

NET ZERO 2030 UPDATE - OCTOBER 2020

Cleaner and Greener Advisory Committee - 13 October 2020

Report of: Deputy Chief Executive and Chief Officer - Planning & Regulatory Services

Status: For Consideration

Also considered by: None

Key Decision: No

This reports support the Key Aim of The Council's commitment to Net Zero 2030 made in November 2019.

Portfolio Holder: Cllr. Margot McArthur

Contact Officer(s): Helen French, Ext. 7357;

Margaret Carr, Ext.7341

Recommendation to Cleaner and Greener Advisory Committee:

To note this update report for information.

Reason for recommendation: To support the Net Zero 2030 commitment.

Introduction and Background

- 1 The Leader of the Council brought a report to Full Council on 19 November 2019 entitled Net Zero 2030. The report set out "a clear ambition for the Council to achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2030" and included actions towards meeting the target.
- 2 The purpose of this report is to provide members with an update on the on-going work to achieve Net Zero 2030.

Cabinet Working Group

- 3 A Cabinet Working Group was set up to oversee and lead the on-going development and implementation of the Council's transition to Net Zero 2030.
- 4 The group met on 26 February 2020 and consisted of members across all parties.

5 It was decided that:

- Net Zero 2030 applies to the Council assets and services.
- The Council will be a “community leader” and encourage low carbon measures across the District through education, best practice, incentives, policy and opportunities.
- We would engage in collaborative working with Kent County Council, Parish and Town Councils, Local Interest Group and the Local Government Association.
- An audit of the Council’s emissions would be undertaken to establish a baseline.
- A communication plan will be produced for the Net Zero 2030 work.

Officer Working Group

- 6 An Officer Net Zero 2030 Working Group has been established and consists of officers from across the Council services including Planning, Environmental Health, Direct Services, Economic Development and Property, Property and Facilities, Communities and Business, Communications, Parking, Finance and Housing.
- 7 The Group will support the Cabinet Working Group towards meeting Net Zero 2030.

Net Zero 2030 Actions

8 The November 2019 Council Report included a list of **Stage 1: Immediate Actions and Commitments**. Table 1 below gives an update on the progress of these actions.

9 **Table 1 - Net Zero Immediate Actions and Commitments**

Action	Progress
Write to the Secretary of State to demand any local powers needed to achieve this commitment and the resources to match these powers	Cllr Fleming wrote to the Secretary of State and has yet to receive a reply.

<p>Establish a Cabinet Working Group to oversee the production and delivery of our Net Zero 2030 commitments, working across the council towards this commitment</p>	<p>A Cabinet Working Group has been established and first met on 26th February 2020.</p>
<p>Audit our current and future levels of energy use and greenhouse gas emissions, their subsequent environmental impact and develop plans to address their use</p>	<p>We will be using the recently launched Greenhouse Gas Accounting Tool, developed by the LGA with councils in mind. Information will be collected across the relevant teams to input into the tool and to calculate our CO₂ emissions.</p>
<p>Hold a Green Summit in Spring/Summer 2020 bringing together groups, organisations, companies and experts to engage and inspire residents</p>	<p>Postponed to 2021 due to Covid 19.</p>
<p>Embrace the opportunities presented by Net Zero to secure broader environmental improvements</p>	<p>The Officer Working Group have been considering opportunities and projects across all areas of the Council where environmental improvements can be made.</p>
<p>Support the delivery of Kent and Medway's Energy and Low Emissions Strategy</p>	<p>The Kent and Medway Energy and Low Emissions Strategy is being finalised.</p> <p>The Council is planning to endorse a final document through the committee process Autumn/Winter 2020.</p>
<p>Help householders and businesses improve energy efficiency by providing free advice and support for energy improvements and energy saving</p>	<p>The Council have successfully operated an Energy Switch and Save scheme (SSS) for residents and businesses.</p> <p>The SSS has been successfully operating for six years and is currently under review by Members. On average, 55 customers use the service each year, making an average saving of £306 per household per annum. Since 2014,</p>

	<p>customers have saved a total of £101,219 by switching provider.</p> <p>Officers are considering how the Council can provide free advice and support for energy improvements and energy saving. This will include highlighting examples of best practice and new opportunities.</p>
<p>Require bidders for all tenders to include an environmental statement, including their plan for achieving Net Zero, a 'Net Zero Commitment'</p>	<p>Officers from Audit, Legal and Democratic Services, Dunbrik, Policy and Commercial and Property Teams have formed a Procurement Working Group in order to improve and update current procurement practice. This will consider how social value, including an environmental statement can be included in tender specifications.</p>
<p>Report and promote our actions towards Net Zero, and support our partners including landowners, residents, businesses and visitors to our District to play their part</p>	<p>A communication plan is being developed to support Net Zero 2030.</p>
<p>Encourage the location of clean growth businesses in our District, with the aim of developing a clean growth hub</p>	<p>Officers continue to work with businesses and partners to encourage green practices across the District including through sustainable modes of transport and energy efficiency improvements.</p>
<p>Work with schools, local communities and groups to create community transport hubs for short journeys, minimising pollution, improving air quality and reducing congestion.</p>	<p>Work on this action is affected by Covid 19 and by the Government guidance to minimise the use of public transport in order to reduce the risk of infection at this time. Government has provided funding for councils to develop more cycle lanes and the trialling of other incentives such as 20mph roads in order to encourage more walking to and from schools. However, longer term, more sustainable solutions will need to be looked at.</p>

Deliver the environmental aspects of Sevenoaks District Councils Council and Local Plans	The emerging Local Plan includes a wide range of environmental policies. However, the Local Plan is not being progressed due to the Inspectorate decision on the Duty to Co-operate. A decision on the Judicial Review has not yet been received.
Participate in and promote World Car Free Day on 22 September 2020	Promoted on social media.

10 The Council report also included some longer term Stage 2 actions, those which have had significant progress are shown in Table 2.

11 **Table 2 - Stage 2 actions**

Action	Progress
Move to a renewable electricity supplier in 2020	Laser, who bulk buy energy on behalf of the public sector, were unable to offer renewable energy supply choices that did not involve significant additional spend. However, rather than locking us into the usual 3 year contract with our previous suppliers they have undertaken to source more competitive alternatives for us for next year, and have agreed that we can move to these suppliers after 12 months. Our current suppliers are already 30% renewable so we are anticipating that we will be able to improve on this substantially next year.
Roll out “free” electric car charging points across our car park estate	10 electric vehicle charging points have been installed in our car park estate so far.

<p>Continue our transition to a zero-emissions vehicle fleet (this is a vehicle that emits no exhaust gas from the on board source of power) wherever practicable</p>	<p>Officers are in discussions with suppliers and are investigating the opportunities currently available to move away from a diesel and petrol powered fleet. These included Fully Electric and Hydrogen powered vehicles, with aim of a zero pollutant fleet by 2030.</p>
<p>Require the installation of electric vehicle charging points in all new developments, both residential and non-residential</p>	<p>The adopted Allocations and Development Management Plan requires all non-residential major developments to include electric vehicles charging points. New housing must include an electric socket suitable for charging and apartments should include a communal point.</p> <p>The emerging Local Plan retains these requirements but goes further and requires all non-residential development regardless of size to include appropriate charging points. However, the Local Plan is not being progressed due to the Inspectorate decision on the Duty to Co-operate. A decision on the Judicial Review has not yet been received.</p>
<p>Work with the local government family within Kent to deliver Net Zero across all our communities</p>	<p>Officers and Members continue to work closely with other local government representatives.</p>
<p>Look across local government both in the UK and beyond to find further appropriate and deliverable ideas and initiatives</p>	<p>Officers and Members continue to undertake research to ensure that SDC are making the most of existing opportunities as well as innovative new solutions.</p>
<p>Give a free tree for every new home built</p>	<p>The Council is developing a tree strategy and investigating how additional trees can be planted across the District.</p>

Local Government Association Innovation Programme

- 12 Net Zero Innovation Programme brings councils and universities together to develop a practical project to address local net zero challenges. Over a period of 12 months the programme will provide up to ten pairings of councils and universities with up to £18,000 in funding support to develop and deliver innovative projects to tackle net zero challenges in their local area.
- 13 Projects should draw on practical challenges being faced by the local authority and/or addressed by research as well as the skills and experience of both parties to develop mechanisms and solutions. Projects should be achievable and able to deliver some outcomes within a period of six months from January to June 2021. Officers have submitted a proposal that focuses on how to engage rural communities in Net Zero, taking the action point of a climate emergency summit and extending this to a “touring” summit in harder to reach areas in the district.

Next Steps

- 14 The Member Working Group and Officer Working Group will continue to support the aims of Net Zero 2030. This includes reviewing existing projects and developing new actions.
- 15 A revised set of Actions will be considered by Full Council in early 2021.

Other Options Considered and/or Rejected

The Council have made a commitment to Net Zero 2030.

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The Council have made a commitment to Net Zero 2030.

Key Implications

Financial

Funding for the Net Zero 2030 commitment will be met from existing budgets.

Legal Implications and Risk Assessment Statement.

No legal implications have been identified.

Equality Assessment

The decisions recommended through this paper have a remote or low relevance to the substance of the Equality Act. There is no perceived impact on end users.

Conclusions

The Council have committed to Net Zero 2030 and have identified actions to go towards this target. Good progress has been made on the Stage 1 and Stage 2 actions.

Appendices

None

Background Papers

None

Richard Morris

Deputy Chief Executive and Chief Officer - Planning and Regulatory Services