



**Cabinet**  
**24 May 2023**

<b>Report Title:</b>	<b>Climate Change Action Plan</b>
<b>Cabinet Portfolio</b>	Environment and Transport
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	Councillor A Bowden
<b>Exempt Report</b>	No
<b>Reason for Exemption</b>	N/A
<b>Key Decision</b>	Yes
<b>Public Notice issued</b>	24 February 2023
<b>Wards Affected</b>	All
<b>Report of</b>	Jonathan Edwards Director of Operations <a href="mailto:jonathanedwards@sthelens.gov.uk">jonathanedwards@sthelens.gov.uk</a>
<b>Contact Officer</b>	Trevor Nicoll Assistant Director for Environment and Operations <a href="mailto:trevornicoll@sthelens.gov.uk">trevornicoll@sthelens.gov.uk</a>

<b>Borough Priorities</b>	Ensure children and young people have a positive start in life	
	Promote good health, independence, and care across our communities	x
	Create safe and strong communities and neighbourhoods for all	
	Support a strong, thriving, inclusive and well-connected local economy	x
	Create green and vibrant places that reflect our heritage and culture	x
	Be a responsible Council	x

## 1. Summary

- 1.1 In 2019 the Council declared a climate emergency in recognition of the threat posed by rising temperatures across the world. A borough wide target to be carbon net zero by 2040 was set. In November 2021, the Council published its Pathway to Net Zero by 2040 strategy outlining its strategic approach to how this target would be met. Now in 2023, a detailed and prioritised plan has been developed to identify the specific actions to be taken in order to reduce the Boroughs carbon emissions.
- 1.2 The Council must lead by example in reducing its own emissions and impact on the environment. Simultaneously, in its role as community leader, the Council must act to support, challenge, and facilitate positive action by residents, businesses, and partners. The challenge is significant, but the ambition and commitment remain unwavering.
- 1.3 The Council has developed a Climate Action Plan that contains a series of measurable actions that if delivered will reduce Council and Borough wide emissions. Examples include decarbonising fleet, moving to low energy lighting and heating, increasing recycling, and embedding climate change as one of the key drivers for growth and investment in St Helens.
- 1.4 The report also sets out the resourcing, funding challenges, and opportunities associated with the delivery of the plan, alongside improvements to governance and performance monitoring that are required to evidence progress and delivery.

## 2. Recommendations for Decision

**Cabinet is recommended to:**

- i) Note the progress made following the Council's climate emergency declaration.**
- ii) Approve the Climate Change Action Plan at Appendix 1.**
- iii) Note the resource challenges to deliver the plan and approve the commencement of a procurement exercise to appoint a delivery partner to provide the requisite resource, capacity and potentially funding.**

iv) **Allocate up to £100,000 from the Council's feasibility / development budget in the Transformation Reserve to support the delivery of the climate action plan and/or the associated delivery partner costs**

v) **Support the review and repurposing of the St Helens climate commission**

vi) **Note and support the progression of the Woodland Creation schemes**

### **3. Purpose of this Report**

3.1 This report seeks cabinet approval for the adoption of the Council's Climate change action plan. The plan contains specific actions to be delivered in achieving the 2040 carbon net zero target. The Action Plan breaks down the Net Zero commitments into discrete themes and actions with clear timelines and responsibilities. This promotes accountability and ownership across the organisation, with partners, businesses, and residents.

### **4. Background / Reason for the recommendations**

#### **4.1 Reaffirming the Council's commitment to net zero**

4.1.1 The Council's Pathway to Net Zero by 2040 Strategy was published in November 2021, which contained a clear vision that **'Together we will make St Helens a net zero borough by 2040.'** This will be achieved by: -

- Reducing emissions from Council activities and embedding 'climate thinking' into everything the Council does.
- Working alongside residents, communities, and businesses to help them to reduce carbon emissions.
- Helping St Helens to mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change.
- Working together with partners to make St Helens a net zero borough by 2040.

4.1.2 The Borough is already experiencing the impacts of climate change. In the past 12 months alone, the Borough has encountered several extreme weather events linked to flooding, storm damage and record high temperatures. These have led to the closure of parks, the flooding of people's homes, and the temporary cessation of services. The cost and disruption caused by such events is significant. These effects are present at 1.2° of warming since the pre-industrial period. Current best estimates predict a warming of 2.7° by 2100. Action should be taken to mitigate this risk by reducing emissions now.

4.1.3 Whilst presenting an existential threat, climate change also provides opportunities to enhance the local area, deliver services differently and embrace new technologies. These in turn can help to create jobs and new skills, supporting the delivery of the Council's ambitious growth plans and other Borough priorities.

4.1.4 The current cost of living crisis and spiralling energy costs further illustrate the need to tackle the climate crisis head on. Costs to power streetlights, fuel vehicles, and to heat operational buildings have been heavily impacted by the volatile energy markets and have generated a budget pressure that surpassed £2m in 2022/23.

4.1.5 The Council's own activities represent approximately 3% of the total emissions across the Borough. As a community leader the Council must get "its own house in order" to demonstrate its commitment and generate momentum. Across the wider borough, emissions predominantly arise from the ways we heat our homes and businesses, the car-centric transportation

infrastructure, and agricultural and industrial sectors. Mitigating these will require a transformation of the way we work, move and live.

- 4.1.6 The attached data slides at appendix 2 set out the scale of change needed across the borough in order to achieve net-zero by 2040. We must achieve substantial emissions reductions across the borough every year between now and this date. We must halve our total energy needs by 2040 whilst transforming our energy infrastructure from one based on fossil fuels to one based on electricity and green hydrogen. Whilst emissions have decreased by 34% since 2010 across the borough, a majority of this shift owes to decarbonisation of the national grid rather than local action. Emissions from transport and gas burning have not shifted and are a core part of the remaining challenge.
- 4.1.7 For the council to achieve net zero by 2040, we must cut our emissions by 610 tonnes per year. This is equivalent to removing the emissions of three leisure centres per year from our operations and estate. To achieve net-zero by 2040 as a borough, we need to reduce our emissions by 52,400 tonnes per year. This would be the equivalent of installing air source heat pumps and a standard 4kWh solar array for approximately 10,200 homes per year or taking more than 31,000 petrol and diesel cars off the road. Clearly substantial public and private sector support will be required to pursue the council's ambitious net-zero 2040 goal.

## 4.2 Progress since the Publication of 2021 Pathway to Net Zero Report

- 4.2.1 The Council's commitment to combat climate change is at the core of the Borough Strategy and other published documents such as the Local Plan, Inclusive Growth Strategy and Housing Strategy. Over the past 12 months, several achievements have been made in reducing emissions and to lay the foundations for sizeable future emission reductions. Notable examples include:
- All electricity used by the Council is generated from 100% renewable sources
  - Receipt of the UK's first hydrogen powered refuse collection vehicle
  - Orders placed for 30 electric vans.
  - The development of an electric staff car leasing scheme
  - Securing of £500k Low Carbon Skills Fund (LCSF) to identify measures to decarbonise the most carbon emitting council properties.
  - Publication of a Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP)
  - The commencement of the boroughs first Cycle Optimised Protected Signals scheme, which paves the way for integrated walking and cycling infrastructure across the borough.
  - Trialling of low carbon alternative to asphalt on several highway resurfacing projects
  - Commissioned feasibility studies for land based solar projects that could ultimately generate up to 10MW of green electricity and reduce council energy bills by 20-30%
  - Undertaking a detailed project development for a St Helens Heat Network to utilise waste heat energy to heat town centre redevelopment and benefit the wider community.
  - Early development of a new Open Spaces Strategy to facilitate biodiversity and carbon capture on council owned land.
  - Planting of 500 new trees across the Borough
  - Approval of a new waste strategy that promotes the circular economy and positions the council to further improve its reduce, reuse and recycling performance
  - Implementing carbon reduction strategies for key regeneration projects including Parkside and Earlestown and St Helens town centre masterplans.

4.2.2 Progression of the above will help to reduce the Council’s own emissions by nearly 15%. Financially, these interventions will also help to reduce energy costs up to £200k per annum.

4.2.3 Considerable social value is also being derived from many of these projects. Local jobs have been created and St Helens is increasingly being seen as a pioneering destination for the deployment of Hydrogen technology. Longer term this provides a platform for a range of new skilled jobs and training opportunities centred around the low carbon economy.

### 4.3 The Climate Change Action Plan

4.3.1 St Helens Climate Change Action Plan has been developed to align with the UN Sustainable Development Goals ([www.sdgs.uk.org](http://www.sdgs.uk.org)). The 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were agreed in 2015 and are an urgent call for action by all in a global partnership. They are recognised as an objective way of measuring progress & provide a framework for the Council.

4.3.2 The Climate Change Action Plan contains 134 specific actions for which the complexity, risk and cost varies considerably. This is not an exhaustive list of actions, and the reality is that the plan will continue to grow and evolve. Whilst 134 actions may appear considerable, they represent a fraction of the changes required if the net zero ambitions is to be realised.

4.3.3 The actions contained in the plan are at various stages of progression. To manage delivery expectations, they have been categorised into Short Term (0-1 years), Medium Term (2-3 years) and Longer Term (4+ years). Timescales & the role of the Council is clearly articulated.

4.3.4 The activities contained in the plan have been developed in a range of different ways to ensure the plan is as robust and comprehensive as possible. Examples include:

- Reviewing and extracting key activities from departmental service plans
- Considering best practice from other organisations
- Workshops with key services from across the Council
- Peer review of other Local Authority Plans
- Joint working with the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority

4.3.5 The following table presents an overview of the Action Plan, categorised into eight key themes, over three timeframes. The Action Plan has been further categorised into actions that will reduce the Council’s direct emissions and those that will see a reduction to the borough wider emissions. The Action Plan also indicates alignment to the UN Sustainable Development Goals

<b>Themes:</b>	<b>Short Term</b>	<b>Medium Term</b>	<b>Long Term</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Covers:</b>
Property	13	4	5	<b>22</b>	Council owned buildings & schools including utilities
Transport & Infrastructure	16	8	6	<b>30</b>	Sustainable travel, alternative fuel, and highway initiatives
Operational Services	5	3	3	<b>11</b>	Recycling, waste, and school traded services
Housing	5	2	3	<b>10</b>	Influence, initiatives, and funding opportunities
Natural Environment	3	6	3	<b>12</b>	Biodiversity and land use
Growth & Development	5	7	4	<b>16</b>	Planning, support, and maximising opportunities

Corporate Enablers	9	4	1	<b>14</b>	Governance, procurement, finance, and development
Engagement & Education	3	9	6	<b>19</b>	Marketing, communication, training, and guidance
	<b>59</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>134</b>	

4.3.6 The range of tasks are varied with many of the actions requiring capital investment in new low carbon technology or behavioural change to meet the carbon reduction targets. The Action Plan is included at Appendix 2 below are examples of actions: -

- Importance of collaboration with public and private sector organisations to help stimulate the deployment of renewable energy projects.
- Invest of £4.5m to improve cycling and pedestrian routes across the borough.
- Introduction of additional ULEV/electric / hydrogen vehicles to the Council fleet.
- Development of an Electric Vehicle (EV) vehicle charging and infrastructure strategy (also to be presented to cabinet on 24<sup>th</sup> May)
- Promote waste minimisation and closed loop recycling.
- Continue to facilitate investment in the ongoing programme to replace boilers in housing with modern, energy efficient non gas boilers with heating controls.
- Commitment to plant additional trees, increasing tree coverage across the borough.
- Updating Supplementary Planning Documents to better promote net zero principles.
- Ensure new developments maximise walking, cycling and public transport movement.
- Ensure council investments are with environmentally & socially responsible companies.
- Promote and support the Eco Schools initiative.
- Supporting schools to retrofit buildings with low carbon technologies such as solar PV
- Provide a series of community information sessions and engage with community groups to increase climate awareness.

#### 4.4 Funding & Resourcing the Action Plan

4.4.1 Within the Council's approved capital programme and emerging SAIG programme there is currently £1.349m earmarked to the climate emergency response for 2023/24. Funding identified in the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) has been used to support the purchase of the hydrogen waste collection vehicle, conduct feasibility studies (land based solar study / heat work), and provide a Carbon Grant scheme that was successfully awarded to 10 local organisations in 2022.

4.4.2 The total cost of achieving net zero is at this stage unquantifiable. The Climate Action Plan enables the Council to commence the process of quantifying and timetabling the funding required to implement necessary actions. However, as emissions from transport, housing and industry are included within the Council's net zero scope it is envisaged that the costs will run into billions of pounds. The Council cannot be & is not responsible for securing all this investment.

4.4.3 The Council is ambitious and committed to achieving net zero. It will play a number of roles in bidding, lobbying, challenging, and leading by example to lever funding into the borough to deliver net zero activity. However, in order to fulfil these roles Council funding will still be required. Given the financial challenges faced by the Council some clear parameters and criteria must be in place to prioritise funding and assess investment. The following funding principles will be adopted and utilised to support future net zero investment:

- Maximise external funding and prioritise match funding to lever in additional funds.

- Invest when strong business cases can be evidenced. Low payback periods and a reduction or offsetting of revenue costs will be viewed favourably
- Make funding available as a “Green premium” to bridge the funding gap between low carbon technologies and traditional sources of energy. I.e used as a “top up” fund
- Funding will be prioritised where it supports the delivery of other Borough priorities, in particular by supporting the delivery of green skills and jobs
- Funding will be used to position St Helens at the heart of the Green industrial revolution raising its profile and leadership in tackling the climate emergency
- Where significant levels of carbon can be saved from a specific project then funding requests will be viewed favourably
- To aid the development of the future capital investment programme, indicative financial values are included in Section 17 of this report

4.4.4 Of equal importance to funding is the availability of resources to deliver the Action Plan. Delivery capacity within the Council is currently insufficient. Furthermore, there are a range of competing priorities and programmes that require the support of the limited capacity available. This is likely to remain a key risk to the delivery of the action plan. To mitigate this, delivery resources will be built into the final business case for all projects that are progressed.

#### 4.5 Delivery Partner

4.5.1 In acknowledging the capacity and skills deficit to support the delivery of the Action Plan and the wider response to the climate emergency, the Council could consider the appointment of a delivery partner.

4.5.2 This could take many different forms but would assist in providing capacity, expertise, funding and the transfer of risk. Various multi-disciplinary partners exist. Early soft market engagement has highlighted an appetite to work with the Council. Onboarding a partner may also help to consolidate procurement activity and provide consistency across a programme of work. Greater social value could also be achieved via a partnership arrangement.

4.5.3 Typical services available via a delivery partner include:

- Design and survey activity
- Policy and procedure development
- Business Case development
- Access to funding
- Project and programme management support
- Technical support
- Construction / delivery arms and capacity
- Management of relationships with key statutory undertakers

4.5.4 The costs of the delivery partner could be built into the overall capital investment needed to deliver the Action Plan. There are also various other commercial models available that could provide alternative routes for the partner to be paid, however more details of which need to be investigated.

4.5.5 There are at least 2 potential projects that may benefit from the support and expertise of a delivery partner. Early work is being undertaken to assess the potential of multiple land based solar schemes and the development of Hydrogen fuelling infrastructure across the Borough. Both projects are technical in nature, requiring considerable resources and possess multiple risks that the council may not wish to manage on its own.

4.5.6 It is proposed that a detailed delivery partner brief is developed, and this is advertised externally under a compliant procurement process.

#### 4.6 Climate Commission & wider governance of the net zero agenda

4.6.1 The St Helens Climate Commission was established in 2020 and tasked with fulfilling several functions designed to bring leadership, senior level engagement and stewardship to the climate agenda. Representatives from a number of public, private and voluntary sector organisations have attended the Commission over the past 2 years. The Commission has typically met on a quarterly basis and has had some success in co-ordinating activity across the Borough.

4.6.2 Increasingly it has become apparent that the terms of reference, membership and purpose of the Commission would benefit from a review. This review will recognise the changing policy landscape, the publication of the proposed Action Plan and other positive developments that have progressed since the conception of the commission. Of particular importance is ensuring the Commission compliments activity at a LCRCA level, and has a much clearer focus on delivery.

4.6.3 To independently and objectively develop an enhanced and clearly defined role for the Commission a series of workshops were undertaken in April 2023. These were led by an independent specialist who has worked with a number of organisations to shape and prepare them for their respective net zero journeys.

#### 4.7 Woodland Accelerator Scheme

4.7.1 The Council has been successful in securing £150,000 from the Woodland Creation Accelerator Fund (WCAF). The fund provides financial support to increase the capacity of specialist skills within local authorities enabling them in turn to accelerate the delivery of tree planting and woodland creation commitments. The ultimate goal of the fund is to enable more trees planted particularly in winter seasons 2023/24 and 2024/25.

4.7.2 The fund has been used to support the cost of two officers who are focusing their time on identifying and developing planting schemes across the borough. The officers will also be responsible for applying for funding via Northern Forest Grow Back Greener Funding scheme via Mersey Forest and final planting of the tree before 2025.

4.7.3 It is proposed that the scheme will provide 81,509m<sup>2</sup> of additional funded woodland and 55 standard trees in the Borough, over the next 18 months. Appendix D provides more details on the quantity and location of the planting.

4.7.4 It is calculated that if all the areas being put forward are selected, planted and maintained for a 25-year period, the carbon storage that would be delivered will be circa 10,500 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent from the atmosphere over the 25 year period.

### **5. Consideration of Alternatives**

5.1 Doing nothing would result in the Council not achieving its target of being net zero by 2040 and will have significant impacts on future generations.



## **6. Conclusions**

- 6.1 To achieve the ambitious net zero by 2040 target the Council must lead by example by changing the way it delivers services and projects. Adoption of the Climate Action Plan will ensure proactive measures are taken to reduce the Council's own carbon emissions and support and enable residents, businesses and partners to do the same.

## **7. Legal Implications**

- 7.1 There is no statutory requirement in the Climate Change Act 2008 for local authorities to produce a Climate Change Action Plan or set climate change/carbon reduction targets. However, the Action Plan is compatible and consistent with the Climate Change Act 2008, which sets a legally binding net zero target for the UK Government to reduce net greenhouse gas emissions by 100% by 2050. In addition, local authorities must have regard to national policies on climate change and carbon reduction. For example, the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 imposes a specific duty on local authorities to mitigate and adapt to climate change when plan-making. There will be a requirement to review individual tasks within the action plan for any legal implications as they are developed and to ensure the provisions of the Council's constitution are met.

## **8. Community Impact Assessment (CIA) Implications**

- 8.1 The Community Impact Assessment identified the following key implications.

### Equality Implications

- 8.2 The Equality Impact Assessment identifies 33 actions that have clear equality implications for community, staff and/or visitors to the borough. The access needs of disabled people are especially relevant for consideration within the delivery of the Climate Action Plan. The officers responsible for these 33 tasks must ensure that in designing the delivery of their task they:
- (i) identify and put in place proactive reasonable adjustments for disabled people to promote equality of access to information, consultation, communication campaigns, services, and improvement programmes.
  - (ii) provide equality of access to information, services, and improvement programmes for people who do not have English as a first language.
- 8.3 The Implications of two specific tasks must be brought to the decision makers attention.
- 8.4 Task 9. Prepare, adopt, and implement Asset Management Strategy 2022-2025, has a specific Equality Implication in that the Asset Management Strategy 2022-2025 must also set out how the Council will meet the Equality Act 2010, Schedule 10 duty to "Improve the physical environment of schools for the purpose of increasing the extent to which disabled pupils are able to take advantage of education and benefits, facilities or services provided or offered by the schools."
- 8.5 Task 48. Investigate the possibility of changing from all night street lighting to part night street lighting across the borough, is unique in that it has a particular Equality Implication for Women and for people who rely on visual communication such as British Sign Language to communicate. The officer responsible for this task must ensure that the view and concerns of women and British Sign language Users are sought and taken into consideration within the proposed investigation.

8.6 In general, further Equality Impact Assessments will be used to inform the design, development, and delivery of the 33 tasks within the Climate Action plan where Equality Implications have been identified and ensure that due regard is given to the Equality Act 2010 duty to promote equality of opportunity in access, quality, and outcome, remove any actual or potential discrimination, and to promote good community relations.

## **9. Social Value**

9.1 The Action Plan plays an instrumental role in supporting the Borough Strategy. Tackling climate change is critical to the council's ability to meet its strategic objectives, improving people's quality of life, boosting the vitality of our local economy, and ensuring the sustainability of our borough.

9.2 A number of actions support investment in local people with high skilled local jobs that support the low carbon agenda within the Liverpool City Region. The actions also support energy reduction measures which will support residents and businesses. A number of specific social value examples are contained in the main body of the report.

## **10. Sustainability and Environment**

10.1 The Action Plan will allow the Council to lead by example in tackling Climate Change in St Helens and will provide a matrix of activities that the Council is committing to deliver to achieve our goal of net zero by 2040.

10.2 Tasks in the Action Plan will help to reduce both Borough and Council emissions and for each action we have detailed how they will support the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

10.3 The Action Plan contents a wide range of activities which will result in a reduction in carbon emissions but also provided wider environmental benefits such as improved air quality, reduction in waste, increase in green energy production and biodiversity.

## **11. Health and Wellbeing**

11.1 The proposal supports improving the natural environment in St Helens that have direct positive impacts on improving residents' health and wellbeing.

11.2 There are a number of tasks within the proposed Action Plan that would support and promote Health and Wellbeing, including increasing active travel, community reuse of items and food waste reduction or reuse.

## **12. Equality and Human Rights**

12.1 This proposal has no Equality and Human Rights implications.

## **13. Customers and Resident**

13.1 This proposal may mean that the Council will deliver services to residents and customers in new lower carbon generating ways.

## **14. Asset and Property**

- 14.1 The Council's recently adopted asset management strategy helps to define the future shape and size of the Council owned estate. A key element of this is the energy performance of buildings. Furthermore, the Council may choose to rationalise the size of the estate due to the increased costs associated with heating and powering buildings.
- 14.2 The Property Service function will play a key role in delivering the plan. Condition data, energy consumption and future use of sites will all need to be incorporated into any decisions to decarbonise buildings. The Property Service is currently on a transformation journey including the commissioning of a new property management system. Until this is embedded, there may be some challenges in meeting some of the requirements set out in the action plan.
- 14.3 The Climate Change Action plan proposes to utilise council owned land for energy production and increased carbon capture via increase woodland and ecological mitigation.

## **15. Staffing and Human Resources**

- 15.1 To meet the net zero carbon goals there will be a significant need for staff within the Council to adjust their thinking towards Climate Change. There will be a requirement to undertake Council wide training for staff on how they need to be involved with developing a net-zero carbon emission Council and borough.
- 15.2 There is a need to review how our staffing resources aligned to support the delivery of this important Borough Strategy priority. Currently there is a very small, dedicated net zero resource, comprising of a Climate change officer embedded within the Place Operations department. There are however a range of officers working across the Council who are already supporting the net zero agenda. Pooling these resources or working towards the creation of a larger climate change function is likely to be necessary as the delivery of the action plan develops.

## **16. Risks**

- 16.1 The inability to deliver the action plan is the primary risk facing the Council. This will significantly impact on the achievement of the net zero-carbon target by 2040.
- 16.2 Linked to this and as outlined in the report, the other key risks centre around the availability of delivery resource and capacity. This is currently insufficient and will need to be considered and bolstered for many of the projects contained within the plan. Without this, the plan will not be deliverable.
- 16.3 Support, buy in and commitment from partners, businesses and residents represents another key risk to the delivery of the Action Plan. The Council is not able to fully control this risk and mitigations will be limited to supporting, encouraging, and challenging the range of different stakeholders.
- 16.4 Many of the projects contained within the Action Plan will require the prior approval and potential investment in some of the Borough's key infrastructure. Large scale renewable power generation may for example require upgrades to the electricity network. The costs, disruption, and lead in times for this work can be considerable and could make some project prohibitive.

## **17. Finance**

- 17.1 The Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy identifies £1.1m for investment into the climate emergency response for 2023/24. Projects will be brought forward via the agreed Capital Gateway process to enable the drawing down of this funding. It is proposed that this funding be used to support the delivery of some of the short to medium term actions contained in the action plan. Prioritisation of this funding will be in line with the principles set out in the report.
- 17.2 It is clear from the action plan and report that considerable funding will be required over the period 2023-2040 in order to meet the net zero target. This will far exceed the current allocation.
- 17.3 Other and larger renewable energy and heat projects, such as the Heat Network and potential land based solar scheme, will be subject to a bespoke and detailed business case that will be brought through the cabinet approval process. These projects could cost multiple millions of pounds.
- 17.4 As referred to elsewhere in the report there will also be the requirement for delivery capacity. This is likely to incur further costs. Where possible these requirements will be built into the capital business case for investment. Where not possible it is proposed that the Council's feasibility / development fund is used. Initially it is suggested that up to £100,000 from this fund is ringfenced to support the delivery of the action plan and/or to support the appointment of a delivery partner.

## **18. Policy Framework Implications**

- 18.1 The Climate Change Action Plan follows the key principles laid out in the Climate Change Act 2008. It will play an instrumental role in supporting the delivery of the Borough Strategy 2020-2031.
- 18.2 The Carbon Action Plan directly supports the delivery of the St Helens Climate Response Plan. The Carbon Action Plan is aligned with:
- The Liverpool City Region Pathway to Net Zero
  - National Net Zero Strategy
  - United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

## **19. Impact and Opportunities on Localities**

- 19.1 Climate change effects all residents of St Helens, so to there will be a need engage and work closely with communities to delivery of many of the tasks within the Action Plan. We will focus our resources on the specific needs and demands within our communities rather than provide a rigid or inflexible service that provides a single universal offer.

## **20. Background Documents**

- 20.1 Climate Response Plan - [netzero.sthelens.gov.uk](https://netzero.sthelens.gov.uk)

## **21. Appendices**

- 21.1 Appendix A - Climate Action Plan
- 22.2 Appendix B - Community Impact Assessment

22.3 Appendix C – Climate Data

22.4 Appendix D – Woodland Creation Accelerator sites

<b>Location</b>	<b>Ward</b>	<b>Woodland creation</b>
Catherine way play area	Newton le Willows West	2040m2 of woodland.
KGV Sutton Manor	Bold and Lea Green	1750m2 of woodland and 16 standard trees.
Land to the rear of Newton Cemetery	Newton le Willows East	4050m2 of woodland.
Macdonald Avenue Play fields	Blackbrook	1500m2 of woodland.
Merton Bank Open Space	St Helens Town Centre	5800m2 of woodland.
Mineral fields phases one and two	Bold and Lea Green	850m2 of woodland and 23 Standard Trees.
Roughdales Quarry	Thatto Heath	10,600m2 of woodland.
Sankey valley park Haydock Playing fields	Haydock	5180m2 of woodland.
Sherdley Park	Thatto Heath	11800m2 of woodland.
The Duckeries	Parr	800m2 of woodland and 16 standard Trees.
Tyrer Road Open Space	Newton le Willows East	1350m2 of woodland.
Winston avenue playing fields	Newton le Willows West	2800m2 of woodland.
Common Road /Pennington Lane	Parr	12,250m2 of woodland.
Southport Street Open space Phase two	Parr	20,739m2 of woodland.