

Report Title	Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Five Year Climate Action Plan
Portfolio Holder	Portfolio Holder for Net Zero and Air Quality
Summary of report	This report seeks Authority approval for the Liverpool City Region Five Year Climate Action Plan, which will contribute towards the decarbonisation needed in the Liverpool City Region to reach net zero carbon by 2040 or sooner.
Is this report exempt?	No
Is this a Key Decision	Yes, In relation to expenditure or savings, it is likely to result in revenue in excess of £250,000 or capital in excess of £250,000 and to be significant in terms of its effects on persons living or working in an area comprising two or more wards or electoral divisions in the area of the Combined Authority.
Is the report urgent?	No
Is this decision to be exempt from call in	No
Local Authorities affected	All Local Authorities
Impact and implications of this report	
Financial impact	No, see paragraph 5.1
Delegation (s) sought	None
Supporting the Corporate Plan	A Fairer City Region √ A Stronger City Region √ A Cleaner City Region √ A Connected City Region √ A Vibrant City Region x
Climate Change Implications	Yes, see paragraph 5.3
Equality and Diversity implications	Yes, see paragraph 5.4
Social Value implications	Yes, see paragraph 5.5
Human Resources implications	No
Physical Assets implications	No

Information Technology implications	No
Legal implications	No, see paragraph 5.6
Risk and Mitigation	Yes, see paragraph 5.7
Privacy implications	No
Communication and consultation implications	Yes, see paragraph 5.8
Contact Officer(s)	Principal Environment Officer Rachel.Waggett@liverpoolcityregion-ca.gov.uk Senior Policy Lead – Place and Net Zero Tim.jago@liverpoolcityregion-ca.gov.uk
Appendices	Yes 1 - Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Five Year Climate Action Plan 2 - Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Five Year Climate Action Plan Equality Impacts Assessment
Background Documents	Yes - Liverpool City Region Pathway to Net Zero 2022

Liverpool City Region Combined Authority

Friday 14th July 2023

Report of the Executive Director - Policy, Strategy and Government Relations and the Portfolio Holder for Net Zero and Air Quality

LIVERPOOL CITY REGION COMBINED AUTHORITY - FIVE YEAR CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1. This report seeks Combined Authority approval for the Liverpool City Region Five Year Climate Action Plan, which identifies 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.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1. It is recommended that the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority:
 - (a) Approve the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Five Year Climate Action Plan as set out in Appendix 1.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1. 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.
- 3.2. 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.
- 3.3. 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 CommonPlace 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.

- 3.4. The Five Year Climate Action Plan follows-on from the Pathway to Net Zero in order to set definitive actions against the agreed direction.
- 3.5. 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.
- 3.6. 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.
- 3.7. 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. FIVE YEAR CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

- 4.1. The Five Year Climate Action Plan sets out actions grouped into the following pillars:
 - Transport
 - Buildings
 - Industry
 - Clean Energy
 - Natural Environment
 - Cross cutting actions.
- 4.2. The Action Plan presents data to show both the contribution of each pillar to the overall Liverpool City Region emissions as well as a number of modelled projections to indicate where we need to be, to achieve carbon reduction in-line with the rate of reduction needed.
- 4.3. There is a focus in the Plan on the need for reduction in energy consumption to complement clean energy production as well as a move towards a circular economy to reduce resource consumption. Technology changes are not viewed in isolation as the solution to decarbonisation and the speed at which we need to decarbonise requires not just action from the Combined Authority, but also large-scale behaviour change by residents, partners and stakeholders across the City Region. For instance, changing consumer habits have the potential to significantly decrease emissions in certain pillars.

- 4.4. The actions in the Plan represent actions that the Combined Authority consider can be achieved to 2028 with a focus on short term action in years 1 and 2. The Plan acknowledges what has already been delivered by the Combined Authority and partners whilst recognising that there is a gap between what the actions will achieve and the totality of what will need to be done to reach net zero. In this way the Plan also acts as a document to inform and influence future investment asks, seek to drive national policy change, and reinforce the need for future devolved funds and powers.
- 4.5. As the actions in the Plan progress, they will be tracked and reviewed, as will the emissions profile of the Liverpool City Region against the carbon budget as annual emissions data emerges.
- 4.6. The delivery of the Climate Action Plan will be overseen by the Portfolio Holder for Net Zero and Air Quality, supported by the Combined Authority's Net Zero Delivery Board and Local Authorities' Neighbourhood and Communities Directors.

5. IMPACT AND IMPLICATIONS

5.1. Financial

The Five Year Climate Action Plan does not make any explicit funding requirements of the Combined Authority. Any resource for near-term actions within the plan has been fully considered by the pillar leads when drafting and are possible to achieve with current resource.

5.2 Supporting the Corporate Plan

A Fairer City Region – The actions within the Plan contribute towards a just transition as we decarbonise the Liverpool City Region and reduce climate-related injustices for certain parts of our population who are disproportionately affected, including those in fuel poverty. An Equality Impact Assessment accompanies this report and has informed its development.

A Stronger City Region – Decarbonising industry in the Liverpool City Region comes with many challenges but also many opportunities that the Combined Authority can help to facilitate. Switching to cleaner sources of energy across the Liverpool City Region will promote green growth in industry and create employment opportunities in the process.

A Cleaner City Region – The Plan identifies actions to improve the natural environment and air quality which will contribute to health improvements and other benefits.

A Connected City Region – The transport pillar in the Five Year Climate Action Plan states the importance of a modal shift in how we travel across the Liverpool City Region. Actions within the Plan, along with the policies in the forthcoming Local Transport Plan, will align with the creation of an efficient, integrated transport network.

5.3 **Climate Change**

The Five Year Climate Action Plan identifies actions for the Combined Authority to 2028 designed to accelerate the City Region's transition to net zero by 2040, or sooner.

5.4 **Equality and Diversity**

An Equalities Impact Assessment has been undertaken to inform the drafting and development of the Climate Action Plan (and is appended to this report). This Impact Assessment confirms that the Five Year Climate Action Plan will advance equality or will have no negative impacts on any of the protected characteristics.

Social justice and a just transition to net zero are objectives and themes of the Climate Action Plan. It is important to note that that co-benefits of many of the actions within the Plan will benefit everyone, whilst prioritising disadvantaged groups. Examples include improved natural environment, air quality, retrofit of homes, and the further development of a fully integrated public transport network.

5.5 **Social Value**

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.

5.6 **Legal**

There are no specific legal implications arising from this report, however, it is worth noting that within the Five Year Climate Action Plan there are actions linked to several strategies and plans that the Combined Authority are obliged to produce. Namely, these are the Local Nature Recovery Strategy, the Local Transport Plan 4 and the Sustainable Development Strategy.

5.7 **Risks and Mitigation**

The requirement to produce a "net zero delivery plan for 3-5 years" is included as an action in the Combined Authority's Corporate Risk Register. Risk 3 in this Register addresses the Combined Authority's net zero carbon target of 2040, and the production of this Climate Action Plan is a key element of managing and mitigating the risk associated with this CA objective.

5.8 **Communication and Consultation**

The Combined Authority's marketing and communications team have been kept informed of communications issues arising from this report and the Climate Action Plan. Accordingly, the Action Plan's key messages will be communicated to the public in a variety of ways to support a key principle of the Plan that "everybody needs to act". Communication will, therefore, be an essential element going forward in order to bring about increased awareness of what each resident of the Liverpool City Region can do and foster behaviour change.

Preparation of the Climate Action Plan has involved consultation with a range of stakeholders, including the constituent local authorities, the Climate Partnership and those stakeholders who attended the series of workshops convened by the CA's consultants. The Plan builds on the extensive consultation carried out during preparation of the Pathway to Net Zero.

6. CONCLUSION

- 6.1. The Five Year Climate Action Plan follows through on the direction set by the 2022 Pathway to Net Zero by setting actions to contribute to emissions reduction across the Liverpool City Region, as well as laying a foundation to empower others to take action. Further to the messaging in the Pathway to Net Zero is the quantification of the pace at which decarbonisation is necessary within different pillars, which the Five Year Climate Action Plan recognises is not possible with current support and resources.
- 6.2. The Plan recognises the impact that Combined Authority and local authorities' work has had to date, not just in terms of emissions reduction, but for wider benefits across the Liverpool City Region. It is recognised that the longer-term actions will require further funding and powers and will be the subject of ongoing discussion with government, including in negotiating further devolution for the City Region.
- 6.3. Delivery of the Climate Action Plan will be a collaborative exercise between the Combined Authority, the local authorities and other stakeholders. The Action Plan's delivery will be monitored, and the Plan will be kept under constant review to ensure that it reflects challenges and opportunities that may emerge. A significant change in circumstances may require the Plan to be revised as appropriate. Any such revision would be reported to the Combined Authority at that time.

KIRSTY MCLEAN
Executive Director - Policy, Strategy and
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CLLR DAVID BAINES
Portfolio Holder for Net Zero and Air
Quality

Appendices:

1. Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Five Year Climate Action Plan
2. Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Five Year Climate Action Plan Equality Impacts Assessment

Background Documents:

1. Liverpool City Region Pathway to Net Zero 2022