

CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	AGENDA ITEM No. 9
18 SEPTEMBER 2024	PUBLIC REPORT

Report of:	Adrian Chapman, Executive Director Place and Economy	
Cabinet Member(s) responsible:	Cllr Angus Ellis, Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport	
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ROADMAP TO NET ZERO

RECOMMENDATIONS	
FROM: Adrian Chapman, Executive Director of Place and Economy	Deadline date: N/A
<p>It is recommended that the Climate Change and Environment Scrutiny Committee:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Endorses the Roadmap to Net Zero; and 2) Recommends that Cabinet endorses the roadmap to net zero for Council adoption. 	

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 Draft Roadmap to Net Zero. Councillors may wish to provide comments on the plan for inclusion in the final version.

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

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

3. TIMESCALES

Is this a Major Policy Item/Statutory Plan?	YES	If yes, date for Cabinet meeting	tbc
Date for relevant Council meeting	tbc	Date for submission to Government Dept. (Please specify which Government Dept.)	N/A

4. BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

4.1 Background

Peterborough City Council declared a climate emergency on 24 July 2019. The council adopted its first Council Carbon Management Action Plan in March 2020, agreeing to update this Action Plan annually. In the Council Climate Change Action Plan published in 2023, the council committed to the creation of a strategy outlining the measures needed to reach net zero. This Roadmap to Net Zero fulfils that commitment and suggests the direction and ambition of future council decarbonisation projects.

4.2 Report overview

This Roadmap to Net Zero builds on analysis detailed in prior carbon footprint reports to recommend a set of actions supporting the council to reduce its emissions. It uses the methodology detailed in the 2022-23 Carbon Footprint report to focus on emissions under the direct control of the council, but not on emissions that the council only has influence over, as these have not been fully measured.

The quantified steps laid out in the Roadmap, if implemented in full, are estimated to reduce the council's Carbon Footprint to 2,344 tonnes CO₂e annually. Such a reduction would amount to a 78% reduction in emissions compared to the 2018-19 baseline year and a 70% reduction in emissions compared to the most recently measured emissions in 2022-23. Additional unquantified measures, along with advances in technology, are expected to help reduce these emissions further.

4.3 Financing net zero

Financing the transition to net zero is in some ways the greatest challenge of all. The financial position for councils across the country including Peterborough City Council remains challenging, with substantial pressures and significant work needed to achieve long-term financial sustainability. Funding must therefore be carefully considered in the pursuit of net zero projects.

When pursuing funding sources for net zero projects, the following order of prioritisation will be used: External grants; Invest to save; Invest to deliver co-benefits; Invest to reduce emissions. Wherever possible, external grants will be sought in the first instance to cover or contribute to the costs of decarbonisation. Where grants are unavailable or do not fully cover the costs of a decarbonisation project, loans will be considered. Loans to deliver projects that offer cost savings and other co-benefits will be considered ahead of projects which offer fewer other benefits.

This report is not seeking council funding to deliver the recommendations of the Roadmap, but sets out a proposed route to Net Zero, to help inform the development of future projects. It shows the scope of the net zero challenge and will aid in directing grant applications and prioritising decarbonisation projects based on both impact and financial feasibility.

All projects, regardless of funding routes, will be subject to a full business case separate to this Roadmap.

4.4 Buildings

Buildings are the largest source of council emissions, accounting for 55% of emissions in 2022-23. The council has had heat decarbonisation plans developed for the majority of its most carbon intensive buildings, and these plans heavily inform the recommendations for reducing council emissions.

To decarbonise buildings, behavioural change such as ensuring heating controls are correctly adjusted and used will be explored first, followed by use of energy efficient equipment, then

building fabric improvements (such as insulation), low carbon heating, and renewable energy generation.

Decarbonisation of the national grid and the purchase of a green electricity tariff, which the council has committed to doing by 2030, will further support emissions reductions in buildings. Undertaking all the proposals outlined in the roadmap would reduce buildings emissions by 3,341 tonnes CO₂e.

4.5 Infrastructure

Infrastructure emissions cover electricity usage from street lighting, pumping stations, car parks, feeder pillars, and similar. The council has already upgraded over 95% of its street lighting to LED lanterns, so efficiency is already high, with 2022-23 energy use 62% lower than in 2014.

The majority of emissions savings in this area will come from the decarbonisation of the national grid, reducing emissions by 932 tonnes CO₂e annually by 2030.

4.6 Fleet

90% of transport emissions come from the council's fleet, the majority of which are operated by Peterborough Limited. 10% of emissions come from business travel, mostly from staff travelling in their own vehicles.

The strategic approach to fleet emissions will begin with reducing transport needs and encouraging other forms of transport, then supporting driving efficiency, switching to HVO (hydrotreated vegetable oil, a low-carbon diesel alternative), and reviewing fleet replacement options.

Switching compatible vehicles to HVO is expected to save at least 846 tonnes CO₂e annually.

4.7 Waste

Waste emissions from council-operated buildings amount to only 0.4% of the council's Carbon Footprint. While the council will endeavour to reduce its own waste emissions, there is therefore a much more significant opportunity to impact the city's waste emissions through a strong engagement campaign.

Through the council's work supporting staff to reduce, re-use and recycle, we will learn how best to support our residents and local employers to do the same, and this will help inform our public engagement campaigns. We will regularly review how each measure supports employee education and successfully encourages recycling, so we can continually improve the information and messages we provide to our local communities.

4.8 Procurement

While procurement emissions, counted in the Council Carbon Footprint Plus, are out of scope of this Roadmap, work is ongoing to develop and implement a Climate Change Commercial Ask to better identify and reduce these emissions.

4.9 Engagement

The net zero journey requires widespread buy-in, enthusiasm, and accountability. Climate-conscious engagement will be promoted through encouraging climate discussion, continuing the carbon literacy training offer, supporting services to identify and reduce their emissions, and embedding carbon-consciousness into governance, such as through Carbon Impact Assessments.

4.10 Renewable energy

Council-owned solar panels generated 15,926.1 MWh of electricity in 2022-23, avoiding the generation of 4,165 tonnes CO₂e across the country. This generation makes a strong

contribution to renewable energy futures.

The council has committed to purchasing green energy by 2030, and therefore the council's projected Carbon Footprint has been calculated including the use of fully decarbonised electricity.

4.11 Residual emissions

If implemented in full, the measures outlined in this Roadmap have the potential to cut the council's Carbon Footprint by 70% against a 2022-23 baseline and by 78% against a 2018-19 baseline by 2030. However, some residual emissions remain.

The Roadmap lays out non-quantified actions to reduce the emissions further, which will be pursued. The council aims to further reduce remaining residual emissions through a combination of engagement, supported behaviour change, and innovative solutions which are not yet viable. The council has not participated in any offsetting schemes to date, however the use of certified offsetting schemes will be considered when viable carbon reductions have been completed.

4.12 Next steps

It is recommended that the Scrutiny Committee notes and scrutinises the proposals in this Roadmap and provides feedback as needed to adapt the document. It is recommended that the Scrutiny Committee recommends that Cabinet endorses the Roadmap, and recommends that Council adopts the plan.

5. CORPORATE PRIORITIES

5.1 *Prevention, Independence & Resilience*

The impacts of climate change are known to disproportionately affect the most vulnerable individuals and communities. Conversely, measures to reduce carbon emissions have numerous co-benefits.

Our Places and Communities

Climate change has a striking impact on health, affecting diets, air quality, temperature, damp environments, and more. Pursuing net zero prioritises the resilience of communities and services, supporting health outcomes, cultural assets, and community cohesion.

Climate action in the workplace can have a number of health co-benefits, ranging from reduced air pollution to better-insulated workplaces to increases in healthy behaviours such as active travel on commutes.

Sustainable Future City Council

Being a leader in the net zero journey and being open about the steps we will need to take, are both essential in our commitment to transparency as an organisation. Early action towards net zero is vital in ensuring we can deliver on our priorities now and in the future, and while it will require upfront investment, there are many actions that will reduce our annual energy costs.

Though the council's own emissions comprise only a small proportion of the city's overall emissions, the net zero goal helps to future-proof services, making them more resilient, and living up to our promise to support our most vulnerable residents.

The Economy & Inclusive Growth

The council's net zero journey can show leadership to other organisations in the city, encouraging city-wide decarbonisation. Ensuring the council's buildings are well insulated and comfortable will ensure these public places are attractive and vibrant both now and in the future.

The report proposes a pathway to reduce the council's Carbon Footprint to support its 2030 net zero target. The adoption of the roadmap will not have a carbon impact in of itself, however if adopted, the strategy will guide and prioritise the council's actions to reduce carbon emissions across its operations. It outlines the potential to reduce the council's emissions by 70% compared to 2022-23 and 78% compared to the baseline year of 2018-19. Carbon impact assessments will be undertaken on individual projects ahead of delivery.

6. CONSULTATION

- 6.1 The report has been discussed internally with relevant service areas and the corporate leadership team.

7. ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES OR IMPACT

- 7.1 It is anticipated that the Climate Change and Environment Scrutiny Committee endorses the Roadmap to Net Zero and supports its adoption by Council.

8. REASON FOR THE RECOMMENDATION

- 8.1 The Council has previously committed to developing a roadmap to net zero.

The document for consideration has been developed by officers and has taken account of reasonable and viable options for the council to reduce its carbon emissions.

9. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 9.1 The option of not preparing a Roadmap to Net Zero is dismissed because Council has already committed in principle to its preparation. Alternative content has been dismissed as the roadmap to net zero has been informed by evidence such as the Council Carbon Footprint, building heat decarbonisation plans and knowledge of the council's fleet.

10. IMPLICATIONS

Financial Implications

- 10.1 There are no direct financial implications from the report. The roadmap sets out a strategy and approach to be pursued to achieve net zero rather than commit to delivery. Delivery will be subject to securing of funding.

Legal Implications

- 10.2 There are no legal implications relating to this report. Further legal issues will be considered once the recommended actions are progressed.

Equalities Implications

- 10.3 There are no equality implications associated with this report.

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

12. APPENDICES

- 12.1 *Appendix 1 - Draft Roadmap to Net Zero*

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