
Climate Ready Leicester Plan 2023-28

Decision to be taken by: Council

Net Zero Lead Member Briefing: 10th July 2024

City Mayor Briefing: 22nd August 2024

Decision to be taken at Council meeting on: 5th Sept 2024

Lead Member: Cllr Geoff Whittle, Assistant City Mayor –
Environment and Transport

Lead director: Matt Wallace, Director of Estates and
Building Services

Useful information

- Ward(s) affected: All
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- Report version number: 1

1. Summary

Following the successful delivery of the City Council's first city-wide Climate Emergency Action Plan between 2020 and 2023, this report recommends the adoption of our second city-wide plan.

The Climate Ready Leicester Plan 2023-28 (Appendix 1) sets out an updated strategy along with new and continuing actions to address the climate emergency by making Leicester a 'climate ready' city.

The plan has been informed by the views of many hundreds of Leicester's citizens via a questionnaire survey (findings at Appendix 2) and a discussion with a group of young people (notes at Appendix 3), as well as expert advice and partner input (Appendices 4 and 5 respectively).

Progress delivering the plan will be reviewed, and the actions refreshed, annually.

2. Recommended actions/decision

Council is recommended to:

- i. adopt the plan set out in Appendix 1
- ii. note the amendments made to the draft plan in response to the public consultation findings
- iii. note that delivery will be monitored and reported, and the list of actions added to as resources allow, on an annual basis.

3. Scrutiny / stakeholder engagement

The following Scrutiny and stakeholder engagement has taken place:

- Public consultation took place from 7th November – 28th January via an online questionnaire survey. (See Appendix 2 and page 10 of Appendix 1 for details of what people said and how their comments have been responded to.)
- A workshop with a group of young people was held on 9th October 2023. It was organised with the help of LCC Youth Services and discussed young people's perceptions of the issue and their views on action (Appendix 3).
- The Climate Commission – a panel of local academic climate change experts – reviewed the second draft of the plan on 5th October 2023 and provided recommendations (Appendix 4).
- Partners from Leicester Climate Emergency Partnership commented on the second draft of the plan in October 2023 (Appendix 5)

- Economic Development, Transport and Climate Emergency Scrutiny Commission (EDTCE) reviewed the second draft of the plan on 16 November 2023. At the meeting, Members received presentations from the Climate Commission and Leicester Climate Emergency Partnership offering their independent comment and recommendations for the plan.

4. Detailed report

In February 2019 the council became one of the first UK local authorities to declare a climate emergency. This was in response to the growing threat of climate change and the opportunity to improve life for people in the city by taking action to tackle it.

Following the successful delivery of over 140 actions in our first city-wide Climate Emergency Action Plan between 2020 and 2023, this report recommends the adoption of the council's second city-wide plan to take us up to April 2028.

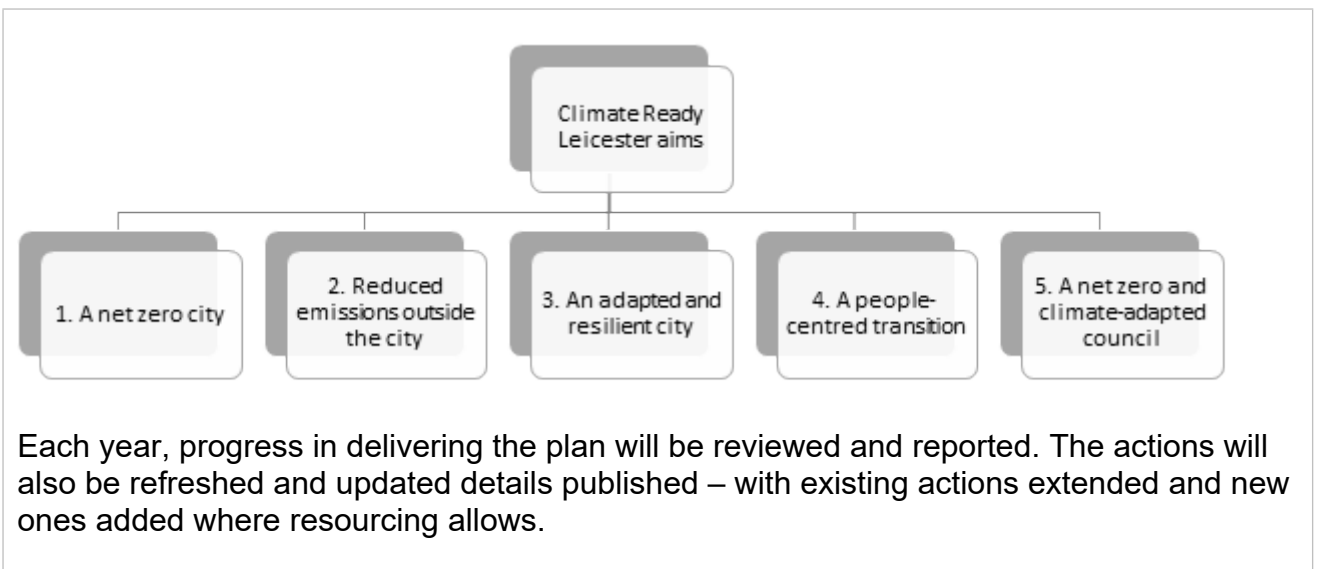
Leicester City Council's Climate Ready Leicester Plan 2023-28 (Appendix 1) sets out an updated strategy along with new and ongoing actions to address the climate emergency and to make Leicester a 'climate ready' city. This means continuing to work towards net zero carbon emissions, with Government support and adapting to the changing climate. It also means taking a 'people-centred' approach to the transition to net zero in which individuals and businesses are supported with the changes needed, and the co-benefits of climate action including reduced energy bills, new jobs and skills and improved health are all maximised.

The plan has been informed by technical and expert advice. This included a Carbon Neutral Roadmap published in 2022, which recommended a combination of energy demand reduction, a transition from fossil fuels to electricity use for heat and for cars and vans along with generating more renewable energy. (Refer to the section on Aim 1: A Net Zero City on page 13 in Appendix 1 for more detail.) The draft plan was also reviewed by a panel of local experts including from Leicester's two universities and partners from Leicester Climate Emergency Partnership were invited to comment.

In addition, the views of over 900 individuals and organisations were obtained via a questionnaire survey. The survey findings are outlined in Appendix 2. The results showed continued support for climate action by the council, but this was accompanied by concerns amongst many about the cost and other implications for people. In response to this the final plan emphasises a people-centred approach which supports everyone to do their bit and aims to maximise the 'co-benefits' of council action to tackle climate change, such as reducing energy costs for people, helping them develop new skills, supporting new jobs in emerging 'green' sectors and improving health.

Similarly to the first action plan, the new plan emphasises the importance of the council leading by example. This includes establishing a Net Zero Delivery Plan charting the steps to decarbonising our own estate and operations.

The aims of the plan are as follows:



5. Financial, legal, equalities, climate emergency and other implications

5.1 Financial implications

The Climate Ready Action Plan presented in this report identifies the actions required of the Council and other organisations and individuals to support in the achievement of reduced emissions in Leicester. Some of the actions identified already have clearly identified sources of funding and are included within the City Council’s current capital programme, and some represent the continuation of work that is funded through existing revenue budgets. To the extent that actions do not have a funding source identified, the Council will need to be alert to bidding opportunities for grant funding, upon which the speed and scale of change is hugely dependent. The financing of each specific action will need to be considered as they are developed.

Stuart McAvoy – Head of Finance

5.2 Legal implications

There do not appear to be any adverse legal implications of the recommended actions contained in the report.

The fact that a thorough consultation has been conducted is commendable and it seems that the concerns raised are being addressed appropriately .

If the implementation of the plan requires input from third parties, the Procurement and Legal teams should be involved in the normal way.

Emma Young, Qualified Lawyer

5.3 Equalities implications

When making decisions, the Council must comply with the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) (Equality Act 2010) by paying due regard, when carrying out their functions, to the

need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct prohibited by the Act, to advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between people who share a 'protected characteristic' and those who do not. In doing so, the council must consider the possible impact on those who are likely to be affected by the recommendation and their protected characteristics.

Protected Characteristics under the Equality Act 2010 are age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation.

The report seeks approval of the Climate Emergency Action Plan which aims to see the city reach net zero. Inevitably the programme of work in the action plan will impact on people from a range of protected characteristics and it is well documented that not all sustainable activity favours people from certain characteristics and can at times be conflicting with people, particularly those with a disability. In most cases though, sustainable activity is likely to have a positive impact on people from across all protected characteristics in terms of the aim of the PSED to advance equality of opportunity for people from across all protected characteristics.

To ensure we meet the needs of people effectively, we recommend the programme of work considers appropriate projects/policies which will need Equality Impact Assessments and conduct them in a timely manner to identify and, where possible, mitigate against any negative equality outcomes.

Kalvaran Sandhu, Equalities Manager, ext. 37 6344

5.4 Climate Emergency implications

Contained in the body of the report, and in the action plan itself at Appendix 1.

Duncan Bell, Change Manager (Climate Emergency).

6.5 Other implications (You will need to have considered other implications in preparing this report. Please indicate which ones apply?)

The aims and objectives in the plan will have implications for almost all of the council's other priorities and areas of service delivery. Several of these are discussed in the section about Aim 4 of the plan: A people-focused transition. Key implications are:

- Anti-poverty – the plan seeks to reduce poverty through helping people save energy at home.
- Health – the plan is expected to improve health in a number of ways including making homes warmer, reducing air pollution emissions and increasing active travel.
- Biodiversity and green space – improvements to biodiversity and green spaces will improve amenities for people as well as supporting biodiversity.
- Access to employment, services and amenities – the plan will improve a range of travel and access options for people including active travel and public transport – enabling everyone, irrespective of their income, to access the things they need.

- Education, training and jobs – the plan will help create jobs in green sectors and support local people to access the new opportunities through education and training.

7. Background information and other papers:

[Minutes of the Special Meeting of the ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, TRANSPORT AND CLIMATE EMERGENCY SCRUTINY COMMISSION. Held: THURSDAY, 16 NOVEMBER 2023 at 5:30 pm.](#)

8. Summary of appendices:

Appendix 1: Climate Ready Leicester Plan 2023-28

Appendix 2: Tackling the Climate Emergency in Leicester, Summary of Public Consultation Findings

Appendix 3: Notes from Young People Engagement Session about the draft Climate Emergency Action Plan – 9 October 2023

Appendix 4: Review of Leicester City Council's Draft Climate Emergency Action Plan (2023-2028), Produced by the Leicester Climate Commission

Appendix 5: Review of Leicester City Council's Draft Climate Emergency Action Plan (2023-2028), Produced by the Leicester Climate Emergency Partnership

9. Is this a private report (If so, please indicate the reasons and state why it is not in the public interest to be dealt with publicly)?

No.

10. Is this a "key decision"? If so, why?

No.