



Report to Policy Committee

Author/Lead Officer of Report:

Nicola Maskrey, Strategic Commissioning Manager for Strategy and Involvement

Report of: Strategic Director Adult Wellbeing and Care

Report to: Adult Health and Care Policy Committee

Date of Decision: 31st January 2024

Subject: Adult Health and Social Care Policy Committee Climate Statement

Type of Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) undertaken	Initial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Full <input type="checkbox"/>
Insert EIA reference number and attach EIA	EIA ID: 2455
Has appropriate consultation/engagement taken place?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Has a Climate Impact Assessment (CIA) been undertaken?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
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"The (report/appendix) is not for publication because it contains exempt information under Paragraph (insert relevant paragraph number) of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended)."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 purpose of this report is to seek endorsement of an Adult Policy Committee Climate Statement.

The Committee Climate Statements Respond to the Annual Climate Progress Report 2022/23 and restate the cross-party council commitment to taking what action we can to address the climate emergency, adapt our city and council for a changing climate and reduce emissions to achieve our ambition to be a net zero city and council by 2030.

The Climate Statements also aim to increase understanding of the impact climate change will have on committees, the opportunities that tackling climate change offers, and the contribution to climate and net zero action each committee is currently making and needs to make moving forward.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that the Adult Health and Social Care Policy Committee

1. Agree the Adult Health and Care Policy Committee Climate Statement attached at Appendix 1.
2. Note that dedicated adult climate focused workshops will take place during 2024 with social care providers, voluntary sector, and partners to agree a long-term social care action plan to realise our climate ambitions. The resultant action plan will be brought to a future Committee for approval.
3. Note the intention to seek a partnership with academia to consider the adult social care contribution to climate action.
4. Note the intention of the Strategic Director to embed within our contract monitoring processes an assurance that all providers have effective business continuity arrangements to respond to impacts of climate change and have plans to support our climate ambitions.
5. Requests that the Strategic Director of Adult Care and Wellbeing provides an update every six months to Committee on delivery of the Statement.

Background Papers:

- 10 Point Plan on Climate Action
- Our Council and The Way We Travel Decarbonisation Routemap
- Annual Climate Progress Report 2022/23
- Sheffield City Council Constitution of 6 Sep 2023

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Adult Health and Care Policy Committee Climate Statement
- Appendix 2 – Equalities Impact Assessment
- Appendix 3 – Climate Impact Assessment

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.	Finance: Laura Foster
		Legal: Louise Bate
		Equalities & Consultation: Ed Sexton
		Climate: Mark Whitworth
<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	SLB member who approved submission:	Alexis Chappell
3	Committee Chair consulted:	Councillor Tom Hunt, Leader / S&R Chair Councillor Angela Argenzio
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 Committee by the SLB member indicated at 2. In addition, any additional forms have been completed and signed off as required at 1.	
	Lead Officer Name: Alexis Chappell Nicola Maskrey	Job Title: Strategic Director Adult Wellbeing and Care Service Manager Strategy Delivery
	Date: 15 January 2024	

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 The Council's commitment to tackling climate change is reiterated in the Adult Social Care Strategy, Living the Life You Want to Live.
- 1.2 The Adult Health and Social Care Policy Committee have committed and taken a proactive leadership role in promoting Climate Action through our Strategy Delivery, including establishing Climate as a priority (Priority 12) in our Strategy Delivery Plan noted at Committee in September 2023. The Climate Action Statement is a further step in realising and supporting city wide ambitions.
- 1.3 The climate emergency is one of the biggest challenges we will face as a city, region, country, and global community. The publication of the Annual Climate Progress Report (approved by Transport, Regeneration and Climate Policy Committee 11th December 2023) has highlighted the scale of the challenge in the public domain.
- 1.4 The report shows while action is being taken and progress is being made in some areas or work, we have not reduced emissions at the pace and scale required to meet our city wide 2030 target. It is clear that to achieve this target urgent action and collaborative approaches are needed.
- 1.5 A Climate Report was noted at the Strategy and Resources Committee on 14th December 2023 that Sheffield is not unusual amongst local authorities. The Committee on Climate Change reported in summer 2023 that the lack of investment and consistent policy supporting the UK's legally binding target of achieving net zero by 2050 means that UK is at risk of missing its 2050 target and the announcement from Government in September 2023 to delay key climate change related legislation exacerbates this.
- 1.6 We face a period of increased uncertainty around the policy levers that will be available in the coming years to support us to deliver our climate action at pace and at scale. We are working closely with other leading local authorities to both seek to influence government to make the policy changes and investment needed to escalate our activity, and to explore options for seeking investment.
- 1.7 While the Sheffield City Council Constitution requires all Committees to take climate into consideration in decision-making, the purpose of the specific Policy Committee Statements is to clarify the impacts that climate change will have on Committees and services in their remit, the opportunities that tackling climate change offers and the role that all Committees can and need to make towards Sheffield achieving its climate and net zero ambitions if we are to succeed.

- 1.8 The Committee Climate Statements:
1. Restate the cross-party council commitment to taking what action we can to address the climate emergency, adapt our city and council for a changing climate and reduce emissions to achieve our ambition to be a net zero city and council by 2030.
 2. Increase understanding of the contribution to climate action that each committee is currently and need to make moving forward.
- 1.9 'Our commitment to addressing climate change' reiterates the cross-party and council-wide commitment to taking what action we can to address the climate emergency, adapt our city and council for a changing climate and reduce emissions to achieve our ambition to be a net zero city by 2030. It also states a commitment to requiring services to plan for adapting to the changing climate.
- 1.10 The vast majority of the action that is required to tackle climate change will have benefits beyond reducing carbon emissions and so the content of the statements also draw attention to the socioeconomic, health and wellbeing, and other benefits to taking action on climate change.
- 1.11 While Adult Health and Social Care is not a major contributor to emissions in the city, as with COVID, the negative impacts of climate change are disproportionately and more severely felt by vulnerable groups reliant on our adult health and social care services.
- 1.12 If the City doesn't act further to adapt our adult health and social care services in readiness for a changing climate, we could see the severity of these impacts increase further. In particular:
- Climate change impacts such as extreme weather events such as heatwaves and flooding, poor air quality, food and water shortages and changes in ecology increases climate-sensitive health risks, particular for those already in poor health, such as:
 - Rising costs, such as for energy, food and water, will exacerbate existing poverty and push more citizens below the poverty line further increasing inequalities in the City.
 - The rising costs for energy, food and water also affect providers of care services and voluntary sector ability to meet these costs. This risk destabilising our market and reducing the options for support, should funding not be provided to Adult Social Care to meet these costs.
 - Increased reliance on adult health and social care services, facilities and providers will lead to an increase in operational cost and the necessary resources to meet demand.
 - Increase in frequency and severity of extreme weather events, as well increased power outages from reduced energy security, will cause delays in response, disruption and reduced access to care and services and more reliance on ensuring effective business continuity and agility of social care services across all sectors.

- 1.13 The Adult Health and Social Care Policy Committee Climate Statement highlights actions which can be undertaken to contribute to the Council's net zero ambitions and to adapting to climate change, at the same time as supporting adult health and social care to deliver on our primary objective in promoting and enhancing the rights, wellbeing and safeguarding of adults in the City.
- 1.14 In recognition of the impact of climate change and our contribution to net zero, it's our intention to seek opportunities to work with academia to specifically look at partnership opportunities which promote learning and innovation in responding to climate change by Health and Social Care Services.
- 1.15 To ensure delivery, the Service Manager for Strategy Delivery will lead on our implementation of the Statement through the following: -
- Connection with academia following some early conversations last year to look at pilot and partnership programmes relating to Climate in context of Adult Social Care.
 - A dedicated social care climate workshop with social care providers to agree an action plan on how we collectively tackle climate change. It's planned that this action plan will further inform the climate statement and our update reports to Committee.
 - Embedding within our contract monitoring processes an assurance that all providers have effective business continuity arrangements to respond to impacts of climate change and have plans to support our climate ambitions.
- 1.16 Updates on our progress in delivering upon the Climate Statement will be provided every six months to Committee to demonstrate transparency and accountability in our delivery.

2. HOW DOES THIS DECISION CONTRIBUTE?

- 2.1 In 2019, the council declared a climate emergency and set an ambitious target to become a net zero city and council by 2030. Our vision and the actions we are taking have been further set out in the '10 Point Plan for Climate Action' and the 'Our Council and The Way We Travel Decarbonisation Routemaps'.
- 2.2 The Council Plan 2024/25 went to the Strategy and Resources Committee on 13th December 2023, and sets out our mission and purpose to focus on "people, prosperity and planet" in everything we do. The plan was endorsed and is now subject to consultation, will be coming back to the Strategy and Resources Committee in February and then on to Full Council for full approval.

2.3 The statements will support action within the local authority and city to make progress towards net zero and to adapt to climate change by increasing understanding of the contribution to climate action that the Adult Health and Social Care Policy Committee is currently and need to make moving forward through decision-making.

2.4 In addition to supporting the strategic objectives for the Council and City, The Adult Health and Care Climate Statement contributes to delivery of the Effective and Efficient Adult Social Care outcomes as set out in the Adult Social Care Strategy Living the Life You Want to Live.

3. HAS THERE BEEN ANY CONSULTATION?

3.1 The Adult Health and Care Committee climate statement is for information only and does not explicitly require consultation.

3.2 We held a Climate Summit event in November 2022 to bring together a wide range of organisations across the city to start exploring the action needed on climate change.

3.3 Climate has been a strong theme in the City Goals consultation.

3.4 Individual decisions of the Adult Health and Care Committee are either currently subject to the relevant consultation or will be in the future.

3.5 A crucial element in the successful implementation of the Statement will also be engagement with partners and providers of social care. This is set out in our commitments towards coproduction and engagement on our strategy priorities.

4. RISK ANALYSIS AND IMPLICATIONS OF THE DECISION

4.1 Equality Implications

4.1.1 It is widely recognised that climate change will have a more negative effect on people with protected characteristics, particularly people living in poverty, people with some long-term health conditions and disabilities and people from ethnic minorities, who are disproportionately likely to both experience disability and poverty. Young people are also acutely impacted, both due to climate anxiety now, and by being more impacted by climate change throughout their lifetimes.

4.1.2 The nature and purpose of Adult Care means that people sharing the protected characteristics of Age and/or Disability will be directly impacted by the proposals. However, the safeguarding remit means that people sharing certain other protected characteristics (e.g., Sex, Race, Sexual Orientation) may also be particularly affected.

4.1.3 The transition to a net zero society is happening independently of any decision of Sheffield City Council, but the local authority has an ambition to reach net zero by 2030, well ahead of the national target,

and this creates additional challenges. The Council has a key role to play in ensuring that the transition happens in a way which ensures both climate justice and social justice.

4.1.4 The statements also draw attention to the socioeconomic, health and wellbeing and other benefits to taking action on climate change, increase understanding that failing to act to address climate change will likely result in wider and greater inequality, and that activity taken to address climate change can also address social justice to deliver strong co-benefits.

4.1.5 We are committed to ensuring that our action on the climate emergency is grounded in our values of promoting equality, diversity and inclusion for all. A full Equality Impact Assessment has been undertaken alongside the creation of the 10 Point Plan for Climate Action in 2022, as well as initial assessment for the Our Council and The Way We Travel routemaps.

4.1.6 An initial assessment has been undertaken on the full draft composite of all Committee Climate Statements (EIA 2455 – Appendix 2) prior to going to the Strategy and Resources Committee in December 2023. As decisions are made on specific decisions, full Equality Impact Assessments will be prepared where appropriate for individual decision and actions and therefore a full assessment was not required on the composite of Committee Climate Statements

4.1.7 EIA 2455 has since been reviewed and updated with further detail specific to adult health and social care. However as decisions are made on specific decisions, full Equality Impact Assessments will be prepared where appropriate for individual decision and actions and so is again not required at this stage.

4.2 Financial and Commercial Implications

4.2.1 There are no financial and commercial implications arising directly from this report, however there are financial implications of Net Zero by 2030 and climate change.

4.2.2 Tackling the climate emergency and responding to the national and global changes that are facing the city will require multi-billion-pound investment over many years. It was recognised in the 10 Point Plan for Climate Action published in 2022 that it will not be possible to find the necessary finance within the local authority's, or the city's, existing resources. One of the ten points in the 10 Point Plan was specifically focused on the exploration of external funding streams and this work is ongoing.

4.2.3 The Our Council routemap chapter commits the local authority to prioritising climate action in our budgeting, and officers will need to work with Members to commit to specific sums or projects. Whilst sourcing the up-front investment is challenging, decarbonising the Council's

assets and adapting services to meet the challenges of a changing climate in the future can result in savings in ongoing energy costs.

- 4.2.4 Action will also need to be taken that commits us to working to reduce the carbon emissions and adapt to a changing climate, we are indirectly responsible for through our procurement. These may potentially have additional up-front costs but decisions will be taken on a case by case basis.
- 4.2.5 Many of the actions that we will need to take in order to achieve our ambitions will require working differently or taking decisions in ways which ensure that we do not increase our carbon emission and are able to adapt to a changing climate.
- 4.2.6 Investment in mitigation are likely to have long term benefits in terms of potentially reduced health and social care costs. An example of this is requiring new or adapted buildings to contribute to Net Zero targets. Similarly, other actions which have dual outcomes may potentially have positive benefits, for example, moving homecare provision to a locality model to reduce movement of workers around the city contributes to a more cost-effective service as well as encouraging use of local public transport or active travel options; and developing projects in which we can pool or share resources, for example launching an inter-agency car share scheme.

4.3 Legal Implications

- 4.3.1 The proposed Climate Statement provides a focus and direction towards meeting those obligations within the context of our local climate ambitions There are no legal implications arising out of this report. There may be legal implications arising from decisions and actions arising from the implementation of proposals, and these proposals and their legal implications will be the subject of further reports where required.
- 4.3.2 The core purpose of adult health and social care support is to help people to achieve the outcomes that matter to them in their life. The Care Act 2014 sets the Council's statutory power to direct the provision that:
- promotes wellbeing
 - prevents the need for care and support
 - protects adults from abuse and neglect (safeguarding)
 - promotes health and care integration
 - provides information and advice
 - promotes diversity and equality
- 4.3.3 Beyond the Act itself the obligations on Local Authorities are further set out in the Care Act statutory guidance issued by the government. By virtue of section 78 of the Act, Local Authorities must act within that guidance.

4.3.4 The Care Act Statutory Guidance at paragraph 4.52 requires Local Authorities to:

“... have in place published strategies that include plans that show how their legislative duties, corporate plans, analysis of local needs and requirements (integrated with the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy), thorough engagement with people, carers and families, market and supply analysis, market structuring and interventions, resource allocations and procurement and contract management activities translate (now and in future) into appropriate high quality services that deliver identified outcomes for the people in their area and address any identified gaps”.

4.3.5 The Adult Health and Social Care Climate Statement supports delivery of these legal obligations through its focus on a partnership approach.

4.4 Climate Implications

4.4.1 The Statements in themselves do not increase, maintain or reduce emissions against any of the categories. However, they restate our climate commitments amidst a challenging time, commit to developing council-wide service climate adaptation plans, and include an overview of and commitment to the decisions that committees intend to take to support and accelerate net zero and climate action at pace and scale.

4.4.2 By communicating commitment and increasing understanding of how the Adult Health and Care Committee are can support delivery of those commitments at pace and scale through decision-making, it is considered that if utilised, they have the potential to contribute to large reductions in emissions and increased climate action at pace and scale over the coming years and support an overall moderate decrease in emissions and climate adaptation for the future.

4.4.3 It is important to note however that realisation of climate benefits is reliant on future decision-making being in line with the commitments outlined.

4.4.4 An initial assessment has been undertaken on the full draft composite of all Committee Climate Statements prior to going to the Strategy and Resources Committee in December 2023. This has since been updated to include example of mitigation specific to Adult Health and Social Care (Appendix 3). However, as with Equality Impact Assessments, decisions are made on specific decisions and action, and initial/full Climate Impact Assessments will be prepared where appropriate for individual decision and actions.

4.4.5 We are committed to working with partners and providers aligned with our Net Zero 2030 ambition and where specific procurement/commissioning exercises take place related to our provision we will aim to consider providers approach and performance in terms of managing the climate impacts of the services they provide.

As set out above, this would be completed through more detailed Climate Impact Assessments for specific procurements.

4.5 Other Implications

4.5.1 Public Health

4.5.1.1 The climate emergency is recognised by the Director of Public Health as a public health emergency. Climate change is the greatest global health threat facing the world in the 21st century, but it is also the greatest opportunity to redefine the social and environmental determinants of health. It threatens to undermine the last 50 years of gains in public health, intensifying heatwaves and extreme weather events, worsening flood and drought, altering the spread of infectious diseases, and exacerbating poverty and mental ill-health. However – and crucially - the response to climate change brings immense benefits for human health in Sheffield, with the potential for cleaner air, healthier diets, and a more liveable city.

4.5.1.2 Across all the work that we do to mitigate and adapt to climate change, it will be important to understand where our actions might widen inequalities and then act to mitigate against that widening of inequalities, for example, through provision of additional support to those people that are most impacted by the effects of climate change.

5. **ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

5.1 Not providing committee climate statements. This would not provide the assurances to Committee and the Council that Climate Change and a commitment to Net Zero are being progressed by Adults Services.

6. **REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

6.1 It is important that the response to the Annual Climate Progress Report is open and transparent in setting out the challenges which the local authority faces in making progress and clarifies future expectations on the part we all have to play in addressing climate change.

6.2 An endorsed Adult Climate Statement gives the public assurance that the Committee is delivering upon its commitment towards Climate Change and Net Zero.

6.3 Asking for the six-monthly updates provides public accountability and transparency of our progress in delivery.

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