CLIMATE EMERGENCY TASKFORCE **14 OCTOBER 2019**
(6.00 pm – 8.00 pm)

PRESENT:	Councillor Matt Bryan (Chairman)	
	Councillors Paul Bowers, Jill Houlbrook, Simon Eardley, Gillian Edwards, Jill Houlbrook, Gina Lewis and Christine Warner	
Officers in attendance:	Charlie Seward	Deputy Chief Executive (Place)
	Laurence Ainsworth	Director of Public Services Reform
	George Ablett	Energy and Carbon Reduction Officer
	Amy Ord	Head of Communication and Engagement
	Will Pearson	Strategy and Innovation Manager
	Andrew Playfer	Asset Management and Development Manager
	Elaine Roberts-Smith	Procurement Manager
Invited Speakers:	Mat Chard	Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service
	Matt Rooney	Anthesis
	Brad Blundell	Anthesis
	Matt Babic	Anthesis

1 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Chairman welcomed everyone to this second meeting of the Taskforce. The Chairman provided an overview of progress to date, noting that the Anthesis research had progressed significantly, and that communications activity had taken place to engage with a range of stakeholders both internal and external to the Council.

2 MINUTES AND TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Chairman noted the minutes of the last meeting, which were approved as an accurate record.

The Chairman presented a proposed amendment to the Terms of Reference which made provisions for members of the public to attend and share their views at Taskforce meetings. This was agreed by the Taskforce.

Additionally, it was agreed that young people should be co-opted on to the Taskforce.

3 ANTHESIS

The Taskforce received a presentation from Matt Rooney and Brad Blundell from Anthesis, global sustainability Consultants, on the intervention modelling work they have been commissioned to carry out on behalf of the Council.

Matt and Brad noted the workshop that had taken place with the Taskforce on 7 October to determine the level of local ambition regarding the scale of intervention needed to tackle the climate emergency. Matt noted that there was a high level of ambition locally compared to other areas in which the workshop had been run.

Matt outlined a key graph in the Anthesis presentation which set out historical emissions, the Tyndall carbon budget, and the Setting City Area Targets and Trajectories for Emissions Reduction (SCATTER) level one and level four trajectories. This outlined that at Level four, the most ambitious level modelled, the borough is projected to achieve carbon neutrality in 2050. This is due to the industrial characteristics of the borough. A comparison was made with an 'average' area without Cheshire West's industrial profile, the London Borough of Ealing, and it was discussed that this area at Level 4 would achieve carbon neutrality in 2039.

It was noted that the scale of the challenge presented was significant. Examples of interventions included:

- Retrofitting 6,500 homes a year with energy efficiency measures such as solid wall insulation, superglazing or loft insulation
- The installation of 43,400 new heating systems such as heat pumps (ground source or air source) by 2025
- An 8% decrease in household waste by 2025
- An 11% reduction in industrial energy demand by 2025.
- Increasing installed solar PV capacity from 0.032 GW to 0.3 GW by 2025.

Matt and Brad went on to discuss the Council's own organisational emissions. They noted that these emissions represented about 1% of the borough's total. It was noted that the Council's total carbon footprint, inclusive of scope three (primarily emissions resultant from the goods and services the Council procures) was 147,080 tons CO2 equivalent. Scope three emissions represent 80% of total emissions.

It was discussed that ensuring procurement policy took account of carbon considerations was a significant opportunity for the Council to explore.

The distinction between production and consumption emissions was discussed. Production emissions were described as broadly, the fuel burned and electricity used within the boundary of Cheshire West, and consumption emissions were described as the emissions of all products utilised or consumed within the boundary, regardless of their place of origin. It was noted that there is currently a monitoring regime in place for production emissions; but no national monitoring regime for consumption emissions. Therefore, the work produced by Anthesis is based on production emissions to enable comparisons with other localities.

The final element of the Anthesis work discussed was an analysis of agriculture and land use in the borough. It was noted that the total emissions from agriculture and land use represented 8% of the emissions of the energy system (note: agriculture is not a subset of the energy system, these are treated as entirely separate for modelling purposes). 92% of agricultural emissions are from livestock, with 8% from fertilisers. Currently, 1% of emissions are sequestered via tree and plant growth.

Finally, Matt and Brad discussed that it would be important to consider that there were opportunities that would span administrative boundaries in relation to regional natural assets and infrastructure, and that these should be explored, such as the Mersey, offshore wind potential, and more.

The Chairman thanked Anthesis for their extensive work on this research for the Council.

Issues raised by Members:-

- There was a need to ensure that the Council communicates messages around climate change effectively and removes unnecessary complexity, which can create barriers to residents engaging with the Council. It was noted that using the other benefits of action on climate change in addition to carbon reduction was an effective way to communicate the reason for interventions, such as creating more effectively insulated homes, improving air quality, and the creation of low-carbon growth and jobs.
- It was noted by Members that Cheshire West would likely be higher than national averages in relation to agricultural emissions due to the high preponderance of cattle in the local farming industry.

4 GREATER MANCHESTER FIRE AND RESCUE

The Taskforce received a presentation from Mat Chard, Associate Partner Environment at the Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue service.

An overview was provided of the significant current and potential impacts of Climate Change on the Fire and Rescue service. It was noted that a two degree Celsius rise would result in a 34-56% increase in outdoor fires. Case studies were discussed, such as the moorland fires of 2018, which emitted 17,000 tons of CO2.

Mat noted the significant strides that GMFRS had made in decarbonising their assets, achieving a 23% reduction over 5 years, saving £4.4 million. It was discussed that Bury Fire station used 90% less gas than its predecessors, and that GMFRS had adopted an ISO14001 compliant environmental management system.

GMFRS' approach to strategy development was discussed, and their objectives for 2050 were – Carbon positive, zero waste volume, minimise fire pollution, zero wasted water, and local leaders of sustainability.

A range of behaviour change methods have been implemented to improve understanding of and accountability for carbon management. This includes measures such as devolving energy budgets to site managers to promote accountability for energy usage, dedicated energy management software, the implementation of waste stream management systems, and a focus on closed-loop procurement to reduce waste.

GMFRS have also undertaken a significant programme of work to educate staff, including equipping incident commanders with appropriate knowledge to reduce the carbon footprints of the fires they were responding to.

Mat discussed that establishing a Champions Network, with each site having a green champion had been beneficial in encouraging ideas to come forward from staff.

Looking forward it was noted that there is a target of 2038 for Greater Manchester to achieve carbon neutrality, which will require a 15% year on year reduction in carbon emissions.

In conclusion, it was noted that public sector organisations would be at the heart of responding to the climate emergency, that is would not be deliverable by one organisation working in isolation, and that a clear sustainability strategy, brand and headline goals would be key to driving change.

Issues raised by Members:-

- It was discussed that there were examples of good practice such as London Fire Brigade's move to an all-electric support vehicle fleet that could be explored locally.
- It was noted that Cheshire Fire and Rescue had also made progress on the issue of energy efficiency, and that engagement with the fire service should be progressed.

5 COMMUNICATIONS AND ENGAGEMENT

Amy Ord, Head of Communication and Engagement, gave a presentation on the next steps regarding communications on the climate emergency. This included tactical approaches to community campaigns, and an overview of the communications activity that is already underway. It was noted that there are plans to move to one visual brand for the climate emergency rather than various disparate campaigns. The principles of reduce, repair, recycle an reinvent were discussed as being central to the campaign. The importance of 'mythbusting' was also agreed. A 'talking point' video was played in order to demonstrate some of the activity already underway across the Council.

Issues raised by Members:-

- It was requested that the 'Talking Point' video should be circulated more widely.
- It was noted that there was the potential for a joint communications approach across the local public sector.

6 DISCUSSION

The primary topic of discussion centred on the Taskforce's view of a reasonable timeline for the borough to achieve carbon neutrality in light of the outputs of the research. It was discussed by Members that there was a need to be guided by the evidence when proposing targets and ambition levels for the Council, and that there was a need to communicate these facts with all sectors of the community. The need to destigmatise activities such as litter picking was noted, alongside the need to promote repair and reinvention rather than disposal of items. The importance of the industrial sector in decarbonising the borough was discussed, and a discussion took place regarding the maturity of the relationships with the industrial sector. It was noted that we have constructive relationships with industry in the borough through a variety of forums, and that carbon reduction was

acknowledged by the sector as being critical for the ongoing commercial viability of their activities. It was agreed that the local authority had a role as a convenor and also in representing the views of local businesses to central government.

The Taskforce concluded that given the scale and significance of the changes required to achieve carbon neutrality, and given the industrial nature of the borough's economic activity, it would be prudent to recommend a 2050 target for borough-wide carbon neutrality. It was however recognised that this represented a highly ambitious target locally, and that a 2050 target did not preclude the development of new technologies, such as carbon capture and storage which may achieve commercial viability in future, which would enable to target to be brought forward.

It was requested that additional information should be presented to the Taskforce to discuss a feasible date for the Council's own target date for carbon neutrality.

Chairman .....

Date .....