



**Author/Lead Officer of Report:**

Mark Whitworth

Interim Head of Sustainability

**Tel:** 0114 2736494

**Report of:** Laraine Manley  
Executive Director of Place

**Report to:** Councillor Jack Scott

**Date of Decision:** 21<sup>st</sup> March 2018

**Subject:** Green City Strategy

Is this a Key Decision? If Yes, reason Key Decision:-	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
- Expenditure and/or savings over £500,000		<input type="checkbox"/>		
- Affects 2 or more Wards		<input type="checkbox"/>		
Which Cabinet Member Portfolio does this relate to? <i>Infrastructure and Transport</i>				
Which Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee does this relate to? <i>Economic and Environmental Wellbeing</i>				
Has an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) been undertaken?	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
If YES, what EIA reference number has it been given? EIA 1238				
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information?	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If YES, give details as to whether the exemption applies to the full report / part of the report and/or appendices and complete below:-				
<p><i>"The (report/appendix) is not for publication because it contains exempt information under Paragraph (insert relevant paragraph number) of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended)."</i></p>				

**Purpose of Report:**

The report describes the development of a Green City Strategy for Sheffield. This strategy takes forward the five Objectives approved at Cabinet last March, in the document *Growing Sustainably: a bold plan for a sustainable Sheffield*. The Green City Strategy will enable the Council and its partners to adopt approaches which promote and support a lower carbon economy, greater resilience to climate change and cleaner growth.

We will be engaging with people from across our city, recognising that we need the support of residents, businesses and organisations across the city in order to successfully deliver the proposed measures set out in the Strategy.

We will establish a new Green City Partnership board. This Partnership Board will explore how our objectives and actions can be delivered, and how through working together we can ensure that Sheffield becomes a resilient city, and a city which is working to reduce levels of greenhouse gas emissions and its impacts on the wider environment. The report seeks approval for the Green City Strategy (attached as appendix 1).

**Recommendations:**

That Cabinet;

1. Approves the **Green City Strategy** attached to this report as a statement of the Council's strategic approach to achieving the themes identified in *Growing Sustainably: a bold plan for a sustainable Sheffield* approved by Cabinet in March 2017.
2. Notes that the Objectives relating to Air Quality and Transport and Mobility are the subject of separate Cabinet reports, approved at Cabinet in December 2017 and that the sections in the Green City Strategy which relate to these two objectives reflect the approved reports.

**Background Papers:**

Sheffield's Green Commitment; Sheffield Green Commission Final Report 2016

[https://www.sheffield.gov.uk/content/dam/sheffield/docs/planning-and-development/city-wide-plans-and-reports/Sheffield%20Green%20Commitment%20Report\\_FINAL.pdf](https://www.sheffield.gov.uk/content/dam/sheffield/docs/planning-and-development/city-wide-plans-and-reports/Sheffield%20Green%20Commitment%20Report_FINAL.pdf)

Growing Sustainably; A bold plan for a Sustainable Sheffield. March 2017

<http://democracy.sheffield.gov.uk/documents/s25838/Growing%20Sustainably%20Green%20Commission%20Report%201.pdf>

Transport Vision document and consultation:

<https://sheffield.citizenspace.com/place-business-strategy/transport-vision-questionnaire/>

Cabinet report – Item 10 of Cabinet meeting 13 December 2017:

<http://democracy.sheffield.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=123&MId=6624&Ver=4>

Full Clean Air Strategy – Item 9 of Cabinet meeting 13 December 2017:

<http://democracy.sheffield.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=123&MId=6624&Ver=4>

Lead Officer to complete:-		
1	I have consulted the relevant departments in respect of any relevant implications indicated on the Statutory and Council Policy Checklist, and comments have been incorporated / additional forms completed / EIA completed, where required.	Finance: <i>Paul Schofield</i>
		Legal: <i>Louise Bate</i>
		Equalities: <i>Annemarie Johnson</i>
<i>Legal, financial/commercial and equalities implications must be included within the report and the name of the officer consulted must be included above.</i>		
2	<b>EMT member who approved submission:</b>	<i>Laraine Manley</i>
3	<b>Cabinet Member consulted:</b>	<i>Cllr Jack Scott</i>
4	I confirm that all necessary approval has been obtained in respect of the implications indicated on the Statutory and Council Policy Checklist and that the report has been approved for submission to the Decision Maker by the EMT member indicated at 2. In addition, any additional forms have been completed and signed off as required at 1.	
	<b>Lead Officer Name:</b> <i>Mark Whitworth</i>	<b>Job Title:</b> <i>Interim Head of Sustainability</i>
<b>Date:</b> 9 <sup>th</sup> March 2018		

## 1 PROPOSAL

- 1.1 This report presents our **Green City Strategy**. A set of key priorities and associated actions are proposed which will enable the Council and its partners to adopt approaches which promote and support a lower carbon economy, greater resilience to climate change and cleaner growth.
- 1.2 This strategy will enable the Council and its partners to progress the five objectives established last year, in the Report *Growing Sustainably*<sup>1</sup>, approved at Cabinet in March 2017.
- 1.3 Sheffield, like other large and diverse cities is a significant driver of regional economic growth. This growth can help bring major social, financial and cultural opportunities for our residents, communities and businesses. However, as we know from evidence discussed in the annual State of Sheffield Report<sup>2</sup> this growth has so far not resulted in a less polluted or more equal city. A move towards a lower carbon and cleaner economy would enable our city to grow and evolve whilst at the same time improving our environment and the quality of life of our citizens.
- 1.4 Across the world, cities from Curitiba<sup>3</sup> to Pittsburgh<sup>4</sup> are recognising the benefits that such an approach can deliver. Understanding how such cities are embracing and leading the change towards lower carbon economies, greater social and environmental equity and resilience will allow Sheffield to fully develop such an approach.
- 1.5 The solutions these cities are adopting are helping to reduce pollution and ensure greater equality for their residents, communities and businesses through cleaner air, warmer and more energy efficient homes and buildings, lower cost low carbon energy and places which have greater resilience to climate change and the subsequent impact on their communities and businesses.
- 1.6 Sheffield is already on this path; it was one of the first cities in the UK to introduce district heating and develop a decentralised energy network in the 1970's that provides energy from waste. Recently the city won a number of environmental awards for its 'Grey to Green' scheme - the largest planned retrofit sustainable urban drainage scheme in the UK which converted former dual carriageway into an urban greenspace, including seating, a cycle route and generous foot ways whilst also improving the area's resilience to flooding.
- 1.7 As a city we are fortunate to have a significant number of organisations, institutions and private businesses that are also engaged in delivering services and products that embody sustainable thinking or are seeking solutions to the challenges we face. Many of our communities are already involved in delivering projects and the current and potential future action of the 570,000 residents in our city should not be underestimated.
- 1.8 The solutions these cities are adopting are helping to create less pollution and greater equality for their residents, communities and businesses – cleaner air, warmer, more energy efficient homes and buildings, lower cost and low carbon energy and places which have greater resilience to changing weather patterns and the subsequent impact on their communities and businesses.

---

<sup>1</sup> <http://democracy.sheffield.gov.uk/documents/s25838/Growing%20Sustainably%20Green%20Commission%20Report%201.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.welcometosheffield.co.uk/business/news/2017/feb/21/state-of-sheffield-2017-a-real-picture-of-life-in-the-city>

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.c40.org/cities/curitiba>

<sup>4</sup> [http://www.100resilientcities.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/Pittsburgh\\_-\\_Resilience\\_Strategy.pdf](http://www.100resilientcities.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/Pittsburgh_-_Resilience_Strategy.pdf)

- 1.9 As the Sheffield Green Commission<sup>5</sup> demonstrated, Sheffield is already on this path, however there is more to do across this critical agenda and this can bring significant opportunities and benefits to our city.
- 1.10 Building on the previous work of the Sheffield Green Commission which established a comprehensive evidence base, augmented with recent developments and thinking, the Green City Strategy has been developed proposing an additional key objective and associated actions intended to take forward the original five objectives approved at Cabinet in March 2017.
- 1.11 The six proposed objectives are as follows;
- **Reducing our impact on the climate**
  - **A climate resilient city**
  - **Sustainable and affordable energy, for homes and businesses**
  - **Modern, reliable and clean journeys for everyone**
  - **Clean air for all**
  - **A Green and innovative economy**
- 1.12 There is no one-size-fits-all approach to succeeding in delivering this vision and it will require our entire City to evolve over time –the way we live, work and play – this transition to a low carbon economy will require the support of all our residents and communities, businesses and city institutions. We will therefore engage with stakeholders in the City to ensure our approach to delivery is optimal.
- 1.13 We will also need the support of national government, to create the policy needed to go beyond our initial plan, and support the delivery of a plan to achieve national 2050 targets.
- 1.14 As a City we are fortunate to have a significant number of organisations, institutions and private businesses that are also engaged in delivering services and products that embody sustainable thinking or are seeking solutions to some of these challenges we face. Many of our communities are already delivering projects and the action of every resident in our city should not be underestimated.
- 1.15 We will need to galvanise these strengths. The strategy proposes that we establish a **Green City Partnership Board**. This board will have representation from across the city, its stakeholders and partners, its communities and businesses. The first task of this Partnership board will be to review the actions in the strategy and make further recommendations on how it can be improve how we can work together as a City to address these six objectives, and deliver the actions set out.
- 1.16 This Partnership Board will provide an independent voice for the City on sustainability, and will help to develop the City’s approach across the five Objectives and monitor and report back on progress.

---

<sup>5</sup> [https://www.sheffield.gov.uk/content/dam/sheffield/docs/planning-and-development/city-wide-plans-and-reports/Sheffield%20Green%20Commitment%20Report\\_FINAL.pdf](https://www.sheffield.gov.uk/content/dam/sheffield/docs/planning-and-development/city-wide-plans-and-reports/Sheffield%20Green%20Commitment%20Report_FINAL.pdf)

## **2 HOW DOES THIS DECISION CONTRIBUTE?**

- 2.1 This Green City Strategy contributes to the Sheffield City Council Corporate Plan ambitions for a strong economy, thriving neighbourhoods and communities and better health and wellbeing.

## **3 HAS THERE BEEN ANY CONSULTATION?**

- 3.1 The development of the Green City Strategy has drawn heavily on the evidence base which was established by the Sheffield Green Commission<sup>6</sup>. Throughout this process there was considerable consultation and engagement with stakeholders and members of the public.
- 3.2 In addition, the development of the Strategy has also been influenced by the development of other related strategies and visions, including transport and clean air, as well as being sensed-checked internally to ensure alignment with the Council's aspirations for economic growth, health communities, new homes and the development of the new Sheffield Local Plan.
- 3.3 A report setting out the six 'Green City Strategy' objectives and draft priorities and action was presented to the Economic and Environmental Wellbeing Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee on 31st January 2018. The Final Strategy has been revised to reflect the debate, including reference to food production and consumption (following a question from a representative of the Sheffield Climate Alliance) and governance and membership of the Green City Partnership Board.

## **4 RISK ANALYSIS AND IMPLICATIONS OF THE DECISION**

### Equality of Opportunity Implications

- 4.1 Overall the Green City Strategy is expected to have a positive impact on the economic and health outcomes of everyone in the city. However it should have a particularly positive impact on financial inclusion, people with disabilities and their carers', young and old people and pregnant women.

### Financial and Commercial Implications

- 4.2.1 There are no immediate direct financial or commercial implications arising out of this report as it presents a strategic approach and does not seek authorisation for specific projects.
- 4.2.2 As detailed plans are developed for implementation under the Priorities in the Strategy following stakeholder engagement and the establishment of the Green City Partnership Board, specific actions will be required and the expenditure associated with these will be brought forward for approval under the Council's existing Revenue and Capital Budget procedures. This may require the reprioritisation of expenditure as there is currently no budgetary provision for these activities.

### Legal Implications

---

<sup>6</sup> [https://www.sheffield.gov.uk/content/dam/sheffield/docs/planning-and-development/city-wide-plans-and-reports/Sheffield%20Green%20Commitment%20Report\\_FINAL.pdf](https://www.sheffield.gov.uk/content/dam/sheffield/docs/planning-and-development/city-wide-plans-and-reports/Sheffield%20Green%20Commitment%20Report_FINAL.pdf)

4.3.1 The Council does not have a duty to develop a strategic approach to sustainability but the “general power of competence” under the Localism Act 2011 enables the production of the Strategy and for it to inform the Council’s exercise of its functions.

4.3.2 *Air Quality*

Under Part IV of the Environment Act 1995, Local Authorities are required to have regard to any national strategy on clean air which is published by the Secretary of State; and to review and assess air quality in their areas and to report against objectives for specified pollutants of concern, to the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA).

Action to manage and improve air quality is required by European Union (EU) legislation. The risk to the council of failing to comply with EU law in relation to clean air was both considered and addressed by Cabinet during the process of giving approval to the Clean Air Strategy in December 2017.

4.3.3 *Climate Change / flood and water management*

The Climate Change Act 2008 sets up a framework for the UK to achieve its long-term goals of reducing greenhouse gas emissions and to ensure steps are taken towards adapting to the impact of climate change.

The 2008 Act requires central Government to prepare a policy that will enable the carbon budgets set under the Act to be met; and to report on the impact of climate change every 5 years, publishing an adaptation programme to address those risks and deliver resilience to climate change on the ground.

The National Adaptation Programme 2013 identifies flooding as one of a number of risks to UK climate change. Under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 the Council has lead responsibility to manage the risk of local flooding in the City and a legal duty to implement the Sheffield Local Flood Risk Management Strategy approved by Cabinet in November 2013.

The National Adaptation Programme (NAP) is due to be updated in 2018 following consideration of the UK Climate Change Risk Assessment 2017. Flooding remains an identified UK climate change risk in the 2017 assessment and is likely to be featured in the updated NAP.

4.3.4 *Planning*

The Council is required to have regard to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) as a material consideration in the exercise of its planning functions. The NPPF sets out the government’s expectations for sustainable development, or growth, and so a Sustainability Strategy will assist the Council in complying with this duty.

The implementation under any of the Priorities in the Strategy may be subject to further decision making in accordance with the Leader’s Scheme of Delegation, and any further legal implications will be considered fully at that time.

**5 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

5.1 The ‘As-is’ option: no new Green City Strategy

Much of the valuable work which already takes place in the city supporting sustainability outcomes would continue. However, the new opportunities for co-ordinated approach, working together to deliver greater benefits would be lost, as would the potential to embed low carbon approaches, greater environmental responsibility and climate resilience more

strongly within our city and our activities.

## **6 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 6.1 It is widely accepted that climate change is already occurring, driven by the continued accumulation of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. Fortunately it is also widely recognised that if we take action now we can avoid the worse impacts of a changing climate.
- 6.2 Sheffield City Council has a pivotal role in providing civic leadership; supporting, inspiring and facilitating change across all sectors and parts of our city to help to create a low carbon future. This is a major opportunity to help our communities and businesses become more resilient to the effects of climate change; be part of a growing economy that can fully exploit its innovative capacity to help us transition towards the goal of becoming a zero carbon city by 2050, and be a city where our decisions and behaviour, collectively and as individuals are more sustainable.
- 6.3 The Green City Strategy will provide the city with the opportunity to direct, co-ordinate and focus all our efforts.
- 6.4 City sustainability and the transition to a low-carbon economy is not something which one organisation can achieve in isolation, and will require the support and contribution of all organisations, businesses and residents across the city. Creating a clear vision and strategy will help to crystallise and re-affirm our ambitions and enable other partners to also contribute.
- 6.5 We understand that we have a unique role in facilitating and enabling, working alongside business and our communities to create collective approaches to the opportunities and challenges we face as a city.
- 6.6 The Green City Strategy enables us to be clear to Government and our other partners in the Sheffield City Region of our intentions and strategy, which will support any request for investment or funding.