

# LIVERPOOL CITY REGION COMBINED AUTHORITY

To: The Metro Mayor and Members of the Combined Authority

Meeting: 21 January 2022

Authority/Authorities Affected: All

EXEMPT/CONFIDENTIAL ITEM: No

KEY DECISION Yes

## REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF POLICY, STRATEGY AND GOVERNMENT RELATIONS AND PORTFOLIO HOLDER: CLIMATE EMERGENCY AND RENEWABLE ENERGY

### LIVERPOOL CITY REGION PATHWAY TO NET ZERO

#### 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The report provides an update on progress to address the Climate Emergency declared by the Combined Authority in 2019 and highlights key activities undertaken. The report also seeks Combined Authority approval for the Liverpool City Region Pathway to Net Zero document, which sets out how we are aiming to reach net zero carbon by 2040 or sooner.

#### 2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority:

- (a) Note the progress made to achieve the climate commitments of the Combined Authority;
- (b) Recognise and support the need for collective action on reducing net carbon emissions by all partners and communities across the Liverpool City Region, and;
- (c) Approve the Liverpool City Region Pathway to Net Zero as set out in Appendix 1.

#### 3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Under the leadership of Metro Mayor Steve Rotheram, the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority became the first in the country to formally declare a climate emergency and set the ambitious target to achieve net zero carbon by 2040 or sooner – at least a decade ahead of national targets. Since 2005, carbon

emissions have dropped by 40% but there is still a need for rapid collective action to achieve the net zero target.

- 3.2 In March 2021, the Combined Authority approved the Liverpool City Region Year One Climate Action Plan 2021-2022<sup>1</sup>, ensuring the opportunities for early action were not missed, whilst laying the foundations for the longer term. The Pathway to Net Zero document builds on this phased approach to delivering our net zero ambitions.
- 3.3 In order to develop the Pathway to Net Zero document, LCRCA undertook a multi-stranded public engagement that aimed to understand how people felt about the vision for 2040, what benefits they felt these changes may bring to their lives, and any concerns or worries they had. The engagement ran from June 2021 to September 2021, engaging with people of all ages. A separate youth survey was also conducted to focus on the views of young people who will be adults by the time the net zero carbon goal is achieved.
- 3.4 The engagement showed that whilst over 80% of respondents agreed that we need to take action on the climate and carbon emissions, only half knew what actions they needed to take to contribute. In addition, some people had concerns about what climate action would mean for their jobs, lifestyle and prosperity. The Pathway to Net Zero document aims to engage all members of the community in the journey to net zero carbon, by encouraging a broad understanding of the collective action needed.
- 3.5 The document has been greatly supported by the advice of the LCR Climate Partnership; a group including the academic community, environmental organisations, statutory bodies, third sector and faith community representatives as well as a number of young people representing the student community. Chaired by Gideon Ben-Tovim OBE (Chair of Nature Connected) with Deputy Chair Cllr. Gill Wood (deputy portfolio holder for Climate and Renewable Energy), this group have been instrumental to the LCRCA's approach to rapid climate action.

#### **4. ACTIVITY AND PROGRESS**

- 4.1 Since declaring a Climate Emergency in 2019, the Combined Authority and its partners have made great strides towards achieving the Liverpool City Region's Net Zero carbon ambitions. The actions taken range from investing £500,000 through the Community Environment Fund, supporting 58 organisations to deliver environmental projects, through to transformational clean energy infrastructure projects.
- 4.2 Investment of nearly £40m has been made to retrofit more than 3600 homes, starting with the most vulnerable households. The first tranche of home retrofit projects will be completed by March 2022.
- 4.3 Decarbonising the transport network is essential to achieving net zero carbon. This includes a move to more active travel and use of public transport, rather than private cars. The delivery of a London-style transport system that is quick, cheap,

---

<sup>1</sup> [Liverpool City Region Year One Climate Action Plan 2021-2022](#)

reliable and convenient will be key. It is also vital to decarbonise transport fuel for all vehicles, including the new city region hydrogen buses and the new train fleet which can run on battery power to extend the rail system coverage. £750m of transport funding has recently been secured that will improve the green transport infrastructure including bus, rail and build on the Mayor’s plans for a 600km network of quality walking and cycling routes.

4.4 Plans are progressing to harness opportunities to produce clean energy in our city region – the Mersey Tidal Power Project has the potential to generate enough power for up to 1 million homes and create thousands of local jobs. HyNet, one of only two pilot schemes recently selected by the Government for further development will produce, store and distribute hydrogen as well as capturing and locking up carbon from local industries whilst they transition to new, renewable energy sources. New carbon capture and hydrogen production technology is being pioneered at HyNet while in St Helens, Glass Futures is leading the way in decarbonising the energy-intensive industry and Pilkington set a world-first by using hydrogen power to produce glass.

4.5 To move toward net zero carbon at the speed required, all sectors of the community will need to work together. Since 2005, a 40% reduction in carbon emissions has been achieved in the Liverpool City Region, but there is much more to be done. The figure below (Figure 1) shows that a pathway following the last 20 years historical trend, will not be sufficient to meet our goal. Modelling carried out by the Tyndall Centre Manchester has shown that if we want to play our part in keeping global temperature increases under 1.5°C, we need to reduce carbon emissions more quickly in the early years of our plan, so that we emit less carbon in total. With the right level of investment and commitment, this target is possible, but it will take actions and commitment from all partners, stakeholders and individuals.

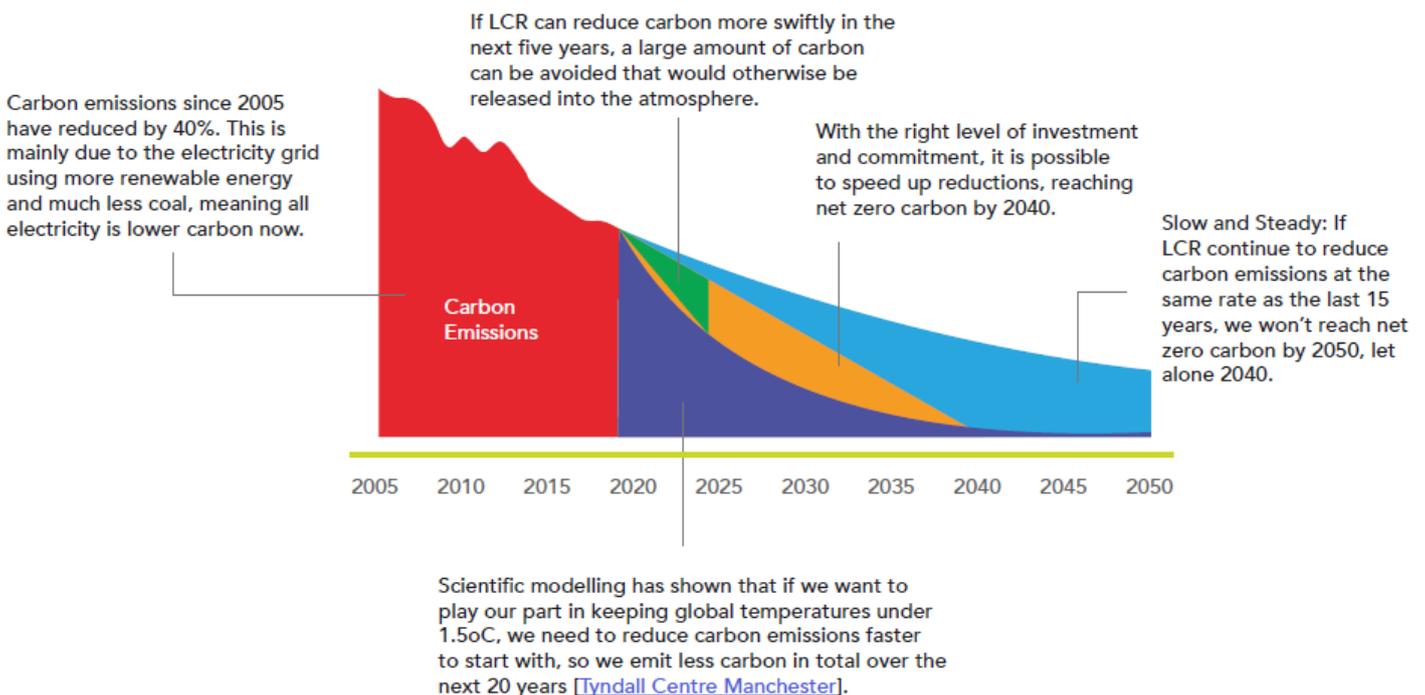


Figure 1 Historic carbon emissions since 2005 and future carbon pathways

## **5. PATHWAY TO NET ZERO CARBON**

- 5.1 Partners across the City Region have already demonstrated what can be achieved with a clear vision and purpose however, the evidence shows clearly that to achieve our net zero ambitions we need to accelerate the pace of action. The Pathway to Net Zero document aims to set a clear direction of travel that will set a firm foundation for rapid, collective action.
- 5.2 The Pathway to Net Zero sets out the scale of the challenge, whilst providing clear, coherent and attractive messages about our 2040 future. It highlights our understanding of the complexity of these issues and our confidence in the ability of our city region to rise to this challenge.
- 5.3 The document highlights that, whilst not every step of the journey to net zero carbon is fully understood, the key actions that can be taken in the short term are clear. The need for collective responsibility by each individual, business and the public sector as well as local and national government is clear.
- 5.4 The next step in this process will be to start the process of articulating actions to be taken in the short term. Building on the success of the Year One Climate Action Plan, LCRCA wish to encourage participation from all partners and stakeholders across the city region to co-create a comprehensive action plan against which progress can be measured.

## **6. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

### **6.1 Financial**

The Pathway to Net Zero does not make any explicit funding requirements of the Combined Authority. However, the financial implications of targeted action and delivery will be considered as part of the action planning phase in 2022.

### **6.2 Human Resources**

There are no direct implications arising from this report. Resource needs will be reviewed in line with opportunities to deliver the net zero ambitions.

### **6.3 Physical Assets**

There are no direct implications arising from this report for physical assets

### **6.4 Information Technology**

There are no direct implications for IT arising from this report.

## **7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no specific legal implications arising from this report. It is noted that the UK Government commitment to achievement of net zero carbon by 2050 is a legally binding target and therefore failure to act in a timely manner to achieve this goal could have specific legal consequences.

## **8. RISKS AND MITIGATION**

- 8.1 The risks associated with implementing the recommendations of this report have been minimised by careful consideration and risk management from an early stage in the development of the proposals. The impact of residual risks such as changes of national policy are considered to be low at this time. Risks and opportunities will be kept under constant review and will be subject to regular appraisal.
- 8.2 Not implementing the recommendations would result in a risk to delivery of climate action and ultimately, a risk to the achievement of the Combined Authority's stated goal of achieving net zero carbon by 2040 or sooner.

## **9. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS**

- 9.1 The Pathway to Net Zero has been developed specifically to seek to address inequality across the City Region. The imperative to address poverty, racial and gender inequality and climate justice are central to the achievement of action on climate and the environment.
- 9.2 The Pathway to Net Zero recognises that the people who will suffer from the climate emergency are those who have done the least to cause the problem; creating a fairer future for everyone is therefore a central theme within the plan. This builds on the approach and Equality Impact Assessment undertaken as part of the Year One Climate Action Plan.
- 9.3 The Pathway to Net Zero has been informed by the views of local residents secured through external consultation. Specific targeted engagement activity has been undertaken to ensure the views are representative including those historically hard to reach.
- 9.4 A new Equality Impact Assessment will be undertaken in full next year to inform the policy and actions within the next phase of climate action planning.
- 9.5 The recommendations in this report will have a positive impact on progress to address the Climate Emergency with no negative impacts identified. The encouragement of rapid, collective action to address the climate emergency will protect populations and prosperity across the city region.

## **10. PRIVACY IMPLICATIONS**

There are no privacy implications arising from this report.

## 11. COMMUNICATION ISSUES

There are no implications arising from this report. The Climate Partnership and the Combined Authority are determined to embrace a participative approach to climate action, encouraging stakeholders, organisations and members of the public to take an active role in determining future direction and actions. The Climate Partnership and Climate Panel are stakeholder groups whose role is fundamental to this process. A highly participative engagement was undertaken prior to preparing the document and the findings of this engagement have been embedded in its creation.

## 12. CONCLUSION

The Pathway to Net Zero sets out a strong commitment and demonstration of intent on the climate agenda. The document provides a firm foundation for a more detailed programme of action and intervention that will be developed over the coming months.

CLLR. DAVID BAINES  
Portfolio Holder: Climate Emergency and Renewable Energy

KIRSTY MCLEAN  
Executive Director of Policy, Strategy and Government Relations

Contact Officer(s):

Claire Blott, Head of Policy Coordination. Mobile: 07467 357 613 | Email:

[claire.blott@liverpoolcityregion-ca.gov.uk](mailto:claire.blott@liverpoolcityregion-ca.gov.uk)

Rachel Waggett, Principal Environment Officer, 07917 270350

[rachel.waggett@liverpoolcityregion-ca.gov.uk](mailto:rachel.waggett@liverpoolcityregion-ca.gov.uk)

Appendices:

Appendix One – Pathway to Net Zero

Background Documents:

None.