

Halton Borough Council Climate Change Action Plan 2022 - 2027

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A Greener Future for Halton

Working towards a greener future - Halton's Vision.

This Action Plan is predominantly focused on reducing the Council's own carbon production. During the lifetime of the Plan, the Council will seek to broaden the scope and develop proposals to provide a broader Borough-wide Strategy. The Action Plan is intended to have short-term and long-term actions and will be renewed every five years. This does not preclude any actions being undertaken during the five-year period that enhances progress in the themes/programmes of work for this plan. By 2040, Halton Borough Council's own operations will aim to be:

Climate friendly - having transformed the way it delivers services, works with businesses and other partners, uses buildings, land, and energy to decarbonise and encourage sequestration.

Climate ready - with plans and projects having increased the resilience of Halton Council's operations in the communities and the economy it serves to help minimise the impacts from unavoidable climate change; and

Climate just - ensuring that all of Halton and its environment has benefited from this transition.

Climate friendly refers to activities, which cut carbon emissions i.e. climate change mitigation. Becoming climate friendly will mean Halton achieving its net zero carbon target of 2040, 10 years ahead of the current Government target year of 2050. It will also include sequestration measures that are not aimed at reduction but removal of carbon from the air.

Climate ready refers to increasing resilience to the impacts of climate change – being climate ready is also known as climate change adaptation. The stable climate that society and the economy have historically been based on can no longer be assumed, so society must adapt infrastructure and our way of life to cope with the changed climate.

Climate just refers to ensuring Halton is a resilient, fair and prosperous place to live and work, and puts fairness and social justice at the heart of achieving climate goals. To be successful, all of Halton needs to benefit from the transition to a decarbonised economy and no sections of the population can be left behind.

Themes/Programmes of Work.

Underpinning our vision, are four core areas of climate action that will guide the Council:

- Cutting emissions / decarbonisation – this is called climate change mitigation;
- Adapting to the physical changes of climate change – climate change adaptation; and
- Actively removing greenhouse gas emissions from the atmosphere (such as by tree planting or direct capture of flue gases) – carbon sequestration.
- Securing local economic benefits and social value from the Council moving to net zero carbon - Green Growth.

In terms of the climate emergency, the priority has to be on rapid decarbonisation and sequestration because this is what is essential to reduce global warming and achieve longer-term carbon removal. For example, trees can remove carbon from the atmosphere, but they take time to grow, so an early start on this forms one of the Council's 2022 initiatives – The Big Halton Forest.

The above four core areas of climate action have been applied to Council activities listed under 'Key Actions'. A number of the actions specifically address the fuel poverty agenda and the work contained within the Affordable Warmth Plan. Most of the actions of the Plan focus on mitigation and sequestration. The broader strategy that the Council is seeking to develop will be a focus on green growth and adaptation.

Halton's Commitment to Carbon Reduction

The Council has been working to reduce its emissions since 2006/07. Since that time, overall emissions have reduced from 26338 tonnes of CO2 to 9770 tonnes. In October 2019, the Council strengthened its commitment to carbon reduction by declaring a climate change emergency.

<https://councillors.halton.gov.uk/documents/s59116/Climate%20Change.pdf>

In making these commitments, the Council has recognised the impacts that climate change is having on communities across the UK and the world and the need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to limit global warming in line with limits recommended by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

Halton's Climate Change Emergency Declaration focuses initially on the Council's activities but our ambition is to reduce carbon emissions to net zero by 2040. This plan sets out a series of actions across key themes to allow us to work to that ambition.

Although the Council only has direct control over approximately two per cent of borough-wide carbon emissions, the Council has a role as a community leader to set an example and to encourage and influence others. Our initial ambition is to build on the work completed to date and get our own house in order first. We will do this by delivering actions where the Council has direct control and can deliver an outcome.

We aim to embed climate change in to our decision-making processes. The Council Leader has appointed a Portfolio holder for climate change on the Council's Executive Board.

The Strategic Officer Lead is the Strategic Director Enterprise, Community and Resources. Having declared a climate emergency, we will seek to ensure that the Council's actions are embedded in the organisation through the Executive Board, Policy and Performance Boards, and Policy and Performance Plans. We will also review all policies and plans of the Council that can assist in achieving the aims of this strategy.

A Climate Change Advisory Group of officers has also been established to advise the Portfolio Holder for Climate Change, chaired by the Strategic Director. Further work is to be undertaken from 2022, to refine the costing of the Plan's actions, register the data underpinning the Plan online, develop further information on Bio Diversity, and further explore other issues such as nature-based solutions for climate change mitigation and adaptation and options for refurbishment of empty/void homes.

This is an evidence-based, living plan that will evolve as the Council responds to climate change and as the full extent of climate change impacts become clearer. It is recognised that more actions are needed to make Halton as resilient as possible to the effects of Climate change and to achieve full decarbonisation. The intention is that the Action Plan will grow as technology evolves and improved knowledge and funding becomes available.

The Council has limited powers, finance and responsibilities and much of the change required will need co-operation and support from the private, third sectors and individuals. We will seek to do this by:

- Supporting and encouraging others to take action
- Influencing changes to national policy
- Lobbying for legislative, policy change and funding at national level
- Exploring funding options

Halton's Priorities and Themes

Our aim is to be net zero by 2040 for Council activities. This is a significant challenge and we will need to adapt our plans as new technologies and opportunities arise.

This Plan aims to set out a framework for change, identifying some early actions and priorities and setting out our ambitions over the short, medium and long term.

Our Strategic goals and priorities are to:

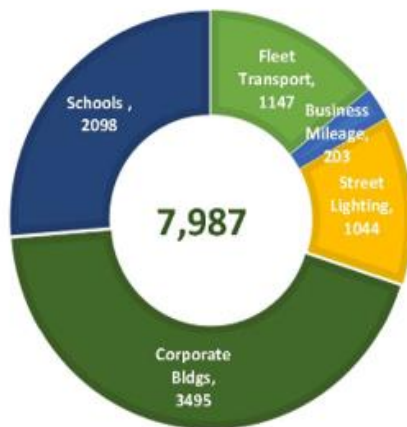
- Decarbonise the Council estate
- Reduce emissions from transport
- Develop opportunities to increase the amount of renewable energy used by the Council
- Develop and expand our green and open space infrastructure
- Expand the existing walking and cycling routes
- Minimise waste
- Promote health and wellbeing among council residents and staff through its climate policies and actions, including maximising the health co-benefits of climate action.
- Ensure climate action is implemented equitably, through working to reduce rather than exacerbate health and wellbeing inequalities and proportionally targeting areas of greatest need.
- Develop greater understanding of the public health implications of both climate change and council mitigation/adaptation/sequestration strategies locally to inform borough-wide actions.

Measuring the Council's Greenhouse Gas Emissions

HBC CO2



Current Breakdown (2023/24) tonnes CO2e



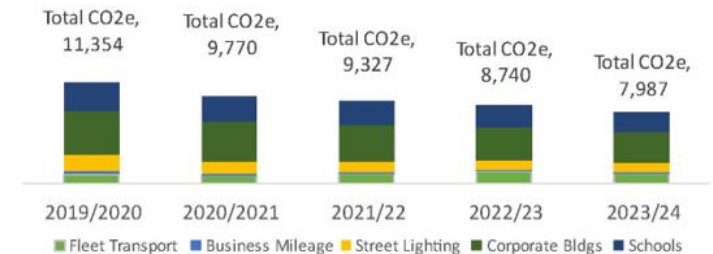
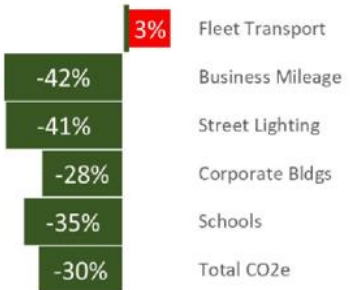
Change since 2021/22

- 14% reduction in overall CO2 emissions
- 3% reduction in CO2 emissions associated with fleet transport.
- 19% increase in CO2 emissions associated with Business Miles.
- 13% reduction in CO2 emissions associated with Street Lighting
- 14% reduction in CO2 emissions associated with Corporate Buildings
- 22% reduction in CO2 emissions associated with School buildings

5 year change

Biggest drop is in business mileage – Perhaps indicating a change in working practices since COVID.

All other areas have seen a significant reduction aside from Fleet Transport which has seen a small increase.



HBC Research Data & Insight Team | research@halton.gov.uk

Definition - In terms of measuring carbon reductions there are 3 scope emissions as defined by the most widely used international accounting tool, the Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Protocol.

Scope 1 covers emissions from sources that an organisation owns or controls directly – for example from burning fuel in our fleet of vehicles (if they're not electrically-powered).

Scope 2 are emissions that an organisation causes indirectly when the energy it purchases and uses is produced. For example, for our electric fleet vehicles the emissions from the generation of the electricity they're powered by would fall into this category.

Scope 3 encompasses emissions that are not produced by the organisation itself, and not the result of activities from assets owned or controlled by them, but by those that it's indirectly responsible for, up and down its value chain. An example of this is when we buy, use and dispose of products from suppliers. Scope 3 emissions include all sources not within the scope 1 and 2 boundaries.

Essentially, scope 1 and 2 are those emissions that are owned or controlled by an organisation, whereas scope 3 emissions are a consequence of the activities of the organisation but occur from sources not owned or controlled by it.

Impacts of Climate Change

There is a substantial body of evidence that emissions from human activities are causing global temperatures to rise, resulting in melting ice caps and leading to a rise in sea levels. These also increase severe weather events impacting on our local communities. <https://www.theccc.org.uk/what-is-climate-change/>

Warmer temperatures over time are changing weather patterns and disrupting the usual balance of nature. This poses many risks to human beings and all other forms of life.

The impacts of climate change are being felt locally most notably in increased flooding, storms and heatwaves. Nearly all land areas are seeing more hot days and heat waves; Higher temperatures increase heat-related illnesses and can make it more difficult to work and move around. Wildfires start more easily and spread more rapidly when conditions are hotter.

Changes in temperature cause changes in rainfall. This results in more severe and frequent storms. They cause flooding and landslides, destroying homes and communities, costing millions of pounds.

Drier seasonal weather can also impact on water shortages and crop failure. These impacts may also result in the destruction of biodiversity, wildlife habitats and increase the risk of increased levels of pest and invasive species.

The human health impacts of climate change are wide reaching and increasingly apparent. Increased ambient temperatures and heat stress are directly associated with increased morbidity and mortality from conditions including respiratory and cardiovascular disease, specific heat-related conditions (e.g. dehydration and heat stroke), food and waterborne diseases, and mental illness. Children and the elderly are at particularly high risk from these negative health impacts. Climate change has the potential to result in increased spread of vector-borne (e.g. mosquitos) infections.

Extreme weather including storms and flooding are also associated with injury, death, strain on health services and adverse mental health impacts. In the longer term, increased food and water insecurity is anticipated as a result of climate change, which has massive health impacts.

As we indicated in our commitment to be 'Climate Just', the national index of deprivation ranks Halton 39th out of 139 Local Authorities, indicating higher levels of deprivations compared to other areas of England.

As one example, Halton's over 65 population is projected to increase by approximately 20% from 2021-2030. This older population with access to limited pensions and savings will face health and economic challenges that the younger working population may cope better with arising from the impact of climate change. Likewise, for those with long term health needs or affected by other deprivation.

We aim to ensure our actions in tackling climate change take into account the more vulnerable parts of the community such as in addressing fuel poverty. No part of the community should be left behind.

What we've done to date

The Council has already taken significant action to reduce its carbon emissions – since we started to measure our carbon footprint in 2006/2007, overall emissions have reduced from 26338 tonnes of CO2 to 9327 tonnes.

From 2009 until 2020.

The Council was given guidelines by the government in 2009, which led to an expectation that public bodies would aim to reduce their carbon emissions by 30% of their 2009 carbon emission baseline by 2020.

The Council calculated its baseline carbon emissions in 2009 as 26825 Carbon tonnes. In reporting year 2020, the Council had managed to reduce its carbon emissions to 11354 carbon tonnes.

This was a reduction of 57%.

From 2017 until 2022.

The Government now expects public bodies to reduce their carbon emissions by 50% by 2031. The new baseline set is now 2017.

The Council's 2017 baseline was 14811 carbon tonnes. In reporting year 2021/22, the Council had managed to reduce its carbon emissions to 9327 tonnes.

This was a reduction of 37%.

Projects that have contributed to the reduction included:

- LED Street Lighting Replacement Programme – over 15000 columns switched.
- Solar PV installed at various Council sites – producing over 750,000 kWh of renewable energy.
- Installation of a 1.25 MW Solar Farm in Widnes producing energy for the DCBL Stadium – producing on average 900,000kwh per annum.
- Retrofit of the DCBL stadium to install air source heat pumps and LED throughout the building and at pitch level.
- LED retrofits in Council buildings.
- Reduced the number of building we operate and switched energy so that over 90% of the electricity we use now comes from zero carbon sources.
- Provided over 70km of cycle and walking paths including a dedicated cycle path on the deck of the Silver Jubilee Bridge and improved cycling facilities at Runcorn Station.
- New vehicles entering the Council's fleet, for example Refuse Vehicles, meet the latest European engine emission standards;

Euro 6 is currently the highest standard for vehicles and 95% of the Council fleet are Euro 6 with the remainder being Euro 5 & 4 making it one of the cleanest fleets in the Liverpool City Region.

We have two electric vehicles in the Halton Borough Council fleet and are reviewing vehicle procurement options.

Council vehicles are fitted with IT software to ensure the best routes are used and driver behaviour is monitored so they use less fuel.

- Installed EV chargers at Council locations and throughout residential areas.
- Increased the number of trees and woodland we have in the Borough which improve the character of an area and provide environmental benefits to remove carbon and encourage natural habitats. We also manage 11 nature reserves in the Borough.

- Supported the delivery of various housing retrofit schemes in partnership with registered social landlords and Energy Project Plus, and undertaken affordable warmth campaigns and approved numerous eco-funding and Eco-Flex applications.

Partnerships and Inter-Authority Relationships

We recognise in the longer term the need to working with partners, local business and our communities to tackle carbon emissions in the wider Borough. There are already many communities, business and organisations that are exploring greener ways of working and living.

We recognise there is much more to do and as we develop our internal actions, we will seek to strengthen partnerships, and support and influence people and organisations to develop ideas around the climate change agenda.

Housing

The Council are in a good position for future delivery, with a number of established and newer partnerships formed. These are focussed on working collectively, both locally and across the City-Region, to secure investment in local housing stock to reduce carbon emissions and support residents to reduce impact of fuel poverty and help them warm their homes.

Since early 2021, the Council has held a monthly meeting with social housing providers to plan and coordinate retrofit housing energy improvement projects within the Borough. More recently, the Council has entered into a service level agreement with Energy Projects Plus, a local fuel poverty and environmental charity, to provide residents with free, impartial support to warm homes and reduce energy costs.

Business

Investment in the transition to Net Zero in Halton (and indeed across the Country) present a significant economic and business growth opportunity. The Council's Business Improvement and Growth Team already works with different sector businesses to help them to have the right networks, skills and accreditations to secure contracts and supply chain opportunities; and are talking to training providers to develop Halton's workforce with the skills and knowledge in green technologies to deliver Net Zero. In recognition of the likely acceleration in pace to Net Zero and associated economic

opportunities, the Council will work with partners including Halton Chamber and Riverside College to explore establishing a Green Growth Business Alliance, which will include efforts to tackle skills gaps and capacity issues, such as in construction.

Community Partnerships

Whilst the Council recognises it is well placed as community leader to shape and influence carbon reduction within the borough, it recognises that partners and local residents also play a significant role in reducing carbon production across the borough.

Whilst this Plan focus predominantly on the Council activities during the lifetime of the plan, it will seek to explore the development of a Climate Change Community Partnership. To include representatives from colleges, housing providers, faith and voluntary groups, etc.

Inter-Authority

Halton Borough Council has been working successfully with other partners beyond Halton and within the borough for a number of years. These relationships have included securing major financial and technical support for climate change related activity via the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority and Central Government and developing governance links with the City Region, such as the Liverpool City Region Climate Change Partnership, which Halton's Climate Change Portfolio Holder attends on behalf of Halton Borough Council.

In addition, during 2022/23 there will be efforts undertaken to strengthen existing links locally and in the wider region, such as with other public bodies like Cheshire Police, Cheshire Fire & Rescue Service, the NHS and others. This will include opportunities to share good practice and develop stronger links for an emerging Climate Change Community Partnership in Halton.

Future Key Actions

BUILDINGS	Action to be taken	Time frame for Delivery	Council Lead
B1	Carry out decarbonisation works at the DCBL Stadium, inclusive of LED lighting, increased insulation, and electrification of heat and hot water via installation of ASHP's.	Works complete.	Head of Property Services.
B2	Commission decarbonisation feasibility studies to all buildings in phases and subject to funding to develop a decarbonisation work programme required.	13 Feasibility studies have now been completed. We have been successful with our bid to the PSDS-4 in conjunction with the City region, to carry out decarbonisation works at 3 buildings, Kingsway Learning Centre, Picow Farm Depot and Runcorn Town Hall. Further feasibility studies will be carried out in due course when funds allow. All feasibility studies completed by 31.3.27.	Head of Property Services.
B3	Create a MicroGrid energy network between The DBCL Stadium, Lowerhouse Lane Depot, The Municipal Building & the proposed New Halton Leisure Centre, subject to funding.	Technical consultant appointed, planning application submitted, market consultation complete, procurement process to be undertaken commencing July 2025.	Assistant to the Chief Executive & Head of Property Services.
B4	Undertake decarbonisation works at various buildings on a phased rolling basis, subject to funding.	As indicated above, following on from our unsuccessful bid to PSDS-3, we have now been successful with our bid to the PSDS-4	Head of Property Services.

		in conjunction with the City region, to carry out decarbonisation works at 3 buildings, Kingsway Learning Centre, Picow Farm Depot and Runcorn Town Hall. The City region will be tendering these works circa Sept/Oct 2025 Phase 2 buildings completion by 31.3.30. Phase 3 buildings completion by 31.3.34. Phase 4 buildings completion by 31.3.38.	
B5	Irrespective of B4 above, develop an LED Lighting retrofit programme to Corporate buildings on a phased basis, subject to funding. Initial phase has commenced to the Municipal Building, Runcorn Town Hall and Rutland House.	Buildings where majority of lighting is now LED, Runcorn Town Hall main offices and Civic suite, Rutland House, The Stadium, Municipal Building (except floors 2,3 & 4). Halton Lea Library, Halton Direct Link, Widnes Market, Grangeway & Ditton Community Centre's. Completion of further phases by 31.3.32.	Head of Property Services.
B6	Irrespective of B4 above, develop a Solar/PV installation programme to suitable Corporate buildings on a phased basis, subject to funding.	Completion by 31.3.32. Initial desk top study complete, initial assessment of sites undertaken by the NW Net Zero hub, a further more detailed assessment carried out by our consultant Horizon. This work is now progressing in conjunction with the City region who have a contractor in place. We are looking to bring a number of sites forward, actual sites yet to be confirmed, to have an initial phase completed by 31st March 2026, with other	Head of Property Services.

		sites following on during the following financial year.	
B7	Ensure carbon reduction is a key feature of the design and construction of the new Halton Leisure Centre.	Works now complete and leisure centre now open.	Head of Property Services.
B8	As part of the Council's approach to hybrid working undertake a building rationalisation review.	A Member working group has been established. Feasibility work still ongoing in respect of various options for rationalising our main office accommodation. Informal report taken to Exec Board, final decision of most appropriate option to be agreed in summer 2025, following which work will begin to deliver approved option.	Head of Property Services.

CLEAN ENERGY	Action to be taken	Time frame for Delivery	Council Lead
C1	Work with Liverpool City Region and other partners to progress clean energy initiatives for reducing carbon emissions and exploring alternative energy for industrial and domestic users in Halton.	Ongoing.	Director Policy, Planning & Transportation.

FLEET TRANSPORT	Action to be taken	Time frame for Delivery	Council Lead
F1	Undertake feasibility studies for charging infrastructure and the introduction of low carbon emission vehicles at all Council sites that operate fleet vehicles / plant & machinery. Upgrade workplace charger to 22kw.	Update of Sept 2023 - Feasibility study not started due to insufficient budgetary provision. Update of Sept 2023 - Four upgraded replacement EV charging points for both LHL & Picow Farm depots are ordered and will be installed in the next few weeks. Completed December 2023.	Head of Logistics.
F2	Continue the rollout of EV charging infrastructure.	2022/2026. Awaiting feasibility study (See F1 above). Update Sept 2024 – 350 potential sites have been identified and funding is available from LCR – LA's are to submit a bid plan so LCR can provide the funding accordingly.	Head of Logistics.
F3	In line with the current vehicle replacement cycle, phase out combustion engine fleet assets.	2022/2035. Subject to alternatively fuelled asset availability, charging infrastructure and funding.	Head of Logistics.

TRANSPORT OTHER	Action to be taken	Time frame for Delivery	Council Lead
TO1	Work with Liverpool City Region & other partners to evaluate & implement Sustainable Transport interventions appropriate in Halton.	Ongoing.	Director Policy, Planning & Transportation.
TO2	Work with Liverpool City Region & other partners to evaluate & implement Freight & Logistics interventions appropriate in Halton.	Ongoing.	Director Policy, Planning & Transportation & Director Economy Enterprise and Property.
TO3	Work with City Region to deliver climate change related public transport initiatives.	Ongoing.	Director Policy, Planning & Transportation.
TO4	Develop EV charging infrastructure strategy and secure funding.	Produce Draft strategy by Spring 2024.	Director Policy, Planning & Transportation.

HOMES & REGENERATION	Action to be taken	Timeframe for Delivery and Progress Updates	Council Lead
H1	Implement the strategy for decarbonisation of existing homes, prioritising the approximately 7,700 most energy inefficient homes and those households experiencing or at risk of fuel poverty.	2030. Update 20.9.23 - Since 2021, excluding ECO4, the Council has supported the following: Total Investment (Completed & Planned): £13,418,980.41 Of which (Government Grant secured): £5,441,712.09 Total Homes (Completed & Planned): 890 Homes completed: 538 (of which 497 confirmed EPC D - G) Homes planned: 352 (of which 303 confirmed EPC D - G)	Regeneration Officer (Housing).
H2	Develop a strategy to accelerate delivery of Net Zero new build homes within the Borough ahead of UK Government targets and introduction of new Future Homes Standards, including use of Council land to deliver a demonstration project.	2025. Update 20.9.23 - Officers have initially identified 3 candidate sites for potential inclusion of a net zero demonstration project: • Rutland Street, Runcorn Old Town • Priory Meadow, Castlefields • Kingsway, Widnes Any approval for incorporation of net zero demonstration project and the percent of potential homes this would cover, would be sought as part of the established Council land disposal process. It would also be subject to viability.	Regeneration Officer (Housing).

		With any Council scheme brought forward, opportunities would also be sought to: • Develop skills and knowledge in net zero development within Planning and Building Control ahead of Government policy changes. • Act as best practice for engaging developers, investors and other stakeholders (including Borough residents) • Skills and apprenticeship opportunities to local workforce, schools and colleges. Update Sept 2024: Kingsway is on plan to build net zero homes for older people and families, by 2025. Following the Urban Renewal report at the Urban PPB, owner occupier grants will be made available Mersey West and Appleton.	
H3	The Council will work with partners to explore establishing a Green Growth Business Alliance – to secure the local economic benefits from the transition to Net Zero.	2023.	Business Investment & Growth Team.
H4	Explore options to address Empty /void homes.	2022 – 2040. Sep 204: Work is being picked up the asset and manager group, from a children’s point of view and discussions are in progress with HHT.	Director Economy, Enterprise & Property.

H5	To work with Council departments and strategic partners to develop a project pipeline to deliver in Halton theme 1 (Green, Safe & Resilient Urban Centres) of the CA's Investment Plan for the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.	March 2023. Sept 2024: currently bidding on share on Shared Prosperity Fund.	Director Economy, Enterprise & Property.
H6	To work with the private sector to bring forward 10 hectares of development land in West Runcorn	March 2023. Sept 2024: Working on getting the site by 24 th Sept and bid proposal is being ratified by the CA and freeport by October 2024. Dependent on venders accepting our proposal – estimated that we will be at this stage by Dec 2024..	Director Economy, Enterprise & Property.
H7	To work with the private sector to secure funding from the CA to develop a research centre focusing on alternative energy sources	September 2023. Sept 2024 : Inovyn and initial submission from	Director Economy, Enterprise & Property.
H8	To work with Council departments and strategic partners to progress those aspects of the Mersey Gateway Regeneration with Climate Change aspects.	Ongoing.	Director Economy, Enterprise & Property.
H9	To progress a Green Growth Business Alliance & assist in engagement when appropriate with key stakeholders & partners	Ongoing. Sept 2024: Established 2 clear links and looking a funding stream.	Director Economy, Enterprise & Property.

	to progress to a borough-wide climate change Strategy.		
H10	To work with council departments and any strategic partners to provide expertise in funding bids that address Climate Change & in particular alternative technologies.	Ongoing.	Director Economy, Enterprise & Property.
H11	To develop a housing strategy for Halton, to accelerate H1 and other relevant sections.	Commence 2024/25.	Director Economy, Enterprise & Property.
ENVIRONMENT SERVICES	Action to be taken	Time frame for Delivery	Council Lead
ES1	To explore opportunities to help develop the Borough's 'green infrastructure' through the creation of a diverse forest in Halton - The Big Halton Forest Project. The ambition is to plant at least one tree per person in the Borough by 2030 - circa 130,000 trees.	2022-2030. Dec 22 - Following the launch of the Big Halton Forest (BHF) Project in 2022, work to help deliver the project ambitions has remained on-going. The first major planting activity resulting from the BHF project will see the planting of 2,000 trees and 3,000 bushes in Widnes in early 2023. Linked to this work, a review of the Council's adopted Trees and Woodlands Strategy is to commence in September 2023.	Head of Environment Services.

ES2	To seek appropriate funding required to provide the necessary resources and finances to realise each ambition of The Big Halton Forest Project and the delivery of Actions ES3-ES5.	2022-2029. Dec 22 - To date, circa £300k of funding has been secured to help support the delivery of the BHF project from the following funding sources: · LCR CA Community Environment Fund · INEOS Environment Fund · DEFRA Woodland Creation Accelerator Fund (WCAF). Sept 2024: Submitted bid for Halton dependent on Mersey forest.	Head of Environment Services.
ES3	Appoint Project Lead Officer. Establish project parameters and develop a Project Action Plan.	2022-2023. Dec 22 - Work to appoint a Project Lead Officer is underway. Until an Officer has been appointed, Consultants are being engaged to support the development of the BHF Project Action Plan. Options for the potential creation of new Apprenticeship roles to support the Council's efforts in responding to the Climate Change and Biodiversity agendas is currently being explored. Sept 2024 – Continuing 2 new additional landscape architects. Apprenticeship role is not yet in place as yet due to resources.	Head of Environment Services.

ES4	Commission studies to identify potential suitable sites, including public and private locations through consultation with landowners, and carry out other studies including, but not limited to, ecological surveys.	2022-2030. Dec 22 - As per ES3 above, until such time as a Project Lead Officer has been appointed, Consultants are being engaged to support the identification of potential suitable sites; carrying out necessary surveys and site assessments and making recommendations in respect planting schemes for each.	Head of Environment Services.
ES5	Create package of deliverable schemes that meet project targets and ambitions with a range of tree planting that best suits each particular situation.	2022-2030. Dec 22 - See response to ES4 above. Sept 2024: this is still in embryo status and will be progressed 2025.	Head of Environment Services.
ES6	Habitat loss caused by any new development within the Borough will be mitigated to ensure that there will be an overall increase in biodiversity post-development.	Ongoing. Dec 22 - Discussions with Planning Officers are on-going to identify the ways in which this target will be met.	Head of Environment Services.
ES7	To introduce initiatives and services to achieve a target to re-use or recycle 60% of municipal waste by 2030, and 65% of municipal waste by 2035.	2022-2035. Dec 22 - Work to identify potential future service delivery option to achieve these targets is underway. Working with partner authorities across the LCR, Consultants have been commissioned to review the Council's current collection	Head of Environment Services.

		and treatment/disposal services and model a number of alternative collection scenarios. As part of this work, consideration will be given to matters such as, but not limited to, compliance with legislation, waste prevention, maximising reuse and recycling performance and carbon/climate benefits. A report will be produced for the Council outlining the results of the waste collection modelling and key recommendations which will be used to help inform future decisions on the Council's waste and recycling collection services. Sept 2024: Draft zero waste strategy is being revisited by Halton and LCR colleagues to improve its content.	
ES8	Joint with Planning and Cheshire Fire & Rescue Service to improve Resilience for new and existing Green infrastructure against wild fires.	Ongoing. Sept 2024: Runcorn Hill is a particular site of interest. Fire hydrants are installed on this site now.	Head of Environment Services.
ES9	Work with Liverpool City Region and other partners to ensure Natural Environment of Halton benefits from the LCR 5-year Climate Change Action plan.	Ongoing. Sept 2024: Ongoing as work is LCR, Greening the Fleet meetings are now in place. Food waste is a major piece of work and greening the fleet as legislation has a	Head of Environment Services.

		deadline of being in place on this is April 2026.	
ES10	Update Council's Tree and Woodland Strategy.	Summer 2024. Sept 2024: External woodland trust and the Mersey forest have been positive on how the strategy looks – the strategy will not update policy, but more the data and information on the green canopy etc.	Head of Environment Services.

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT	Action to be taken	Timeframe for Delivery	Council Lead
PL1	Through the Local Plan, the Council will seek to support the deployment of low carbon solution will seek to build and expand on this. (Halton Local Plan Policy GR5). Develop guidance for developers.	Summer 2023.	Head of Planning.
PL2	Through the Local Plan, the Council will support the protection enhancement and expanding infrastructure (including but not exclusively, parks and open spaces, amenity green space and cycle and pedestrian routes). (Halton Local Plan Policy CS21). Develop guidance for developer.	Summer 2023.	Head of Planning.
PL3	Through the Local Plan, the Council will seek to ensure that development will only be permitted where flood risk has been taken into account (Halton Local Plan policy HE9). Develop guidance for developer.	Summer 2023.	Head of Planning.
PL4	Joint with Planning and Cheshire Fire & Rescue Service to improve Resilience for new & existing Green infrastructure against wild fires.	Spring 2023.	Head of Planning.

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PL5	Produce SDPs for: Climate Change, Transport and accessibility, and Open Spaces.	2023 – 2024.	Head of Planning.
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EDUCATION, INCLUSION & PROVISION	Action to be taken	Time frame for Delivery	Council Lead
E1	SEND AND INCLUSION Improving access to independent travel training to increase accessibility of public transport is a component of the SEN transport policy and a specific objective within the SEND Strategy around preparation for adulthood over the next 2 years. POLICY, PROVISION AND PLANNING Home to School Travel and Transport Policy reviewed by both Education, Inclusion and Provision Department, and Transport Coordination, and updated September 2022 and published on the Council's website continuing to promote sustainable modes of transport.	Reviewed Annually.	Interim Director: Education, Inclusion and Provision.
E2	The delay in the SEMH free school has obviously had an impact in the LAs ability to reduce travel to learn for those pupils. However the SEND Sufficiency Strategy 2022-25	September 2023.	Head of Inclusion.

	outlines Halton Council's approach to reducing travel to learn distances and reliance on out of borough school placements through improvements to the local provision offer.		
E3	To work in conjunction with colleagues in Property Services to identify a rolling programme of capital works to support Halton's schools in reducing their overall carbon footprint, including the replacement of lights to LED fittings as part of electrical rewiring works.	September 2030. School capital projects under School Condition Allocation and Basic Need Grants from the DfE reviewed by officers during Autumn 2022 and report being submitted to Executive Board 19 th January 2023 seeking approval to proceed, together with request for the capital allocations to be put forward for inclusion in the budget report to full Council in March 2023.	Capital Programme Officer.
E4	To work in conjunction with colleagues in Property Services to replace single glazing windows in Halton schools with double glazing windows.	August 2026. School capital projects under School Condition Allocation and Basic Need Grants from the DfE reviewed by officers during Autumn 2022 and report being submitted to Executive Board 19 th January 2023 seeking approval to proceed, together with request for the capital allocations to be put forward for inclusion in the budget report to full Council in March 2023.	Capital Programme Officer.
E5	Undertake a programme of roof replacement works in Halton schools, including the provision of	Ongoing. School capital projects under School Condition Allocation and Basic Need	Capital Programme Officer.

	insulation in roof spaces where appropriate.	Grants from the DfE reviewed by officers during Autumn 2022 and report being submitted to Executive Board 19 th January 2023 seeking approval to proceed, together with request for the capital allocations to be put forward for inclusion in the budget report to full Council in March 2023.	
E6	To develop existing programmes of sustainable modes of travel to school.	Ongoing.	Road Safety Co-ordinator.

PUBLIC HEALTH	Action to be taken	Time frame for Delivery	Council Lead
PH1	Examine public health service work to identify areas for improvements in terms of decarbonisation and increasing sustainability.	Ongoing. Update of Nov 2023 - Systematic work by service leads is underway to assess decarbonisation and sustainability actions, and to identify areas for improvements on the basis of this assessment.	Director Public Health / Consultant in Public Health.
PH2	Advocate and work towards reduced carbon footprint within internal/commissioned programmes and services, e.g. through building sustainability considerations, criteria or performance monitoring into service delivery, commissioning/contracts, recruitment and procurement.	Ongoing. Update of Nov 2023 - Strategies and actions to reduce carbon footprint are being examined during commissioning of new contracts into 2024/25. Approaches to reducing carbon footprint will also be assessed as part of performance monitoring of existing commissioned services. The same considerations will be applied to internal programmes – specifically work carried out by the Health Improvement Team.	Director Public Health / Consultant in Public Health; commissioning and service delivery leads.
PH3	Integrate systematic consideration of climate change impact and sustainability within public health planning, commissioning and service delivery (e.g. impact assessments).	Ongoing. Update of Nov 2023 - Public health planning and commissioning – see PH2. Consideration of impacts: ongoing work with public health intelligence team to incorporate this into templates and processes. The current health impact assessment (HIA) tool that is used internally does not include a specific consideration	Consultant in Public Health; commissioning and service delivery leads.

		of climate change/sustainability. However, it does include assessment of factors that together contribute to this agenda. The HIA tool asks for the impact that the policy/development would likely have on the natural environment, the built environment, housing design and energy efficiency and transport including active travel. Most HIAs are not carried out by the public health team. HIAs must be submitted as part of planning applications for large scale developments. Criteria for what constitutes a development of sufficient scale to require one is set out in the Core Strategy and Delivery and Allocations Local Plan (DALP). There is no regulatory framework governing how these are carried out and what they should contain. However, we have developed a guidance document and can make recommendations as to good practice tools they can use. These include consideration of good housing design, social infrastructure, access to open space, noise and air pollution, active travel amongst other things such as https://www.healthyrbandevelopment.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/HUDU-Rapid-HIA-Tool-October-2019.pdf	
PH4	Oversight of the ECO Flex funding scheme: 1): Define and approve future revisions to local eligibility criteria for Energy Company	Ongoing / Periodic. Update of Nov 2023 - The Liverpool City Region ECO4 Flexible Eligibility Joint Statement of Intent was signed by Halton in September 2022. The agreement allows us to go beyond the standard eligibility to target those in	Director Public Health / Consultant in Public Health.

	Obligation flexible eligibility (ECO Flex), jointly with Liverpool City Region local authorities; ensuring funding is available to target vulnerable and energy inefficient households.	need in areas of deprivation or who suffer from certain health conditions. These routes into the scheme include those receiving council tax rebates, free school meals, help with paying energy bill at Citizens Advice and those in the top 3 output areas on the Indices of Multiple Deprivation. Another route into the scheme is for those referred by a medical professional if they have conditions related to Cardiovascular or Respiratory disease, or if someone is immunosuppressed, or has limited mobility, and could be severely impacted by living in a cold home.	
PH5	Oversight of the ECO Flex funding scheme: 2): Review and approve applications for ECO funding according to eligibility criteria.	Ongoing. Update of Nov 2023 - Applications continue to be processed as they are received.	Director Public Health / Consultant in Public Health.
PH6	Building Healthy Homes: continued oversight and regulation of home standards for the private rented sector.	Ongoing. Update of Nov 2023 - The Environmental Health team continues to carry out ongoing regulation of private rented properties, taking action where standards are not being met, and signposting landlords to grants (etc) for improved insulation and heat retention of properties. The Environmental Health and Public Health teams are involved in the formulation of the Council's updated Housing Strategy due for completion in late 2024.	Environmental Health Team/ Trading Standards Leads.

PH7	Continued air quality monitoring, data sharing, licensing and advocacy; continued management of air quality issues and working to meet air quality standards.	Ongoing. Update of Nov 2023 - Exec Board has approved the revocation of our two air quality management areas (declared in relation to levels of NO2 which have been within standard levels for a number of years). The Council are still required to report on air quality and pollution levels across the Borough and implement an air quality strategy. The removal of the air quality management areas allows the strategy to have a wider focus, which will certainly include PM2.5 (very fine particulates), but could potentially link into climate change. We are co-ordinating with colleagues across the Liverpool City Region on air quality matters. We continue to permit industrial processes in line with guidance on emissions and work closely with the Environment Agency on the processes that they regulate. We continue to tackle burning and bonfires from a regulatory perspective and there are new regulations coming into being for wood burning stoves, to improve air quality. There needs to be some recognition that NOx, SOx, particulate reduction under the air quality management system can have impacts that are counter to the climate change agenda (ie technologies that reduce these pollutants may come with a heavier carbon burden).	Environmental Health Team Leads
PH8	Advocate for health-in-all policy making and prioritisation of public health across the	Complete.	Director Public Health / Consultant in Public Health.

	council; specifically promoting systematic consideration of public health, equity and environmental implications within Council plans, policies, and services (including health impacts of sustainability actions) and promoting action on health inequalities.		
PH9	Build understanding internally/externally of public health & wellbeing implications of climate change, mitigation, and sustainability actions - to inform and promote action. This will be done via advocacy and information/data/evidence collection & sharing, e.g., joint strategic needs assessment (JSNA) on local public health impacts of climate change, including identification of evidence-based public health action for climate change adaptation and mitigation.	March 2023 Ongoing. Update of Nov 2023. Climate change/sustainability considerations are included in health needs assessments (HNAs) where the topic under investigation has clearly evidenced links to it. Update of Nov 2023. A supernumerary member of staff on placement with the public health team had intended to complete a Climate Change JSNA, however this person left HBC in August. The Climate Change JSNA falls outside the remit of the public health intel team's workplan, and – if it is required – will need to be picked up by another team.	Director Public Health / Consultant in Public Health.

PROCUREMENT	Action to be taken	Time frame for Delivery	Council Lead
PR1	Environment – Social Value Donation to green/blue infrastructure to assist in tackling the ecological emergency and improving bio-diversity.	2022-2025.	Procurement Manager.
PR2	Minimise Waste – introduce Eco-friendly products within contract specifications where relevant and proportionate i.e. catering and cleaning materials.	2022-2025.	Procurement Manager.
PR3	Locally Based Supply Chain - Increase value thresholds to support local trading opportunities to SME's and VCSE's.	Approved 23.05.22 Constitution updated.	Procurement Manager.
PR4	Influence the supply chain to improve sustainability in the supply of goods and services ensuring that relevant Social, Environmental and economic issues are considered where appropriate.	2022-2025 Dec 22 - All published tenders include Social, Environmental and Economic considerations.	Procurement Manager.
PR5	Consider the carbon impact of any purchasing decisions, ensuring products can be recyclable at the end of their life cycle wherever possible.	2022-2025.	Procurement Manager.

TRAINING/EMBEDDING CLIMATE CHANGE INTO COUNCIL POLICIES	Action to be taken	Timeframe	Council Lead
T1	Develop a carbon reduction/climate change training programme for elected members, key officers and staff.	Commence Autumn 2023. Completed Spring 2024 - E-learning module has been created and is available for all groups identified. Sept 2024: Member uptake has been poor on this so some work will be	Learning and Development Manager.
T2	Incorporate requirement to carbon reduction in the development of Service Business Plans.	Ongoing. Update Sept 2024 - Business Plans continue to be developed that will align to the six Corporate Priorities	Learning and Development Manager.
T3	As existing policies are reviewed, carbon reduction and alignment with the Council's climate change declaration be reviewed.	Ongoing.	All Operational Directors.
T4	The impact of climate change be assessed for all Council Capital Projects and external funding bids.	Ongoing.	All Operational Directors.
T5	Corporate Plan review to include climate emergency as part of the review of priorities.	2022.	Management Team.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Implementation of the Action Plan will be overseen by the Council's Climate Change Advisory Group and actions will be monitored by key officers identified in the Plan.

Progress will be reported quarterly to the Lead Portfolio Holder. Annual Progress reports will be made to the Executive Board and appropriate Policy and Performance Board, as part of the Council's Performance reporting framework. This process will set out progress against each action, review its appropriateness and revise actions as appropriate.

Implementation of the Plan will require significant financial resources. This will be required at a time when the Council continues to face significant financial pressures. However, The Council will look to be innovative with its existing resources.

During the lifetime of the plan, the Council will explore alternative funding opportunities and investments to support the delivery of the actions contained within the Plan. The Council's External Funding Team will prioritise sourcing additional funding to help deliver the priority climate change initiatives. The Team will also promote 'green' funding opportunities to external partners.

