

<b>Report of:</b>	Director of Environment and Community Services: Geoff Field Executive Member for Environment : Councillor Dennis McCabe
-------------------	--

<b>Submitted to:</b>	Executive – 1 September 2020
----------------------	------------------------------

<b>Subject:</b>	Green Strategy
-----------------	----------------

**Summary**

<b>Proposed decision(s)</b>
That Executive approve this proposal to commence consultation on the adoption of the emerging Green Strategy

<b>Report for:</b>	<b>Key decision:</b>	<b>Confidential:</b>	<b>Is the report urgent?<sup>1</sup></b>
Decision	Non-key as decision relates to consultation.	No	No

<b>Contribution to delivery of the 2020-23 Strategic Plan</b>		
<b>People</b>	<b>places</b>	<b>Business</b>
It supports the Empower agenda in terms community input.	The Strategy delivers against priorities set out in the Councils 3 year Strategic Plan particularly under ‘Place’	The strategy has implications for the councils Physical Regeneration strategic objectives in proposing the adoption of sustainable development principles.

<b>Ward(s) affected</b>
The proposal impacts across all wards

## **What is the purpose of this report?**

1. The purpose of this report is to seek approval for consultation on the development of Middlesbrough Councils emerging Green Strategy.
2. It sets a programme to meet Government targets for Recycling uptake and Greenhouse gas emissions and make the council more climate resilient to make sure we are prepared and can adapt to changes in climate and to minimise the environmental impact of council services in future.
3. This also supports the One Planet Living framework and the 10 principles already adopted by the council:

**Zero energy; Zero waste; Land and Nature: Travel and Transport; Culture and Community; Health & Happiness; Equity & Local Economy; Local and Sustainable Food; Local & Sustainable Materials; Sustainable Water**

## **Why does this report require a Member decision?**

4. The proposal affects more than two wards and is therefore considered a key decision requiring approval by the Executive.
5. The adoption of the Green Strategy will impact all council departments in the way they operate, manage and collect data

## **Report Background**

6. The council needs to set out a Green Agenda to meet climate change aspirations set by Government of a target of net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050, a commitment that the UK made by signing the Paris Agreement.
7. Climate change will have implications on how resident the council and business conducts its business in the future, we need to ensure we are prepared and able to adapt to its impact.
8. Middlesbrough will need to prepare to avoid for more flooding, greater pressure on water resources, damage to natural habitats, and risks to human health from periods of extreme temperatures.
9. To date the council's green initiatives have resulted in the following actions:
  - 620 trees planted, with an addition 1550 'whips'
  - A commitment to plant a further 715 trees and 7,500 whips
  - A joint initiative alongside Middlesbrough Environment City committing to plant 5,000 whips
  - 30,000m<sup>2</sup> of wildflower verge sewing committed for Autumn/Spring.
  - Over 13,000 LED lamp columns installed saving on Energy consumption.
  - Developed a bee project with community training to become beekeepers
  - Changing cutting regimes on council owned verges to increase biodiversity
  - Undertaking an emissions audit of council fleet vehicles.

10. However, there is much more to do and Middlesbrough needs a green strategy to plan for the future.
11. **Over the coming months the council will work with partners, businesses and community groups in order to develop a The Green Strategy – ‘A Greener Future for Middlesbrough’** has 3 main aims:
- 1. To make Middlesbrough Council net carbon neutral by 2029**
  - 2. To ensure Middlesbrough as a town is net carbon neutral by 2039.**
  - 3. To make Middlesbrough a lead authority on environmental issues.**
12. The strategy should enable Middlesbrough Council and the town as whole to achieve its ambitions of being carbon net neutral by 2029 and 2039 respectively.
13. This strategy will be for the overarching strategy for a suite of action plans under the Climate Change, sustainability umbrella which will link back to the One Planet Living framework and principles.

**The key approaches we will use to ensure Middlesbrough achieves its ambitious Carbon reduction and environment sustainability objectives will include:**

- Set Middlesbrough’s Carbon Budget for the council.
- Set Middlesbrough’s Carbon Budget
- Encourage movement towards purchasing green energy
- Increasing the level of energy saving in Middlesbrough homes and businesses.
- Moving towards greener transport through enabling electric, hydrogen and other green energy solutions
- Expand the use of cycling across the town.
- Changing behaviours and attitudes toward how we manage waste, to promote waste reduction.
- More sustainable waste management, increased levels of recycling and green waste collection uptake.
- Sustainably manage and promote Green Spaces within Middlesbrough encouraging biodiversity
- Embrace Green purchasing and procurement to support the local Supply Base.
- Increase the level of community environmental initiatives and activities.
- Support active environment education programmes.

**What decision(s) are being asked for?**

14. That Executive agrees this proposal to commence consultation on the adoption of the emerging Green Strategy as vehicle to deliver on the councils obligations to address Climate Change.

**Why is this being recommended?**

15. The implications of climate change are broad ranging and potentially damaging, the council has a responsibility to ensure we have measures in place to mitigate and adapt to climate change. The Green Strategy will play a crucial role in meeting many of Middlesbrough’s obligations to a carbon reduction programme.

## **Other potential decisions and why these have not been recommended**

16. Doing nothing is not an option, not having a strategy in place will Middlesbrough to serious risk and mean target setting opportunities could be missed.

### **Impact(s) of recommended decision(s)**

#### **Legal**

17. There are no legal implications.

#### **Financial**

18. There will be financial implications of delivery of the strategy, which will be delivered through a combination of government funding and public/ private partnerships with the council.

#### **Policy Framework**

19. The report sets out a proposal in accordance with the Council's approach to the delivery of efficient services. It delivers on priorities set out in the councils Strategic Plan.

#### **Equality and Diversity**

20. An Impact Assessment has been carried out and there are no initial concerns.

#### **Risk**

21. The risk is that if the proposal is not accepted we will not meet the council's climate change targets to be carbon neutral by 2030.

### **Actions to be taken to implement the decision(s)**

22. Agree to begin the consultation on the Green Strategy framework for Middlesbrough in order that a report is brought back to Executive in early 2021.

#### **Appendices**

23. Equality impact assessment.

#### **Background papers**

24. One Planet Living Framework

25. Green Strategy Terms of reference

<b>Body</b>	<b>Report title</b>	<b>Date</b>
	Green strategy	August 2020