

<b>CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b>	AGENDA ITEM No. 8
<b>17 JANUARY 2024</b>	<b>PUBLIC REPORT</b>

Report of:	Adrian Chapman, Executive Director Place and Economy		
Cabinet Member(s) responsible:	Cllr Gavin Elsey, Cabinet Member for Infrastructure, Environment and Climate Change		
Contact Officer(s):	Hannah Swinburne, Principal Climate Change Officer	Tel. 01733 453479	

**OUTLINE OF PETERBOROUGH CITY-WIDE CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION PLAN**

RECOMMENDATIONS	
<b>From:</b> Adrian Chapman, Executive Director of Place and Economy	<b>Deadline date:</b> N/A
<p>It is recommended that the Climate Change and Environment Scrutiny Committee:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Reviews and provides comments on the proposed approach to developing a city-wide Climate Change Action Plan.</li> <li>2. Supports the recommendation made by officers to prepare the plan in line with the aspiration to be a net zero carbon city by 2040, in line with the scenario proposed in the Local Area Energy Plan.</li> </ol>	

**1. ORIGIN OF REPORT**

1.1 The report has been requested by the Climate Change and Environment Scrutiny Committee.

**2. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT**

2.1 This report is brought to the Scrutiny Committee to share the proposed approach to the development of the city-wide Climate Change Action Plan and for members to consider the recommendation to prepare this plan in line with the aspiration to be a net zero carbon city by 2040, in line with the scenario proposed in the adopted Local Area Energy Plan.

2.2 This report is for Climate Change and Environment Scrutiny Committee to consider under its Terms of Reference No. Part 3, Section 4 - Overview and Scrutiny Functions, paragraph No. 2.1 Functions determined by the Council:

4. Climate Change;
5. Reducing Carbon Emissions and achieving Net Zero Carbon Emissions;

**3. TIMESCALES**

Is this a Major Policy Item/Statutory Plan?	No	If yes, date for Cabinet meeting	N/A
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## 4. BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

4.1 **Background:** In 2019 Peterborough City Council declared a climate emergency and committed to becoming a net zero carbon organisation and supporting Peterborough to become a net zero carbon city by 2030. This report relates to the latter of these two targets, namely the aspiration to become a net zero carbon city.

4.2 **Approach to developing a city-wide Climate Change Action Plan:** It is proposed that the city-wide Climate Change Action Plan is developed with several central themes: consideration of the best available evidence for decarbonisation options, alignment with local views and ensuring a just transition is supported.

4.2.1 **Evidence based - Local Area Energy Plan:** Since the declaration of a climate emergency, a Local Area Energy Plan (LAEP) has been created for the city. The LAEP provides a comprehensive and data driven analysis detailing the most cost-effective way to become a net zero carbon city. The study was completed by Energy Systems Catapult on behalf of the council.

The study involved assessing current and future energy demands, evaluating options to propose a pathway to net zero, considering low carbon heating, retrofitting buildings for improved energy efficiency, electric vehicle charging, renewable electricity generation and electricity grid capacity. To note, the plan does not cover all areas which will feature within the city-wide Climate Change Action Plan, such as land use and transport emissions from large commercial vehicles. It is estimated that the plan covers 70% of overall emissions.

Several scenarios were considered, including pathways to become net zero by 2030, 2040 or 2050. The Local Area Energy Plan deemed 2040 as the earliest plausible date that net zero is likely to be achievable across Peterborough.

The Local Area Energy Plan was developed through consideration of several national policy assumptions which have since been revised. This includes:

- At the time of producing the LAEP, a ban on the sale of new petrol and diesel vehicles was due to be introduced in 2030, with a similar ban on hybrid vehicles introduced in 2035. UK government has since delayed the ban on petrol and diesel vehicles until 2035, however the government has also set out the Zero Emission Vehicle (ZEV) mandate. The ZEV mandate requires 80% of new cars, and 70% vans, sold in 2030 to be zero tailpipe emissions, with this rising to 100% by 2035. The Committee on Climate Change have deemed that this change in policy is unlikely to significantly impact future emissions, however it may weaken consumer confidence and investment into electric vehicles.
- It was recently announced that a ban on fossil fuel boilers will be implemented in 2035, this is a significant delay in comparison to previous proposals for properties that are off the gas grid, where the installation of new oil and LPG boilers was due to be banned in 2026. Additionally, an exemption for households who would struggle financially to switch to low carbon heating was announced; this is expected to cover around 20% of homes. A further policy direction to not regulate energy efficiency improvements for rented houses was announced. The Committee on Climate Change has deemed that these changes will “make it more difficult to meet the government’s sectoral pathway”, with concerns on uncertainty for consumers and supply chains. It is not yet known how these factors will impact the decarbonisation pathway for Peterborough.

Evidence from the Local Area Energy Plan, alongside the recent national policy changes, have led to the proposal that the Climate Change and Environment Scrutiny Committee consider recommending an alternative target date for city wide decarbonisation. The options include:

- 2030 – Whilst it remains commendable that the council unanimously committed to supporting Peterborough to become a net zero carbon city by 2030, further in-depth work has been completed, including the production of the LAEP, which no longer supports 2030 as a viable net zero target. It is clear that the majority of the actions required to achieve this target are beyond the influence of the local authority, and that significant action on a national level would be required at pace.
- 2040 – The Local Area Energy Plan evaluated a decarbonisation pathway aligning with a 2040 net zero target. It is proposed that aligning with this target offers an evidence-based pathway, which combines the council's ambition with a viable goal.
- 2045 – This scenario was not evaluated by the Local Area Energy Plan, and therefore there is less accurate information around the actions and costings associated with this scenario. However, adoption of a 2045 target would show an increased ambition in comparison to UK targets.
- 2050 – Due to the council's aspiration to be a leading city in the transition to net zero, it is proposed that adopting the UK's net zero target would not demonstrate the level of ambition previously shown by Peterborough City Council.

It is recommended that the Climate Change and Environment Scrutiny Committee supports the intention of officers to develop the city-wide Climate Change Action Plan in alignment with an amended 2040 net zero target. This would present an ambitious target, following the best available evidence base, but still require strong leadership from an ambitious council. If a 2040 target is selected, there would be no slowing of council action. Rather this would more accurately reflect the fastest possible pace to net zero given the current financial and legislative landscape and latest local evidence.

#### 4.2.2 **Summary of Peterborough Climate Debate results**

A Peterborough Climate Debate public engagement campaign ran in November 2022 to March 2023. Events were run in person and online, inviting residents, schools and businesses to share their views on potential options for decarbonisation.

Around 100 residents attended events and 13 representatives from businesses attended. In addition, the debate presentation slides were shared online for organisations to deliver their own versions of the debate. A version of the debate was adapted for schools to deliver in four short 10-15 minute lessons. At least 989 individual school pupils participated in the debate, with some pupils opting to attend more than one lesson to provide feedback on multiple themes equating to 3,532 responses in total. The Youth Council ran an event in collaboration with the council. The strong response from young people demonstrates their interest in the topic and its significance to them.

The findings and views shared within the debates will be used to evidence support of potential actions and to direct the development of the city-wide Climate Change Action Plan.

4.2.3 **Just transition:** Different members of our communities will be impacted differently both by climate change and by the actions to tackle climate change, and so our approach for climate change action must be fair to all. The benefits of addressing climate change should be shared by all and everyone should have equal opportunity to engage with action. The council has committed to embedding the just transition concept in the development of any climate action plans. The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Independent Commission on Climate identified a set of principles to follow to ensure that climate change plans follow a just transition, these will also be considered when developing the action plan. Please see section 11 below which includes a link to these principles.

4.3 **Content:** It is proposed the action plan covers the following aspects.

4.3.1 **Scope of the action plan:** Peterborough's residents, businesses, and other organisations are responsible for greenhouse gas emissions from a variety of sources.

In 2021 1.18 Mtonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e (carbon dioxide equivalent) was produced in Peterborough. This was from housing (23%), businesses (20%), public sector organisations (4%), transport (34%) and other sources (19%). This data relates to activity undertaken within the area, however Peterborough's residents, businesses, organisations and community groups are also responsible for emissions resulting from activities not undertaken in Peterborough, which may arise in the UK or abroad. This data is less easy to estimate, and inclusion within Peterborough's carbon footprinting calculations would result in double counting, for instance, as emissions owing to goods produced in another region would be added to both the producing and purchasing region. Peterborough also has reduced control over these emissions. As a result, it is proposed that the city wide net zero target relates only to emissions produced in the city. However, the city-wide climate action plan could cover activities which encourage good decision making as officers acknowledge that the council has a role in climate leadership and influencing positive behaviour.

It is proposed that the first iteration of the plan will focus on the following areas:

- Buildings, including energy efficiency and low carbon heating
- Transport
- Waste
- Energy generation
- Industrial processes
- Land use

Although the council has less direct influence on other areas of emissions, we have a role in increasing the understanding of greenhouse gas emissions associated with different activities with the aim of encouraging climate friendly behaviours and choices.

Whilst the following areas are unlikely to be a primary focus for the action plan, these may be areas of interest for future iterations.

- Goods and services purchased from outside of the Peterborough geographical boundary, including shipping
- Aviation from residential and business travel

4.3.2 **A vision for Peterborough:** It is proposed that the city-wide Climate Change Action Plan would set out a clear vision of an aspirational future in Peterborough, which aligns with the proposed scenario developed in the Local Area Energy Plan. Climate activities can offer a wide range of co-benefits, including improvements to mental and physical health, financial savings, resilience to climate events, improved access to green spaces, increased biodiversity, improved economy and public sector savings. The vision will offer a view of a decarbonised Peterborough, which has also realised the associated co-benefits outlined.

4.3.3 **Delivering the vision:** Actions will be proposed which deliver upon the Local Area Energy Plan and the city net zero target. An assessment of deliverability, potential decarbonisation impact and delivery of co-benefits will be used to select actions.

Proposed activities in the action plan are likely to fulfil the council's roles in policy making, completing feasibility studies to demonstrate viability, securing funding, facilitating decarbonisations where other stakeholders are unable to, providing guidance, convening stakeholders, communicating, educating, inspiring best practice and behavioural changes and leading items which demonstrate leadership and the council's own commitment to climate action.

The Local Area Energy Plan is a key piece of evidence to inform the direction of Peterborough's decarbonisation journey, however it is missing information on how activities should be coordinated. The council has recently been awarded funding from Innovate UK to lead a collaborative project called Peterborough Accelerated Net Zero (PANZ) which addresses this, building a platform that considers the technical data alongside social, demographic and economic data to develop delivery plans that maximise likelihood of success. Using the tools developed in the PANZ project, financial mechanisms, engagement activities and training plans will be tailored to each project to enhance the chance of adoption of the net zero technology.

Peterborough was one of the earliest cities to adopt a Local Area Energy Plan. Several cities now have, or are developing, Local Area Energy Plans, but there is little clarity on how LAEPs should be acted upon to deliver real tangible decarbonisation projects. This project demonstrates Peterborough as a leading city in this area, with the work replicable in other areas following project completion.

The PANZ project will aid in the future development of the city-wide Climate Change Action Plan, supporting direct the delivery of projects.

4.3.4 **Case studies of other public sector organisations activities:** Whilst the council is a key stakeholder in the city's decarbonisation journey, it is clear that many others have a role to play. The action plan will feature case studies of ongoing activities being undertaken by other key influential organisations. The plan will also include ideas for how residents, businesses, local organisations and community groups can decarbonise or support the city to decarbonise. This aligns with the council's role in showcasing and engaging stakeholders to facilitate change.

4.4 **Development timeline:** It is proposed that the action plan is drafted by late summer 2024. This should be published for consultation for a period of eight weeks.

It is proposed that the city-wide Climate Change Action Plan be updated every two years in order to report progress made and details of new projects that will be undertaken. This will alternate each year with the Council's organisational Climate Change Action Plan.

## 5. CORPORATE PRIORITIES

5.1 Carbon Impact Assessment – Whilst the development of the city wide climate action plan will have no impact on emissions, the projects and actions outlined within the action plan will directly impact greenhouse gas emissions. The decision to pursue a 2040 net zero goal will impact the projects and actions proposed in the action plan, however it is deemed that as a 2030 net zero target is considered unfeasible, this decision is unlikely to impact city wide emissions.

The Local Area Energy Plan outlines the potential £8.8bn investment required to deliver decarbonisation across Peterborough. This will have a significant impact on job creation, opportunities and green skills development in the city.

The city-wide climate change action plan will include actions which deliver many other co-benefits, including improved health through reduced vehicle emissions and increased walking and cycling, cost savings through improvement to energy efficiency, improved access to green space and many others. These will be outlined in the action plan.

## 6. CONSULTATION

6.1 Members of the public were consulted to understand views on how best to decarbonise the city, and what policies or activities may be supported. These are summarised in appendix 2.

## 7. ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES OR IMPACT

7.1 It is anticipated that the Climate Change and Environment Scrutiny Committee comments upon the proposed approach and recommends that officers take this approach to develop the city-wide climate action plan.

It is also anticipated that members support the production of the action plan in line with the 2040 net zero target date.

## 8. REASON FOR THE RECOMMENDATION

8.1 This recommendation will enable officers to produce a city-wide climate change action plan which aligns with members' aspirations.

## **9. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 9.1 Alternative options for the net zero target date are considered within the above text, including 2030, 2045 and 2050.

## **10. IMPLICATIONS**

### **Financial Implications**

- 10.1 There are no financial implications in relation to this report.

### **Legal Implications**

- 10.2 There are no legal implications in relation to this report.

### **Equalities Implications**

- 10.3 There are no equalities impacts arising from this report but it is clear that a just transition will be central to the development of the climate change action plan.

## **11. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

Used to prepare this report, in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

- 11.1 Peterborough City Council's declaration of a climate emergency, July 2019:  
<https://democracy.peterborough.gov.uk/documents/s39660/12.%20Motions%20on%20Notice.pdf>
- Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Independent Climate Commission [FINAL CLIMATE REPORT LOW \(002\).pdf \(hubspotusercontent40.net\)](#)
- Peterborough Local Area Energy Plan  
<https://democracy.peterborough.gov.uk/documents/s48238/6.%20Appendix%202%20Peterborough%20LAEP%20Evidence%20Base.pdf%E2%80%8B>

## **12. APPENDICES**

- 12.1 Appendix A - Peterborough Climate Debate findings