

Cabinet report



10 March 2020

SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY ACTION PLAN 2019 - 2050

Name of Cabinet Member	Councillor Jennifer Marklew Cabinet member for Climate Action and Sustainability
Report sponsor	Stuart Proffitt Director Environment and Property
Report author	Neil Allen Head of Regulatory Services Neil.allen@milton-keynes.gov.uk 01908 - 252365

Exempt / confidential / not for publication	No
Council Plan reference	Section 8 - para 8.1 and 8.3
Wards affected	All wards

Executive summary

Milton Keynes Council's Sustainability Strategy 2019 – 2050 is our long-term vision to create a world-leading sustainable city which embraces innovation, creates high quality jobs and recognises it has a vital role in tackling the global challenges of climate change.

This action plan details what Milton Keynes Council (MKC) will undertake against each of the eleven priorities in the strategy. The Climate Change Task and Finish Group has been gathering evidence for six months and their recommendations to Cabinet will need to be assessed alongside this report to ensure a golden thread of continuity is achieved.

The actions have been grouped into short, medium and long term and will each need to be developed to understand their full cost and the carbon reduction that can be achieved.

1. Decision/s to be made

1.1 That the Action Plan be approved.

1.2 That the Action Plan be reviewed by Cabinet in six months to incorporate any of the endorsed recommendations of the Task and Finish Group

1.3 That the action plan be recommended to Council for approval.

2. Why is the decision needed?

2.1 Milton Keynes Council declared a climate change emergency (date of meeting) and adopted the Sustainability Strategy 2019-2050 in January 2019.

2.2 Having declared the emergency the Council needs to demonstrate its civic and climate leadership by becoming carbon neutral itself and showing the citizens, organisations and businesses of the borough how they too can work towards carbon neutrality.

2.3 The benefits of achieving carbon neutrality are many including generating renewable energy thereby providing resilience to the nationwide grid; reducing the levels of carbon emissions and therefore improving the air quality and creating circular economies across Milton Keynes which increase the efficient use of resources to reuse materials, use less water and ensure the best use is made of the land.

2.4 The Task and Finish Group have held a number of public evidence gathering sessions which were well attended by citizens and have accepted numerous submissions of documents from individuals, organisations and businesses.

2.5 The Task and Finish Group also requested that each of the Council's Directorates highlighted the actions they are currently taking together with those proposed in the short, medium and long term. These are summarised in Annex B

3. Implications of the decision

Financial	Y	Human rights, equalities, diversity	N
Legal	Y	Policies or Council Plan	Y
Communication	Y	Procurement	Y
Energy Efficiency	Y	Workforce	Y

a) Financial implications

There are many financial implications in delivering this action plan for revenue income and expenditure and for capital expenditure but these cannot be assessed at this stage. Each of the proposed actions will require its own business plan, be considered as part of the capital programme (where appropriate) or be assessed as part of the existing revenue budget process. A sum of £250k has been proposed to pump prime the overall programme as shown in Annex W of the proposed budget for 2020/21.

b) Legal implications

The Council has general powers of competence under section 1 of the Localism Act 2011 to do anything which an individual can do subject to any limitations. The recommendations proposed within the report if approved will facilitate the Council's vision to create a world-leading sustainable city.

c) Council Plan

Action on climate change and sustainability is one of the key commitments; number 8, of the current Council Plan 2016-2022 and the delivery of the action plan and the case for an energy company are two of the specific elements.

d) Other implications

As the action plan will touch all citizens in some way a communications plan will be required to engage; advise and inform; and to introduce changes to the citizens at key points in a number of the actions.

Energy efficiency is a key part of becoming carbon neutral so improvements to the insulation of a building, behavioural change in the use of resources and re-use and recycling all need to be addressed.

Procurement of partners, contracts and services will need to be undertaken progression is made to achieve carbon neutrality.

Colleagues in MKC will also be involved, be it delivering projects in their area, changing their habits adopting new ways of working

4. Timetable for implementation

- 4.1 Once approved by Cabinet the work to deliver the actions can be commenced. Any recommendations from the Task and Finish Group endorsed by Cabinet will then be used to amend the plan before it is later presented to Council for adoption.

List of annexes

Annex A – Sustainability Strategy Action Plan 2019 - 2050

Annex B – Briefing Note to the Chair of the Task and Finish Group

List of background papers

None