

Calderdale MBC

Wards Affected ALL

Cabinet



ENDORSEMENT OF CALDERDALE'S CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

Report of Director of Public Health

1. Purpose of Report

1.1 The purpose of the report is:

1.1.1 To seek Cabinet endorsement of Calderdale's Climate Action Plan (the Plan) and recommend that it is endorsed by full Council.

1.1.2 For the Council to consider how it can contribute to the success of the Plan.

1.2 The Plan focuses on the actions that need to be taken over the next three years (2023 – 2026) to meet the borough's net zero target by 2038. Climate action is one of the Council's corporate priorities in line with the declaration of a climate emergency in 2019.

1.3 The Plan has been developed by the multi-agency Climate Action Partnership (the Partnership); a group made up of cross-party councillors; partners including Together Housing and the NHS; and activist groups such as Calderdale Green New Deal. Council officers have supported the Partnership through administration of meetings and in writing the Plan, based on their input.

1.4 There are six themes within the Plan: Influencing, Community Climate Action, Green Economy, Warm and Resilient Buildings, Transport and Getting Around, and Land and Nature. Each theme contains actions which require work from multiple stakeholders across the borough. The delivery and success of the Plan will be based on forming partnerships and undertaking a multi-agency approach.

2. Need for a decision

2.1 To agree the Council's involvement in the delivery of the Plan, in collaboration with other stakeholders across the borough. This will support the corporate priority of taking climate action. This is also in line with the declaration of a climate emergency in 2019; the 2023 Environmental Policy Statement and the Council's target to reach net zero by 2038.

2.2 To support the Partnership and the multi-agency approach set out in the Plan, recognising that the Council is not solely responsible for the Plan or its delivery.

3. Recommendation

3.1 The recommendations are:

3.1.1 For Cabinet to endorse Calderdale's Climate Action Plan

3.1.2 To recommend that the Plan be endorsed by full Council

3.2 Endorsement is in line with the Council's declaration of a climate emergency in 2019; the 2023 Environmental Policy Statement and the Council's target to reach net zero by 2038.

4. Background and/or details

4.1 Why we need a Climate Action Plan:

- 4.1.1 Reports in 2022 from the globally recognised scientific institution the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change ('Climate Change 2022: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability' and 'Climate Change 2022: Mitigation of Climate Change') stated that this is the critical decade for securing a liveable, equitable and sustainable future for all. They highlight the urgent need to scale up environmental and climate action to prevent run-away climate change.
- 4.1.2 Extreme weather events such as heatwaves and flooding (notably Storm Ciara and the February 2020 floods) laid bare the need to act on climate change and protect the borough from more extreme weather events in future. The Climate Action Plan provides an outline of the action that need to be taken in the next three years to have a lasting impact. It provides direction that the borough must take to reduce the emissions which are perpetuating climate change and its impacts. By endorsing the Plan, the Council will demonstrate its aspiration to be a leader in taking climate action as well as adapting to a changing climate.
- 4.1.3 Calderdale's vision for 2024 is to be a place where you can realise your potential whoever you are. Calderdale aspires to a place where talent and enterprise can thrive. The Climate Action Plan embeds these aspirations and aims to protect Calderdale's distinctive environment, ensuring a resilient future for all.

4.2 Developing Calderdale's Climate Action Plan:

- 4.2.1 In 2021, following on from the West Yorkshire Combined Authority's Emission Reduction Pathway, Calderdale Council commissioned a localised Emission Reduction Pathway study. This helped us to understand the steps required to meet the borough wide net zero target by 2038. The study was used to provide a technical basis for the Climate Action Plan. In 2022, each theme was developed by task groups made up of local experts and council officers. The Draft Climate Action Plan was published on 21st September 2022 for a public consultation which ran until 20th November 2022 (see section 9).
- 4.2.2 The five thematic task groups – made up of council members and officers, experts and interested parties from across a range of local sectors – reviewed the consultation responses and revised each theme accordingly from May to July 2023. An interim progress update was taken to the Partnership on 14th June 2023. Each theme was then consolidated to produce a revised plan.
- 4.2.3 The Partnership had an informal meeting on 17th July to 2023 review the updated Climate Action Plan. The Partnership asked for changes to the climate justice section and for a more visible inclusion of climate adaptation and resilience within the plan and these changes were

made. The final version was then approved by the chair and deputy chair of the Partnership on 14th August 2023.

- 4.2.4 The designed version of the Climate Action Plan was presented to the Partnership and approved on 4th October 2023. The Plan is now seeking formal Cabinet endorsement. By endorsing the Plan, Calderdale Council Cabinet will confirm its role as a leader in delivering a sustainable future for Calderdale.

4.3 The themes outlined in the Plan:

- 4.3.1 The Influencing theme emphasises the importance of the collective, where Calderdale's voices and actions are always stronger together. It sets out aspirations to influence regional, national and international partners whose investment and policies are necessary for the successful delivery of the plan.
- 4.3.2 The Community Climate Action theme is about strengthening existing community links while inspiring more people to work together. Pooling skills and knowledge will drive change and local action on climate.
- 4.3.3 The Warm and Resilient Buildings theme sets out the aspiration for every home and building in the borough to be comfortable, low carbon and equipped to deal with impacts of a changing climate.
- 4.3.4 The Green Economy theme focuses on the benefits a net zero future can provide. Equipping businesses and residents with the skills they need will ensure that Calderdale's future economy is inclusive, green and resilient.
- 4.3.5 The Transport theme outlines the importance of choice which works for the young to the elderly, with greener streets to enjoy and good support for active travel.
- 4.3.6 The Land and Nature theme envisions a Calderdale where vulnerable species are thriving; peatland and moorland are regenerated; grassland and soil is healthy; natural flood management reduces flood risk; and there are more wild places.

4.4 A partnership approach:

- 4.4.1 The Climate Action Plan frames actions as a collective responsibility using the word 'we'. 'We' refers to everyone across the borough from residents, the private sector and the voluntary sector. While the Council has a role to play, as set out in the 2023 Environmental Policy Statement, the responsibility is not the Council's alone. The use of 'we' is significant to understanding that tackling climate change requires collective action. The important part of collective action is acknowledging we will all have different parts to play and responsibilities in being part of that collective.
- 4.4.2 To deliver the Plan, many of the actions will require funds along with people to manage and maintain projects over the long term. However,

there will be opportunities to form partnerships and find innovative and collaborative ways of working to achieve a net zero future and build local resilience to climate change.

- 4.4.3 The Council will have a key leadership role which will be crucial to unlocking opportunities through influencing, engaging, and supporting the Plan. The way the Council contributes to the Plan will have a meaningful impact on achieving the ambitions of the plan. By endorsing the Climate Action Plan, the Council will need to consider how the actions within the plan relate internally to its directorates, services, and portfolios. These actions will also help the Council to meet its corporate priorities and net zero targets.

4.5 Monitoring progress

- 4.5.1 The Climate Action Partnership will monitor and assess the progress of the actions. They will undertake an annual review of the Climate Action Plan. This will also enable the Partnership to celebrate successes and discuss any areas where there are challenges or barriers.
- 4.5.2 Calderdale Council will help establish climate metrics in addition to monitoring Calderdale's annual carbon emissions. This will help to monitor the success of the plan and provide a local picture of progress. This will be displayed on Data Works for transparency and accountability, demonstrating the impact of Calderdale's collective work on climate action.
- 4.5.3 The Plan is full of examples of climate action around Calderdale which shows the progress we have already made. One of the actions is to continue to spread the word about the work that is happening to inspire more groups, organisations and individuals to get involved. Information about the latest activities will be shared in the established Climate Emergency Newsletter.

5. **Options considered**

- 5.1 Cabinet to endorse Calderdale's Climate Action Plan and recommend the Climate Action Plan be endorsed by full Council. Endorsement signals that the Council wishes to play their part in delivering the actions set out in the Plan, in collaboration with other stakeholders inside of and outside of the borough. This option is recommended.
- 5.2 Cabinet to endorse specific parts of, or actions from, the Plan. This would not recognise the ambition and collaborative nature of the Climate Action Plan, where progress in one area needs delivery from other parts of the system. It would hinder development of a multi-agency approach to delivery of the Plan. This option is not recommended.
- 5.3 Not to endorse the Climate Action Plan. This would present a disjointed approach to the borough's net zero targets and hamper delivery of the Council's corporate priorities of tackling the climate emergency, supporting strong and resilient towns and reducing inequality. This option is not recommended.

6. Financial implications

- 6.1 The Council has implemented schemes to reduce CO2 emissions and support the Council's climate emergency agenda, including funding to replace and upgrade the Council's LED lighting stock, low energy lighting in the corporate estate and the replacement of the Council's Transport fleet and conversion to electric vehicles.
- 6.2 In addition to the above, funding of £1million was agreed at Budget Council 2020 to support the delivery of both internal and community led projects.
- 6.3 In recent years the Council has been awarded funding from various government departments to support schemes including the Public Sector Decarbonisation Phase 1 and 3 schemes.
- 6.4 Although the Council will continue to bid for funding made available by government and other external organisations to deliver the necessary outcomes in relation to the Climate Action Plan and climate emergency measures generally, the Council will have to provide further revenue funding at some point to allow bids to be considered for funding and capital resources to deliver schemes.

7. Legal Implications

- 7.1 There are no anticipated legal implications because:
 - 7.1.1 Net zero is not a statutory duty placed on local authorities.
 - 7.1.2 The Partnership is an informal arrangement governed by a Terms of Reference.

8. Human Resources and Organisation Development Implications

- 8.1 There are no direct HR implications.

9. Consultation

- 9.1 The public consultation webpage had over 6,000 visits and 750 respondents provided their feedback either via an individual or group survey. This feedback was analysed by West Yorkshire Combined Authority who supported the consultation. A report was produced in January 2023 which was taken to the Partnership on 16th February 2023. It was agreed that thematic task groups would be set up to review the consultation feedback and this formed the basis for the final version of the Plan.

10. Environment, Health and Economic Implications

- 10.1 Climate action, including both mitigation (reducing emissions) and adaptation (preparing to deal with climate impacts) have implications across environment, health and our local economy. The environmental implications have been outlined in the remainder of this document.
- 10.2 Reducing emissions from traffic on our roads will require a shift to wider public transport use and active travel which can support a healthy lifestyle. A reduction

in traffic will also improve air quality, which has associated health and economic benefits.

- 10.3 Reducing emissions from our homes through high quality retrofitting (e.g. insulation) will make them warmer and less prone to damp which is important for maintaining good health. There is also a significant economic opportunity in building a supply chain to support the retrofit of homes at the scale we require.
- 10.4 Sustainable land management practices have multiple benefits. Improved biodiversity reflects more natural spaces, which in turn benefit our health and wellbeing. Landscape measures can help to alleviate flood risk which reduces the economic implications for businesses, as well as the poor health residents can face because of flooding.

11. Equality and Diversity

- 11.1 Equality, diversity and climate justice are at the heart of the Plan. It is recognised that the worst impacts of a changing climate are felt most keenly by those who contribute the least to it. Among other things, this includes access to clean air; the ability to recover from extreme weather events; and the ability to make the most sustainable choices.
- 11.2 The Community Climate Action theme group is closely connected to the local voluntary sector. It will seek to represent the views of those across the borough who may not always enjoy strong representation.
- 11.3 The Plan also emphasises the need for a just transition, to ensure that a sustainable future works for everyone.

12. Summary and Recommendations

- 12.1 The recommendations are:
 - 12.1.1 For Cabinet to endorse Calderdale's Climate Action Plan
 - 12.1.2 To recommend that the Plan be endorsed by full Council
- 12.2 Endorsement is in line with the Council's declaration of a climate emergency in 2019; the 2023 Environmental Policy Statement and the Council's target to reach net zero by 2038.
- 12.3 The Plan outlines actions that are required to support the borough to achieve its target of net zero by 2038. It is split into sections that cover influencing, community climate action, warm and resilient buildings, green economy, transport, and land and nature (see 4.3).
- 12.4 The Plan is the result of a partnership approach. It has been developed by cross-party councillors; partners including Together Housing and the NHS; and activist groups such as Calderdale Green New Deal. Council officers have also supported the development process.

For further information on this report, contact:

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The documents used in the preparation of this report are:

1. Climate Action Plan
2. Environmental Policy Statement
3. Terms of Reference 2023

The documents are available for inspection at:

[Climate Action Plan](#) (Council email required to view)

Climate Action Partnership Terms of Reference 2023 on T Drive – Sustainable Development

[Environmental Policy Statement](#)