and a cycle hire scheme and investing in cycle corridors;
- introducing the Workplace Parking Levy – tackling congestion and containing traffic growth, while generating funds to invest in public transport;
- installing solar panels on 4500 domestic properties across the city;
- working on innovative projects including our solar vehicle to grid project; and
- retrofitting 400 homes with energy efficient measures through the REMOURBAN and Green HousiNG Project.

Now, Nottingham must go even further to reduce emissions and lower its carbon footprint to play its part in preventing a dangerously warmer world. The Charter provides the high-level principles that Nottingham City Council will adopt to achieve its ambition of become the first UK carbon neutral city.

The Charter was developed by Nottingham City Council on behalf of Nottingham's Green Partnership, with the support of its members and a range of stakeholders across the City.

**6 FINANCE COLLEAGUE COMMENTS (INCLUDING IMPLICATIONS AND VALUE FOR MONEY)**

- 6.1 There are no financial comments at this stage due to the nature of the plan.
- 6.2 Future recommendations or actions to be taken by Nottingham City Council with respect to the carbon neutral agenda will need further approval and scrutiny and may have financial implications.
- 6.3 At this time, there is no provision within the Medium Term Financial Plan to fund any future recommendations or action.

**7 LEGAL AND PROCUREMENT COLLEAGUE COMMENTS (INCLUDING RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES, AND LEGAL, CRIME AND DISORDER ACT AND PROCUREMENT IMPLICATIONS)**

- 7.1 There are no legal comments to be provided at this stage.

The Charter has been developed by Nottingham City Council on behalf of Nottingham's Green Partnership to capture the City's vision for sustainable carbon neutrality with plans of how this can be achieved within the City.

It is expected that the outcome of the consultation of the draft Action Plan will propose specific recommendations or actions to be taken by the Council with respect to its carbon neutral agenda and further approval detailing such recommendations will be required.

Legal consideration on the specific recommendations and impact of such will need to be provided at that time.

**8 EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA)**

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

No



An EIA is not required because:

(Please explain why an EIA is not necessary)

An EIA is not required for the adoption of the 2028 Charter because actions have yet to be defined.

Throughout the consultation period diverse representation will be sought and, on completion, a full EIA will be produced on the potential impacts of the finalised action plan.

**9 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS OTHER THAN PUBLISHED WORKS OR THOSE DISCLOSING CONFIDENTIAL OR EXEMPT INFORMATION**

9.1 Draft 2028 Carbon Neutral Action Plan (2020 to 2021)

**10 PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS REFERRED TO IN COMPILING THIS REPORT**

10.1 Nottingham's 2028 Carbon Neutral Charter  
<https://www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/cn2028>

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