

## READING BOROUGH COUNCIL

### REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC GROWTH AND NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

<b>TO:</b>	<b>STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENT PLANNING AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE</b>		
<b>DATE:</b>	9 <sup>th</sup> JULY 2019		
<b>TITLE:</b>	CLIMATE EMERGENCY		
<b>LEAD COUNCILLOR:</b>	CLLR PAGE	<b>PORTFOLIO:</b>	STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENT, PLANNING AND TRANSPORT
<b>SERVICE:</b>	REGENERATION AND ASSETS	<b>WARDS:</b>	BOROUGHWIDE
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#### 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report outlines the Council's progress to date in tackling climate change, work in progress and sets out the proposed approach to responding to the climate emergency declaration made by the Council on the 26<sup>th</sup> February 2019. The matters raised in this report and recommendations will form the basis of a report to Policy Committee in July.

#### 2. RECOMMENDATIONS

##### The Committee:

- 2.1 Welcomes the progress made to date by the Council's proactive approach to addressing climate change issues and impacts in Reading, while noting the scale of the on-going challenge.
- 2.2 Resolves to embed the climate emergency declaration across all Council services, activities, plans and other relevant work to ensure a fully integrated and systematic approach to the Council's own response to this challenge. Each Committee will be presented with this report highlighting the amendments to the terms of reference and asked to consider how they can contribute to achieving this agenda.
- 2.3 Agrees that while the Council will lead by example the scale of the climate emergency challenge requires action across all of Reading's communities. To this end the Council will work with and through the long-established Reading Climate Change Partnership and Reading UK to align respective strategies towards ensuring they secure the active participation of residents, businesses and other organisations across the borough.
- 2.4 Asks the Chief Executive to write to the Government and local MPs setting out the urgent need to equip local authorities with the policy framework, powers and funding necessary to deliver this critical agenda.
- 2.5 Agrees that all future Council Committee reports include a section on environmental implications and necessary mitigations and all reports to those committees consider the impact of the decisions they are taking on the council's ability to respond to the Climate Emergency and achieving a carbon neutral Reading by 2030.

### **3. POLICY CONTEXT**

- 3.1 In signing the global Climate Agreement which came into force in November 2016, the UK undertook to aim to limit global warming to one and a half degrees. In line with that commitment, the Council became one of 80 local authorities to sign the UK100 Clean Energy Pledge, an extract of which is set out below:

*We have the ambition of making all our towns and cities across the UK 100% clean before 2050, in line with the commitments made nationally and internationally at the Paris Summit.*

- 3.2 Reading Borough Council has a long standing commitment to action on climate change. A signatory to the Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change in 2006, it was one of the first authorities to produce a detailed Climate Action Plan. Among other achievements over this period, CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in the Borough have fallen by 41% which is greater than all but 19 of the 405 authorities in Great Britain and that the Council has reduced its own emissions by 53% since 2008.
- 3.3 Notwithstanding this progress and in acknowledgement of the scale of the on-going challenge, on the 26<sup>th</sup> of February 2019 the Council declared a Climate Emergency and resolved to take action to accelerate a carbon neutral Reading to 2030.
- 3.4 The remainder of this report sets out work in progress and the actions identified to reach a zero carbon position by 2030.

### **4. CURRENT POSITION AND WORK IN PROGRESS**

- 4.1 The Reading Climate Change Strategy - "Reading Means Business on Climate Change" has been in place since 2013. It was Reading's second climate strategy and was the first to be launched and owned by the Reading Climate Change Partnership. See the Appendix 4 for the action plan and summary.
- 4.2 The Council is working closely with the Reading Climate Change Partnership in coordinating the development of the new Reading Climate Change Strategy, which will be launched in April 2020. The timetable for this strategy has been brought forward by six months due to the declaration of the Climate Emergency.
- 4.3 Reading's planning policies include a number of requirements on developers in relation to climate change, including CO<sub>2</sub> emission standards of buildings, adaptation to climate change measures and requirements for decentralised energy. The new Local Plan, which is expected to be formally adopted in November 2019, goes significantly further in setting requirements for zero carbon planning on all large residential developments and BREEAM 'Excellent' standard on large commercial developments.
- 4.4 Reading's Carbon Plan 2015-2020 sets out how the Council will reduce its emissions of greenhouse gas from their own operations. The plan includes the target to reduce emissions by 50% from the 2008/9 level. This target was met three years early in 2017/18. The plan also contains a target to generate 20% of the Council's energy from renewable sources by 2020.
- 4.5 The Council has run a SALIX energy efficiency programme since 2008, has installed 13,000 streetlights and circa 7000 solar panels on Council buildings. In addition, the Council helped to set up Reading Community Energy Society, which installs solar panels funded by community share.

4.6 The Council's sustainable transport programmes include the very successful and sustainable bus fleet, extended cycle network including a new pedestrian and cycle bridge over the river Thames and a number of park and ride schemes.

## 5. CLIMATE EMERGENCY ACTION FRAMEWORK

5.1 It has been identified through modelling that the following fundamental actions would be needed to make significant progress towards a carbon neutral Reading by 2030. (more information on modelling is given in Appendix 1)

- i) Widespread retrofitting of private and public housing stock and commercial buildings with insulation and other energy efficiency measures.
- ii) Putting solar arrays on most of the suitable roof space and erecting more large wind turbines.
- iii) Significantly less petrol and diesel powered vehicles on Reading's roads, through more cycling and walking and accelerated uptake of electric vehicles.
- iv) Widespread use of smart technologies for energy storage and connecting to local power grids.
- v) Recycling standards on industry and supermarkets whilst supporting the delivery of increased recycling rates and maximising the potential to generate clean local energy from waste.
- vi) Developing innovative solutions to include district heating systems, ground source heat pumps and the use of rivers and watercourses to generate energy.

5.2 The four key technical challenges are:

- i) Low carbon buildings - retrofitting at scale.
- ii) Renewable heat and electricity supply - scaling up renewables.
- iii) Sustainable transport - phasing out petrol and diesel.
- iv) Smart Energy - smoothing out the power.

5.4 Internally, a Corporate Task Group will be established to oversee the co-ordination of a Climate Emergency Framework, ensuring its principles and objectives are embedded as part of day to day business and that key projects are taken forward across all Council Directorates.

5.5 A cross Committee approach will be established within the Council, whereby all the standing Committees of the Council will report on the relevant elements of Reading's Climate Change Strategy and the Climate Emergency Action Framework. Relevant guidance for the identification of environmental implications and the necessary mitigations that should be undertaken, will be provided in the Committee report templates. The Terms of Reference of the Committees have been amended to include: '*Climate Change Strategy - To contribute to and adopt the relevant parts of the Climate Change action plan.*' A new Cleaner Air and Safer Transport Forum has also been set up. The draft terms of reference are shown in Appendix 5.

### Indicative Committee Work Programme

5.6 The Strategic Environment Planning and Transport Committee (SEPT) Committee's key work areas will include overseeing actions which will flow from the various 'theme action plans' of the Reading Climate Change Strategy and those that relate to the cross cutting themes of education, business, communities and adaptation.

The Committee will need to consider a wide range of policy areas in relation to these. A list is provided below to guide the Committee on the considerations but this is not exhaustive and the committee are encouraged to consider all matters that may be relevant:

- The carbon footprint of Council facilities - Delivery of the Councils carbon plan
- Oversee development and delivery of Reading's third Climate Change Partnership
- Bringing forward renewable energy infrastructure in the borough
- Implementing energy storage solutions in the borough
- Waste services including municipal and commercial collection and treatment
- Food waste collection and treatment
- Operation of Reading's Materials Recycling Facility
- The delivery of LTP4 including cycling, public transport and walking networks
- Electric vehicle charging infrastructure
- The Councils own vehicle fleet low carbon/electric vehicles
- The sustainable design and construction of new buildings including zero carbon housing for large new build developments
- District energy schemes with renewable heat supply
- The supply chains and procurement arrangements for services commissioned
- Communication of environmentally positive behaviours to staff and users
- The protection, maintaining and enhancing of natural environments
- The climate risks to the public and business (detailed in adaptation plan)
- The use of natural resources
- The promotion of the Reading Climate Action Network

### **Partners and Stakeholders**

- 5.7 The delivery of the scale of change that is needed to achieve a carbon neutral Reading will require a continued internal effort within the Council but cannot be achieved without significant national policy changes and national and local actions by businesses, residents and other stakeholders.
- 5.8 Reading Climate Change Partnership has a broad representation across the business, community and public sectors. This external focus will continue to build a network of dedicated champions who can engage at all levels to influence, persuade and lead by example to bring about the extended involvement of all communities across the borough.
- 5.9 The consultation launch for the third Reading Climate Change Strategy launch took place on the 13<sup>th</sup> June 2019. Six themes were set out at the event, representing the potential chapters of the new strategy. Workshops at the event split the participants into these six theme groups. Theme groups will meet subsequently and together develop an action plan for their theme. Each group has a 'theme coordinator' who will be responsible for the development of their theme action plan.
- 5.10 The six proposed themes of the strategy are:
- > Energy and Low Carbon Development
  - > Natural Environment
  - > Resources and Consumption
  - > Sustainable Transport
  - > Health
  - > Water Supply and Flooding
- 5.11 The event was attended by more than 120 people. Hundreds of ideas for actions within the six themes were articulated. Attendees were invited to consider how to approach implementation from a range of points of view.

- 5.12 Each of the theme groups will reflect on ideas tabled at the event and discuss gaps and delivery approaches, producing a themed action plan by December. They will meet at least two more times over this period and feed into the main partnership.
- 5.13 Ideas that came forward included:
- > Renewable energy and whole building retrofit,
  - > Electrically powered shared public and private transport
  - > A safer and extended cycling and walking network
  - > Clean air, re-wilding, more tree planting and plants for bees
  - > Greater preparedness for climate risks such as extreme weather
  - > Waste minimised through re-use and repair
  - > A 'circular economy' that re-processes products using renewable energy.
- 5.14 In the business space this change requires stakeholders including Reading UK, Reading 2050, the Local Enterprise Partnership, the Chamber of Commerce and a number of business role models who are able to share best practice and build B2B approaches. The Council will seek to influence partners' strategies and plans to ensure the climate change agenda is fully considered to include, for example, the LEP's emerging Berkshire Local Industrial Strategy. Local start-up companies and SMEs will be supported in bringing forward innovative solutions.
- 5.15 The national policy framework, broadly set out under the Climate Change Act, remains critical to the delivery of Reading's Climate Emergency work. Grant funding and subsidy payments will be required to support investment in new technologies. Statutory powers to improve buildings for example are crucial in enabling Councils and other parties to drive forward a low/zero carbon pathway.

## **6. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 6.1 In conclusion, the delivery of a carbon neutral pathway by 2030 requires a substantial and sustained effort by all citizens and organisations in Reading. The investment in technology pathways will require innovative new approaches which, in many cases, will rely on the levers of national policy and the resources that are made available through the government's programme on climate change.
- 6.2 The new Climate Change Strategy will contain the carbon neutral 2030 framework for action. It will contain details of the modelling work and establish a pathway to a carbon neutral Reading. It will outline the specific contributions from a range of different stakeholders.
- 6.2 The Council calls upon the wider communities and organisations in the Borough to actively engage with the programme and work with the Council and other partners through the Reading Climate Change Partnership and its network, the 'Reading Climate Action Network'.
- 6.3 Over the next decade, Reading must substantially reduce its use of fossil fuels through the reduction of energy consumption. This will be coupled with a major increase in the amount of renewable electricity and heat generated, which will help to power the widespread electrification of heat and transport.
- 6.4 The Council and the Reading Climate Change Partnership will play an important part in galvanising action on climate change and in encouraging and supporting local communities and business to change to a carbon neutral pathway in order to play our part in averting the worst effects of climate change.

## **7. CONTRIBUTION TO STRATEGIC AIMS**

Given the wide remit of this agenda the proposals set out in this report support the delivery of all of the Corporate Plan Service Priorities (Shaping Reading's Future 2018-2021 updated Spring 2019):

- Securing the economic success of Reading
- Improving access to decent housing to meet local needs
- Protecting and enhancing the lives of vulnerable adults and children
- Keeping Reading's environment clean, green and safe
- Promoting great education, leisure and cultural opportunities for people in Reading
- Ensuring the Council is Fit for the Future

7.1 Amendments are proposed to the current emerging Corporate Plan to fully reference the climate change agenda.

## **8. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION**

8.1 Widespread community engagement is taking place in the updating of a range of Council strategies including the upcoming revisions to the Reading Climate Change Strategy, Housing Strategy and Local Transport Plan 4.

## **9. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

9.1 Under the Equality Act 2010, Section 149, a public authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to—

- eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;
- advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
- foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

9.2 It is not considered that an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) is required for the decisions being made in this report. The individual strategies and projects will be considered separately in due course.

## **10. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

10.1 This report sets out the intended approach to establishing policies, procedures and programmes to meet the objectives set out in the Climate Emergency resolution. Modifications to policies procedures and programmes will be made pursuant to the General Power of Competence contained in sections 1-6 of the Localism Act 2011 and/or additional statutory powers detailed below.

10.2 The following statutes and regulations being the Climate Change Act, the Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards Regulations, the Energy in Performance in Buildings Regulations 2012, The Heat Network Regulations, the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act where relevant will be relied upon to deliver the programme, which is set out in the Reading Climate Change Strategy.

## **11. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

11.1 The financial implications of the delivery of the Climate Change Strategy and other relevant strategies and specific projects will be reported when specific plans and

proposals are brought in due course. Risk Assessments will be carried out for these individual projects.

11.2 The Council spends over £2m per annum on energy and has a capital programme for investing capital in energy efficiency projects. Investment of capital through the SALIX programme, typically meets the 10 year repayment condition, helping to avoid rising energy costs. Other energy projects offer a return on investment.

11.3 It is estimated that over £150m is spent per annum by Reading's residents and employees on energy and fuel. By investing in energy efficiency, renewable energy generation and electrification of heat and transport, this annual expenditure could be reduced by instead spending on projects which would have the benefit of creating jobs and saving money for all. Where positive business cases are brought forward projects can offer value for money.

## **12. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

**Appendix 1: Modelling a Zero Carbon Pathway**

**Appendix 2: Existing Projects**

**Appendix 3: Item 11 Full Council - 26<sup>th</sup> February - Council Climate Emergency Declaration**

**Appendix 4: 'Reading Climate Change Strategy 2013-20 Action Plans**

## Appendix 1 - Modelling a Zero Carbon Pathway

- 1.1 Reading Borough Council carried out initial modelling to establish a potential pathway for a zero carbon Reading. This was reported to Strategic Environment, Planning and Transport (SEPT) Committee in March 2018.
- 1.2 The model utilises the Department of Business , Energy and Industry Strategy (BEIS) carbon emissions data for local authorities and converts this to power. It uses standard yield and performance data to calculate the contribution of power to the local networks. It does not take account of the different time of day or year that the power is used/generated.
- 1.3 Whilst the initial model should only be regarded as a rough assessment of what potential there might be in Reading according to our local understanding, it sets out a possible blueprint for technology and infrastructure development that is needed rapidly if carbon neutrality is to be achieved by 2030.
- 1.4 The modelling assumes a very ambitious programme of energy efficiency is carried out in Reading and energy consumption is reduced by just over 50%. It also seeks to calculate the amount of renewable energy installations that could potentially be achieved without taking account of many of the technical and practical challenges associated with this scale of roll out.
- 1.5 The model showed that there is potentially considerable renewable heat potential utilising Reading's rivers, ground and gas from food waste and sewerage waste. Together these could supply a large proportion of the town's heat.
- 1.6 In the scenario modelled, renewable electricity generation would be largely provided by solar panels. This would require a considerable increase in the prevalence of this technology, requiring an order of magnitude change in the number of roofs in the borough which have solar panels installed.
- 1.7 Additional electricity would be needed for heat and the electrification of transport. The model showed that this extra load would mean that even with all the other work to reduce demand and increase renewable supply, there would remain a substantial gap in the amount of clean electricity available.
- 1.8 There are a number of obstacles which could potentially lead to certain technology solutions offering significantly less energy than shown. The pathway would need to have a high degree of flexibility to ensure that, as trials and commercial pilots yield information about the real potential of technologies, the model can be adjusted to ensure that the correct development pathway progresses. Further modelling work will be carried out to establish a range of scenarios and sensitivities using the Government backed recently published 'SCATTER' tool.
- 1.9 The modelling work showed the following four key technical challenge areas associated with delivering a carbon neutral Reading:-
  - i) Low carbon buildings - retrofitting at scale.
  - ii) Renewable heat and electricity supply - scaling up renewables.
  - iii) Sustainable transport - phasing out petrol and diesel.
  - iv) Smart Energy - smoothing out the power.



## **Appendix 2 - Existing Projects**

The Council has already progressed work in these areas and continues to work on key projects which will help to take this framework forward.

### **Low Carbon Buildings**

The Council's Carbon Plan 2015-20 outlines its approach to reducing emissions to 50% of 2008/9 levels by 2020. This target was met three years early in 2017/18.

A number of low carbon projects have been progressed over the course of the delivery of the last two climate change strategies. Around 100 SALIX energy efficiency projects have been delivered in the Council estate including a full retrofit of the current civic offices and the town hall.

Over 2000 properties were insulated under the Heat-seeker project in the first climate change strategy and whilst national funding was significantly reduced the Council has continued to provide a fuel poverty service called Winter Watch, which has visited hundreds of homes and assisted in obtaining funding for energy efficiency measures large and small to householders.

The Council was a Green Deal Pioneer, but the national policy was scrapped and no Green Deals were rolled out.

A number of grant funded boiler replacement schemes were installed into Reading social housing stock. Readings own housing stock has a SAP rating of 73%.

Reading was one of the first UK authorities to include zero carbon planning in its new Local Plan. This policy awaits the outcome of the inspection process before it will be adopted. The policy is designed to re-invest funds from large developments where they cannot feasibly achieve zero carbon standards on the site into local projects, including housing retrofit.

The Council is currently planning the refurbishment of the Bennet Road depot. The project incorporates a range of innovative and energy efficiency measures, aiming to reduce the carbon footprint substantially. Modelling is being carried out to determine the business model for investment including consideration of renewable technologies, battery storage and charging for electric Council fleet vehicles.

The Council is in the process of completing a replacement of 100% of the streetlights in the borough with LED lamps. The replacement of 13,000 street lamps will save over 1000 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> per annum and reduce electricity bills by approximately £200k per annum.

### **Renewable Electricity**

The Council has invested in solar PV on 457 Council houses and 46 corporate and community buildings. In total the Council owns around 7000 panels or 2MWp of generation capacity. This amounts to around 1/3 of the solar panels installed in the Borough.

In addition to the above, the Council helped to set up Reading Community Energy Society, which is in the process of installing its second phase of community funded

solar panels on local buildings, bringing the total to around 2400 panels or 600kWp of generation capacity.

The Council is planning a range of projects looking at the effectiveness and scalability of different technology combinations, working closely with the University to monitor the performance of the technologies and assist in optimising their performance.

The Council and Reading Transport are working with Reading Community Energy Society to install larger unsubsidised solar PV schemes including the bus depot. Together with the existing solar PV on the bus depot, this will be the largest solar install on a single building in Reading, slightly bigger than the arrays on the Council's civic offices which total 148kWp (~700) panels.

## **Renewable Heat**

The Council has implemented one biomass heating scheme at Cedar Court, with a connection to an adjoining building.

As the grid decarbonises, heat pumps become more sustainable than gas based systems. The most efficient heat pumps utilise the heat resource available in the ground and rivers.

The Council has been successful for the third time in securing Heat Network funding from the Heat Network Delivery Unit. The most recent project outlined feasibility for a district heating network in Reading town centre. A key recommendation was that schemes in the town centre could harness renewable heat from the river, aquifers and ground source heat.

A new project will focus on the development opportunities in the town centre and bringing these into operation. Strategic sites such as Station Hill and the ex-Royal Mail site offer the density and opportunity to deliver schemes with renewable heat.

## **Sustainable Transport**

Reading has delivered a great number of initiatives and programmes under its Local Transport Plan 3 to move towards a more sustainable transport system. Reading Buses has continued to expand its fleet of low or zero carbon buses with a fleet of over 40 sustainable CNG powered buses. These buses are fuelled by compressed natural gas, for which biomethane has been injected in equivalent volumes into the national gas grid from regional sources. Reading has the third highest per person passenger numbers in the UK outside London.

A number of pedestrian and cycling infrastructure projects have been implemented including the new pedestrian and cycle-bridge over the river Thames.

The Council has invested in electric vehicle charging points at the Civic Offices and Depot site. These offer charging facilities for up to ten vehicles at a time.

Two fast-charge units are available to the public behind the Civic Offices.

The Council is in the process of designing the install of a number of charge points in areas of on street parking, where residents do not have access to off street parking and thereby home charging. The charging points will be set into the lamp columns (posts) and made readily available within the trial area.

Reading's licensed (Hackney Cab) taxi fleet have committed to be 100% Ultra Low Emission vehicles by 2030.

### **Smart energy systems**

The Council has been installing 'smart' Automatic Meter Reading (AMR) on its electricity and gas meters. Over 90% of its energy consumption is via these meters. In 2018, a number of meters were upgraded to AMR under P272 regulations. AMR meters allow the Council to have access to 'half hourly' consumption data.

The Council is currently modelling PV/battery scenarios at its Bennet Road Depot site. Battery storage would be used to smooth out peak energy periods when power on the grid is at its most carbon intensive or 'brown'.

Electric Vehicles can be used as an energy storage facility. As well as controlling when charging occurs, future models will incorporate 'Vehicle to Grid', where cars can export electricity back to the grid. The Council has procured a number of Electric Vans and is modelling future uses of electric vehicles as power providers to buildings and other power uses.

## READING BOROUGH COUNCIL

### COUNCIL MEETING

26 FEBRUARY 2019

### **ITEM NO 11 - CLIMATE EMERGENCY - TOWARDS A ZERO CARBON READING - ALTERED**

Reading Borough Council (RBC) believes the world is now clearly in the midst of a climate emergency and that more concerted and urgent action is needed at local, national and international level to protect our planet for future generations. **As such, this Council commits to playing as full a role as possible – leading by example as well as by exhortation - in achieving a carbon neutral Reading by 2030.**

RBC has a long standing commitment to action on climate change. A signatory of the Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change in 2006, the Council was one of the first authorities to produce a detailed Climate Action Plan.

We note that CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in the Borough have fallen by 41% since 2005, which is greater than all but 19 of the 405 authorities in Great Britain, and that Reading Borough Council has reduced its own emissions by 53% since 2008.

Reading is urban in nature and the majority of emissions are from the use of fossil fuels and energy to run buildings and transport. Methane is also harmful to the climate. In Reading, these emissions are primarily from food, human waste and landfill. Gases from the latter two are captured and used to generate energy.

Despite good progress at local level, new evidence continues to emerge about the scale of the likely impacts of climate change. We are now aware through the launch of the Special Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change in October 2018 that, in order to reduce the risks of severe climate change, all countries must act much more quickly.

This Council was proud to host the Model Climate Conference in December 2018 in this Chamber attended by students from local secondary schools, which coincided with the Katowice Climate Conference (COP24), and resulted in all the participating students stressing the urgency of climate action and pressing the Council, Government and others to act quickly.

RBC notes that we have already set out a number of ambitious policies and actions which will help to pave the way for the delivery of a Zero Carbon future such as:

- ‘Zero Carbon Standards’ within its draft Local Plan,
- The RBC Carbon Plan
- The forthcoming consultation on options, such as a Clean Air Zone, for improving local air quality and reducing congestion prior to publishing our draft Fourth Local Transport Plan
- The Reading Climate Change Partnership and Strategy - Reading Means Business on Climate Change
- The Launch of Reading Community Energy Society

This Council therefore instructs officers to report to the SEPT and Policy Committees on further potential measures that could accelerate the timescale for reducing carbon dioxide emissions to zero by 2030, but recognises that this date can only be achieved with substantial policy changes from national government.

**Council also requests officers to ensure that forthcoming revisions to the Local Transport Plan and Climate Change Strategy (and any other relevant policy statements) reflect the urgency of this resolution.**

The Council also calls on the Government to follow the recommendations of the Committee on Climate Change and radically improve the policy framework including, for example:

- detailed and practical proposals for retrofitting private and public housing stock, where the Green Deal failed.
- upgrade social housing energy efficiency to higher standards
- more support for renewable electricity and heat (and not taxing them unfairly)
- more support for establishing renewably powered heat networks
- more support for the smart technologies and storage and connecting to local power grids.
- more support for electric vehicle infrastructure and ownership, whilst incentivising the scrappage of older polluting vehicles
- more national investment in cycling and walking policies, and the expansion of public transport and car clubs using the latest zero carbon technology
- working with local businesses to improve their energy efficiency
- putting solar arrays on most of the suitable roof space and erecting more large wind turbines
- developing local energy storage facilities
- establishing national recycling standards on industry and supermarkets whilst supporting the roll-out of food waste collection and its use for the generation of clean local energy
- building a town centre district energy system which harnesses heat from local rivers or watercourses
- establishing the widespread use of ground-source heat pumps and potentially air source heat pumps
- amending local authority procurement powers to require the delivery of carbon neutral environmental strategies by private sector suppliers

The Council calls on the Government to give Reading as soon as possible the additional powers and funding needed to ensure that Reading is carbon neutral by 2030.

The Council therefore instructs the Chief Executive to write to our local MPs, **and to the Prime Minister and to relevant Government departments (DEFRA, MHCLG, DfT, and Treasury)** setting out the above requirements and the need for new legislation and financial support to deliver this radical agenda.

I move this

I second this

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Councillor Page

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Councillor