

Report to	On
Cabinet	14 July 2021

Title	Portfolio Holder	Report of
<b>Approval of Decarbonisation Plans for Civic Centre, Moss Side and Leisure Centres</b>	<b>Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member (Health and Wellbeing)</b>	<b>Director of Communities</b>

Is this report confidential?	No
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### Purpose of the Report

1. This report is seeking to advise members, through the commissioned Decarbonisation Plans, on the level of, and potential cost of, work required to the main Council owned buildings in order to achieve the Council's goal of net carbon neutral by 2030.
2. In relation specifically to the Civic Centre decarbonisation plan, to consider and approve this document so that it may be submitted to Salix Finance on behalf of the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) as a condition on the recent grant funding of £145,004 awarded to make energy efficiency improvements to the Civic Centre.
3. In relation to the other five Decarbonisation Plans to approve these so that they can be utilised in future grant bids through the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme or equivalent when they become available.

### Recommendations

4. That members note and consider the decarbonisation plans attached to the report.
5. That members approve the decarbonisation plans, allowing their submission as part of current and future grant applications for funding to assist in the carbon neutral goal.
6. That members consider future sources of funding and programming of works identified to achieve the net-carbon zero by 2030 target.

### Reasons for recommendations

7. In July 2019 Full Council passed a motion which declared a Climate Emergency with the overarching goal of "rendering the borough carbon neutral by the year 2030". This goal means the borough shall produce no net carbon emissions by this date, taking account of actions that have the effect of removing carbon from the environment.
8. Following this declaration, a cross party working group was established to move forward the agenda towards a carbon neutral borough.

- 9.** Part of this works involves rendering all council operations net carbon neutral by 2030. This includes looking at the Council owned buildings. A systematic strategy is required when considering the Council buildings given the size, complexity and general cost of any works required to move towards a carbon neutral status. Consideration must also be given to the timing of these works allowing for the age of the buildings, current infrastructure and life span, current and future technologies and costs of implementation. This systematic approach is referred to as a Decarbonisation Plan.
- 10.** Following a successful grant application to the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme an award of £145,004 has been made for energy efficiency improvements to the Civic Centre, West Paddock. One of the conditions of this grant award is to have a Decarbonisation Plan completed, approved by Members and submitted to the grant administrators by September 2021.
- 11.** Failure to meet this deadline would result in the Council being in breach of the grant conditions and potentially having to repay the full £145,004, most of which has already been allocated. It would also be detrimental to any future grant bids made by the Council.
- 12.** The Decarbonisation Plans have now been completed for the six of the largest buildings within the Council estate. Worden Park which is currently undergoing extensive refurbishment has not been included due to the restrictions over some of the funding conditions.
- 13.** The six sites are:
  - Civic Centre
  - Leyland Leisure Centre
  - Bamber Bridge Leisure Centre
  - Penwortham Leisure Centre
  - Moss Side Depot
  - South Ribble Tennis Centre

## Corporate outcomes

- 14.** The report relates to the following corporate priorities:

An exemplary council	X	Thriving communities	X
A fair local economy that works for everyone	X	Good homes, green spaces, healthy places	X

## Background to the report

**15.** In 2018, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) published a report which advised that we must limit global warming to 1.5°C, as opposed to the previous target of 2°C. Their review of over 6,000 sources of evidence found that, with a rise of 1.5°C, there would be risks to health, livelihoods, food security, water supply, human security and economic growth. It warned that we have only 12 years left within which to take the serious action required to avert this crisis and avoid the worst impacts.

**16.** Please note that this document refers to emissions of “carbon” or “carbon dioxide”. This should be considered shorthand for all greenhouse gas emissions, not just carbon dioxide.

**17.** The UK Climate Change Act 2008 sets a statutory target to reduce UK greenhouse gas emissions by 80% from 1990 by 2050. In May 2019 the UK Committee on Climate Change recommended that the UK Government increase the statutory target to Net-Zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. The Government has now adopted this target.

**18.** In parallel, the UK Climate Change Act established the National Adaptation Programme. The corresponding UK Climate Change Risk Assessment identifies 6 priority risk areas: flooding, high temperatures, water supply shortages, natural capital, food production; and pest and diseases.

**19.** In July 2019 this Council declared that the effect of climate change within the borough poses an immediate danger to the health and well-being of our residents and therefore proclaimed a Climate Emergency with immediate effect.

**20.** To combat this threat, the Council set a goal of rendering the borough carbon neutral by the year 2030. For avoidance of doubt, this goal means the borough shall produce no net carbon emissions by this date, taking into account actions that have the effect of removing carbon from the environment.

**21.** In order to implement this decision, a Standing Working Group on the Climate Emergency was created. A Climate Emergency Strategy has been produced and adopted by the Council along with a Climate Emergency Action Plan.

**22.** One element of the groups work is to look at how the Council can achieve the net carbon neutral objective for its own operations and assets. Another is to seek funding opportunities to assist with the objective and the adopted action plan.

23. In order to achieve a net-carbon zero level for the Council's buildings we need to know firstly where we currently are and secondly what needs to be done to achieve a zero-carbon emissions level.
24. The first element has been reported previously by way of the Climate Emergency Strategy, and footprint calculations, additional information on each individual building is also be provided within the Decarbonisation Plans.

#### Achieving net carbon neutral for Council assets

25. In order to achieve the second element to reaching net-zero carbon emissions from the Council assets a systematic approach is required to a fully evaluate each building. This would identify the current energy usage of the building, the mechanisms by which it is powered and the options available for decarbonising it.
26. This approach includes an appraisal of the equipment and facilities currently used including the maintenance, cost, age and projected lifespan together with a consideration of the available technology and likely future technologies that can help achieve the carbon zero goal including a consideration of costs involved in retrofitting and running the systems, and the financial savings or otherwise of making changes.
27. This approached is referred to as a Decarbonisation Plan, and in order to move the Carbon neutral agenda forward, Leisure Energy Ltd were contracted, following competitive tender process, to undertake the works on behalf of the Council and produce the required plans.

#### Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme Condition

28. A requirement of the recent '*Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme*' grant bid award, obtained for the Civic Centre, is to submit a formally approved Decarbonisation Plan to the grant administrators, Salix Finance. This Decarbonisation Plan must be approved by members and submitted by September 2021 in order to comply with the grant conditions.
29. Failure to meet this requirement would leave the Council in breach of the grant conditions and potentially liable to repayment of the full £145,004 grant, which has already been allocated and spending is on-going.
30. Failure to comply would also be detrimental to any future bids for funding and it is envisaged that significant sums will be sought in the near future to achieve some of the identified works within the six Decarbonisation plans.

## The Decarbonisation Plans

- 31.** Six Decarbonisation Plans have been commissioned covering six of the largest and the most energy demanding buildings within the Council estate. Due to funding constraints Worden Park which is currently undergoing a substantial refurbishment has not been included.
- 32.** The Decarbonisation Plans are attached as Appendix A. They identify the current energy demand for the buildings, works already undertaken or planned and proposals for reducing this demand. Along with additional measures to achieve the carbon neutral goal over the short, medium and long term.
- 33.** A total of (figure) tonnes of carbon are emitted from these six buildings a (percentage/fraction) of the Council's total carbon footprint.
- 34.** Suggested improvements to the buildings will reduce the ,energy demand by **857,381Kg** of carbon, with an estimated cost of **£4,138,200**.
- 35.** The report has identified quick wins and discussions are underway over potential external funding and what works are required immediately and can form part of the already approved refurbishment works to the Leisure Centres.

## Risk

- 36.** Failure to approve and adopt the Decarbonisation Plans could ultimately cost the Council considerable sums of money and reputation damage in terms of immediately failing to abide by conditions of the accepted Public Sector Decarbonisation grant offer and damaging future opportunities to successfully apply for additional grants.

## Equality and diversity

- 37.** There are no Equality Act implications associated with this proposal. The proposals provide support for the most vulnerable in our community.

## Air quality implications

- 38.** There are no direct air quality implications to this report. The Decarbonisation Plans provide an understanding as to the amount of work and financial commitment required by the Council to achieve its carbon neutral goal and therefore a suggestion on what the borough will need to achieve.
- 39.** Any reduction in the carbon footprint of the Council or the borough as a result of the Decarbonisation Plans can only result in improvements to the wider environment and air quality.

## Comments of the Statutory Finance Officer

- 40.** The attached Decarbonisation Plan outlines an estimate of the cost of works required to the main Council owned buildings in order to achieve the Council's goal to be net carbon neutral by 2030; the estimated costs of £4.138 million over the 8 years 2022 to 2030, can be broken down as follows;

Stage 1 - Energy Conservation Measures - estimated costs of £620,000 with estimated savings of £49,542 per annum (based on today's tariffs) (see section 6-12 of the Plan)

Stage 2 - Renewable technologies - Solar PV - estimated costs of £438,200 with estimated savings of £24,429 per annum (based on today's tariffs) (see section 13 of the Plan)

Stage 3 - to achieve a plan of zero carbon by 2030 and for all natural gas consumption to be replaced - estimated costs £3,080,000 (see section 15 of the Plan)

The report estimates savings in utility costs of £591,760 over the 8 year period, based on today's tariffs, and in respect of the Stage 1 and Stage 2 measures outlined.

Production and approval of the attached Decarbonisation Plan enables the council to comply with the condition of the recent grant funding of £145,004 that has been awarded to make energy efficiency improvements to the Civic Centre.

As individual schemes are developed, as the council works to implement the Decarbonisation Plan, these will be fully costed and brought forward for review and approval in line with the council's financial regulations.

## Comments of the Monitoring Officer

- 41.** There are no legal concerns with what is proposed here. We are talking about proposals for assets we own. The importance of the project is self-evident.

## Background documents (or There are no background papers to this report)

*Climate Emergency Declaration July 2019*

*Climate Emergency Strategy July 2020*

*Climate Emergency Strategy July 2021*

*Interim Climate Emergency Action Plan January 2021*

*Climate Emergency Action Plan July 2021*

*Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme Grant Offer Letter February 2021*

## Appendices

### *Appendix A – Decarbonisation Plan*

Jennifer Mullin



Director of Communities

Report Author:	Email:	Telephone:	Date:
Neil Martin (Senior Environmental Health Officer)	nmartin@southribble.gov.uk	01772 625336	June 2021