



ENVIRONMENT CLIMATE EMERGENCY AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Monday 24 July 2023

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| REPORT TITLE: | LIVERPOOL CITY REGION COMBINED AUTHORITY FIVE YEAR CLIMATE ACTION PLAN |
| REPORT OF: | DIRECTOR OF NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES |

REPORT SUMMARY

This report was approved by the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority on 14 July 2023. The report sought Combined Authority approval for the Liverpool City Region Five Year Climate Action Plan, and identified actions for the Combined Authority to lead, enable or champion to 2028. These actions will contribute towards the decarbonisation needed in the Liverpool City Region to reach net zero carbon by 2040 or sooner, as well as delivering multiple co-benefits.

The Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Five Year Climate Action Plan supports the delivery of the Environment and Climate Emergency Policy and the Wirral Plan 2021-2026 'Sustainable Environment' theme; 'Working towards a clean-energy, sustainable borough that leads the way in its response to the climate emergency and is environmentally friendly' and the Active and Healthy Lives theme: 'Working to provide happy, active and healthy lives for all'.

This matter is not a key decision but affects all wards within the Borough.

RECOMMENDATION/S

The Environment, Climate Emergency and Transport Committee is recommended to:

1. Note the Liverpool City Region Five Year Climate Action Plan 2022/23, and
2. Endorse the priority actions for 2023/24.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1.1 Liverpool City Region Combined Authority's net zero journey gained momentum in 2019, when the Metro Mayor declared a Year of Environment. In the summer of that same year, the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority became the first mayoral combined authority in the country to declare an official Climate Emergency and set the ambitious target to achieve net zero carbon by 2040 or sooner – at least a decade ahead of national targets. People and organisations across the City Region, facilitated by Nature Connected, participated in over 500 environment themed events that year.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 Not Bringing the Liverpool City Region Five Year Climate Action Plan to Committee. However, this was discounted as the appended action plan supports the Council as an organisation aims to achieve 'net carbon neutrality by 2030'. In doing so it shows leadership and supports progress of decarbonisation across Wirral by 2041 and the Government's legally binding national target of net zero carbon by 2050.

By asking the Environment, Climate Emergency and Transport Committee to endorse the action plan it demonstrates that the Council is responding to the declared environment and climate emergency. Governance and scrutiny are provided by Senior Management and the Environment, Climate Emergency and Transport Committee reporting to ensure the Council is working towards Wirral becoming a greener, more active and climate resilient borough that supports residents to make better choice.

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 In January 2022, the Combined Authority approved the Liverpool City Region Pathway to Net Zero which set a clear direction and laid foundations for rapid action to meet the 2040 target. This followed the Liverpool City Region Year One Climate Action Plan approved in March 2021, that ensured the opportunities for early action were not missed.
- 3.2 As part of the development of the Pathway to Net Zero work, a 'Summer of Engagement' took place with residents of the Liverpool City Region, including a separate youth survey. Participants were presented with visions of what a net zero future could look like and were given the chance to comment on the potential opportunities and challenges, which would inform the shape and feel of the Pathway to Net Zero document and the subsequent Action Plan. Over 800 respondents took part via a Common Place site & Youth Snap survey, as well as several other targeted workshops which were used to ensure the data gathered was representative of the demographic make-up of the Liverpool City Region. The results showed that most of the public felt the need to take action, however, only half knew what they needed to do.
- 3.3 The Five-Year Climate Action Plan follows-on from the Pathway to Net Zero in order to set definitive actions against the agreed direction.

The Climate Action Plan has been prepared and co-developed in close consultation with the City Region's local authorities. Iterations have been shared and discussed at with a range of local authority officers' groups including Chief Executives. As such, the Climate Action Plan complements and supports the net zero and climate plan priorities of the local authorities.

3.4 To further inform the development of the Five-Year Climate Action Plan, stakeholder workshops were organised consisting of guided discussions and interactive sessions with a wide range of stakeholders from across the City Region. These workshops informed a number of initial actions in the Action Plan.

3.5 The document has also been shared at various stages of development with the Liverpool City Region Climate Partnership; a group including Local Authority climate change officers, the academic community, environmental organisations, statutory bodies, third sector and faith community representatives as well as a number of young people representing the student community.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 This report is for information purposes and as such, there are no direct financial implications.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 This report is for information purposed and as such, there are no direct legal implications.

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: STAFFING, ICT AND ASSETS

6.1 This report is for information purposed and as such, there are no direct legal implications.

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

7.1 This report is for information purposed and as such, there are no direct legal implications.

8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

8.1 The Liverpool City region has undertaken extensive consultation to assist with the delivery this strategy. By bringing this strategy to the Environment Climate Emergency and Transport Committee will assist in its delivery by further engagement with elected Members and the public.

9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

9.1 Wirral Council has a legal requirement to make sure its policies, and the way it carries out its work, do not discriminate against anyone. An Equality Impact Assessment is a tool to help council services identify steps they can take to ensure equality for anyone who might be affected by a particular policy, decision or activity. Further equality implications are appended to this report.

10.0 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS

10.1 The Environment and Climate Emergency Declaration was resolved with all party support at Council on the 15 July 2019 due to ‘extreme concern’ about the impact of climate change and the urgent need for action. This five year action plan will help support this.

11.0 COMMUNITY WEALTH IMPLICATIONS

11.1 The Five-Year Climate Action Plan serves as a point of reference for applying the Combined Authority’s Social Value Framework and contributing to decision-making that will produce better outcomes for the environment and to the lives of Liverpool City Region residents

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APPENDICES

- Appendix 1 – five year action plan - report
- Appendix 2 – Five year action plan – strategy document

BACKGROUND PAPERS

- Wirral Council Climate Emergency Action Plan
- Cool Wirral Partnership Cool 2 Strategy

TERMS OF REFERENCE

This report is being considered by the Environment, Climate Emergency & Transport Committee in accordance with Section 5.2 (a) of its Terms of Reference.

The Committee is charged by full Council to undertake responsibility for the Council’s role and functions:-

- (a) in co-ordinating the response to cross-cutting sustainability issues such as reducing carbon emissions, air quality issues, climate change response, improving resource efficiency and developing sustainable energy.

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

| Council Meeting | Date |
|------------------------|-------------|
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