



Report to:	STOCKPORT HOMES MEMBER COMMITTEE
	05 July 2021
Report of:	DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS
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Type of Report	Assurance
Title of Report:	CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY 2021-2026
Purpose of Report:	To present the Climate Change Strategy for comment.
Recommendation(s):	That the Member Committee comment on the new Climate Change Strategy 2021-2026 and associated Action Plan.
Confidentiality	Non Confidential
Resource Implications	The actions associated with the new strategy will be delivered through the existing Energy and Carbon team within Assets. The estimated cost to reach Carbon Zero by 2038 is £97.4m with roughly £60m of this already covered within the current Asset Management/Business Plan. Work will be done through the development of the new Asset Management Strategy, due in December 2021, to determine how the £37.4m gap can be closed. The £37.4m figure covers the entire portfolio including SHG and HRA properties.
Impact on Risk Appetite and Risk Register	This strategy fits with the hungry risk appetite for diversification, growth and change as well as it's open risk appetite for IT, systems and technology. In order to achieve the overall aim of the strategy the organisation will need to adopt innovative and new technologies and in turn fundamentally change and develop the overall approach to energy management.

		Risk Number	Risk Description	Risk Mitigation
			SHG is unable to meet the GM carbon reduction targets by 2038	Deliver the new Climate Change Strategy and identify projects which contribute to meeting the GM 2038 target of zero carbon
Customer Voice	Delivery of this strategy will ultimately improve the lives of Stockport Homes' customers through improved thermal efficiency of their homes and potentially reduced fuel bills. A full customer communication strategy will be developed to sit alongside this strategy in order to ensure that maximum impact and benefits are realised.			
Equality, Diversity & Inclusion implications	There are potential differences in the impact's climate change has on gender, disability, age and race. Adapting to climate change could have a more significant effect on some groups. Through the work SHG does with customers on climate change the Energy Advice service will ensure appropriate tailored support is provided for all customers. A focus on the provision of Greenspace is also invaluable towards improving customers mental and physical health			
Regulatory compliance	N/A			
Comments of the Stockport Homes Monitoring Group	<p>The Stockport Homes Monitoring Group discussed the Climate Change Strategy 2021-2026. The discussion covered:</p> <p>The Monitoring Group highlighted that Stockport Homes have a clear and achievable climate change strategy. They were pleasantly surprised to hear that over a third of housing stock already uses renewable energy.</p> <p>The Monitoring Group commended the work of SHG in installing solar panels on such a large number of properties and were pleased to hear that when panels are fitted, the positioning of the panels is considered to ensure that maximum amount of sun lighting is achieved.</p> <p>The Group were pleased to hear that more electric charging points will be fitted in residential areas.</p>			

The Group commended the target for all SHG vehicles to being fully electric by the end of 2028.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. In 2010, SHG launched its first Climate Change Strategy which provided a solid platform of commitment and saw the organisation deliver some of the UK's most innovative use of renewable technology, create a frontline energy advice service and become recognised at a national level through awards and accreditations. This strategy, which runs from 2021 – 26, comes at a suitable time with the advancements in low carbon technologies and the introduction of new climate change laws and legislations.
- 1.2. In 2019 Stockport Council declared a Climate Emergency and in common with SHG have set targets of being carbon neutral by 2038.
- 1.3. In 2020, SHG signed up to the Greater Manchester Landlords Climate Change Strategy. The strategy sets out an overall target of being carbon neutral by 2038 across all operations, with an intermediate target of 48% reduction by 2025. Along with this overall target, the strategy sets individual targets for both the operations and the housing areas of the organisation. Most of the targets are measured against baseline emission figures.

2. CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY 2021-2026

- 2.1. SHGs overall aim is to be carbon neutral by 2038. In order to achieve this, the following objectives have been set to minimise organisational environmental impacts over the next 5 years. The Objectives have been assigned to each of the three sections of the organisation, Homes, Customers & Operations.
- 2.2. Reduce SHG carbon emissions by 48% by 2025 (against baseline figures)
Work to achieve Greater Manchester's 2025 48% carbon reduction target and contribute towards overall carbon neutrality by 2038 through reporting and monitoring emissions as well as the implementation of measures designed to reduce emissions across all service sectors of the organisation.
- 2.3. Increase customers awareness of environmental issues and encourage behavioural change to maximise the benefits of new renewable technologies and help reduce individual carbon footprints.
Widen customer engagement around environmental issues by offering Carbon Literacy training to 100% of customers by 2025 and offer energy advice and other customer engagement initiatives which will provides information to help customers save money and reduce their carbon footprint.
- 2.4. Contribute positively to local greenspace and biodiversity
Ensure consideration is made to creating greener spaces to live and work within our services and development plans and look to increase local biodiversity where possible.
- 2.5. In order to achieve the above objectives and overall aim of carbon neutrality by 2038, new and innovative ways to reduce consumption have been proposed. The actions are also split into the three sections; SHG Homes, SHG Customers and SHG Operations in order to provide a holistic and organisational wide approach to tackling climate change.

3. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1. The actions associated with the new strategy will be delivered through the existing Energy and Carbon team within Assets. The estimated cost to reach Carbon Zero by 2038 is £97.4m with roughly £60m of this already covered within the current Asset Management/Business Plan. Work will be done through the development of the new Asset Management Strategy, due in December 2021, to determine how the £37.4m gap can be closed. The £37.4m figure covers the entire portfolio including SHG and HRA properties.

4. RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1. If SHG is unable to meet the GM carbon reduction targets by 2038 this could lead to reputational damage and increased costs could occur through being inefficient both operationally and for customers. To mitigate against this SHG will deliver the new Climate Change Strategy and identify projects which contribute to meeting the GM 2038 target of zero carbon.

5. EQUALITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

- 5.1. There are potential differences in the impact's climate change has on gender, disability, age and race. For specific groups in particular, adapting to climate change could have a more significant effect. Through the work SHG does with customers on climate change the Energy Advice service will ensure appropriate tailored support is provided for all customers. A focus on the provision of Greenspace is also invaluable towards improving customers mental and physical health

6. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT AND SUSTAINABILITY

- 6.1. The Climate Change Strategy 2021-2026 will form the basis of SHGs environmental and sustainability commitments over the next 5 years.
- 6.2. This Strategy is influenced by and influences a number of agreements, policies and strategies including, Stockport Homes Development Strategy, Stockport Homes 30 Year Asset Management Strategy, Stockport Homes Corporate Social Responsibility Policy, Stockport Homes Environmental Management System (SHIFT), Stockport Homes Sustainable Procurement Strategy, Stockport Homes Greenspace Strategy, Stockport Homes Hydro Investment Strategy, Stockport Homes Floor Risk Strategy, Stockport Homes Green Office Guide, Stockport Homes Pool Bike Scheme and Stockport Homes Transport Policy

7. CONSULTATION

- 7.1. The Climate Change Strategy 2021-2026 and associated Action Plan has been presented to the Green Champions and the Stockport Homes Board. The overall aim of the strategy was agreed by both with amendments made to the objectives following the consultations.
- 7.2. Specific officers have been consulted on the strategy including, Energy Services Team Leader, Performance and Improvement Officer, Greenspace Manager, Head of Development, Head of Commercial and Head of Customer Engagement and Inclusion,

- 7.3. Customers are a major part of Stockport Homes, they play a huge role towards climate change targets. As an organisation who already offer many services to its customers, Stockport Homes have the ability to have a positive influence upon them. Stockport Homes Energy Advice Team are working alongside the Customer Engagement team to develop a range of opportunities to collaborate with customers on the climate change agenda such as roundtable discussions, developing a customer Green Champions role and youth projects.

8. CONCLUSION

- 8.1. SHG has always been a pioneer in tackling environmental issues in housing. Numerous projects and initiatives have already been implemented that have contributed positively to the environment as well as reducing carbon emissions. This new Climate Change Strategy sets out SHGs five-year plan to cut carbon emissions through increased energy efficiency and low carbon technologies in order to achieve the overall aim of carbon neutrality as an organisation by 2038. This strategy aims to compliment the wider Greater Manchester and Stockport Council targets as well as other SHG strategies.

9. RECOMMENDATION(S)

- 9.1. That the Member Committee comment on the new Climate Change Strategy 2021-2026 and associated Action Plan.