

CAN Annual Report 2022

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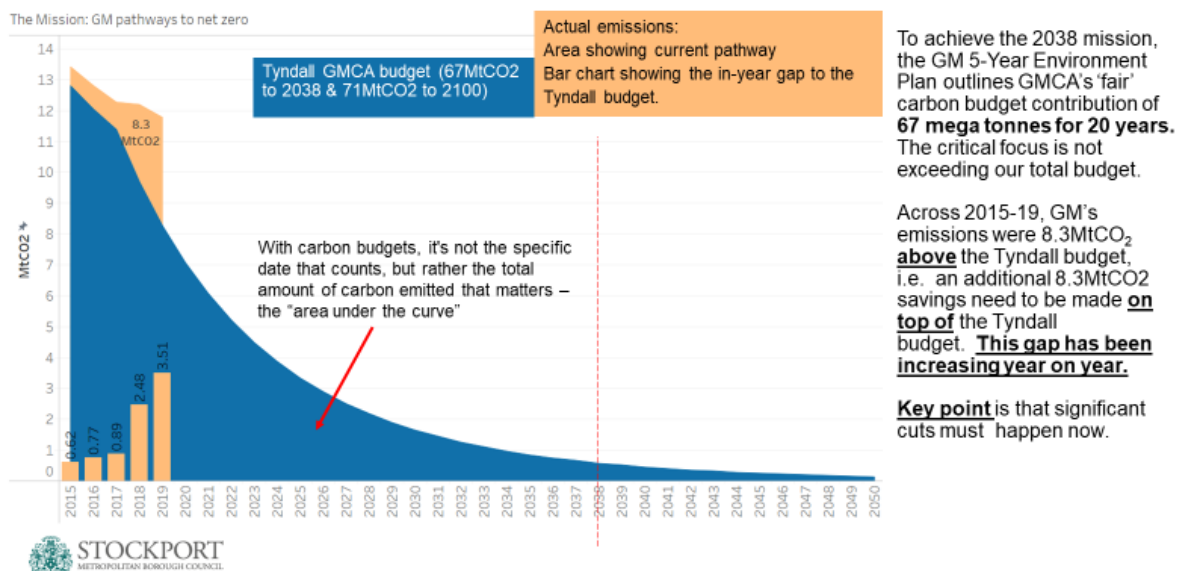
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1 Introduction

- 1.1.1 The recent 2022 [6th Assessment Report for the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change](#) states how crucial this decade will be in order to meet the challenge of slowing global warming to prevent catastrophic impacts across the globe. In order to achieve the Greater Manchester (GM) region's 2038 carbon neutrality target, there needs to be wholesale change in how we produce and consume energy and goods, travel and heat our buildings. This will require behaviour change at an unprecedented scale with estimates in terms of total expenditure (both public and private) across the borough of Stockport in transport, energy generation, building and business activity to be somewhere in the region of £7-8billion.
- 1.1.2 The graph below outlines the carbon budget for the GM region and shows how actual emissions are massively outstripping the carbon budget we must adhere to in order to stand any chance of hitting the 2038 carbon neutrality target.



- 1.1.3 The role of the council as civic leader is crucial in helping to meet the challenge set by the GM 2038 target. In order to demonstrate the council's commitment, we must be an exemplar and that is why work to meet the council's own 2030 net zero target and engagement across communities, residents and businesses via events such as the CAN Summit are crucial to boost influence and our reach. CAN objectives will be incorporated across all areas of the council including the upcoming Economic, Housing, Transport and Local Plans. The cross-party CAN Members Working Group is an example of how all parties across the political spectrum are coming together in the fight against climate change.
- 1.1.4 During 2021-22, council officers have collated greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions data relating to council owned and operated buildings for 2021/22, as well as for several preceding years, in order to produce the first council wide GHG emissions report to assist with delivery of the council's 2030 net zero target. Verification of the

emissions data is on-going and expected to be completed by summer 2022. From these metrics the council will produce new KPI's to help adherence to the council's 2030 net zero target.

- 1.1.5 This report outlines the progress made in delivering the Climate Action Now (CAN) strategy in the year 2021-22, and details ongoing plans to meet climate targets. The previous CAN Annual Report was taken to the Communities & Housing Committee in November last year. Although a year has not passed since the previous report, the reason for publishing now is to bring the CAN reporting regime in line with the financial calendar.
- 1.1.6 The Stockport CAN strategy was developed and approved by full council in October 2020 and incorporated a target for borough-wide carbon neutrality by 2038. In November 2021, the council also committed to a 2030 net zero target for Council greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.
- 1.1.7 The CAN Annual Report will outline work on 6 key areas which are:
 - Council CAN
 - Renewable energy
 - Low carbon buildings
 - Sustainable transport
 - Natural Environment
 - Climate Friendly Borough / Engagement

2 CAN Progress 2021-22

- 2.1.1 There are two main components to Stockport Council's CAN strategy. The first is to ensure how the Council operates and delivers its services meets the 2030 net zero GHG emissions target by incorporating climate change thinking across all areas of the Council.
- 2.1.2 The second aspect, and arguably the most challenging, concerns how the Council shapes and influences the borough to meet the 2038 carbon neutrality target. This crucial role for the Council will mean using its civic leadership influence to help residents, businesses, schools and communities across Stockport to adopt new measures to ensure we meet the challenges of reaching carbon neutrality and adapting to the effects of the climate crisis.

2.2 Council CAN

- 2.2.1 This workstream concerns changing the culture and operations at Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council (SMBC) to ensure all activities consider mitigation and adaptation opportunities. This means helping to create a cultural shift so that CAN is at the heart of policies, key services delivery and major investments. We do this by increasing staff awareness of climate issues, introducing formal checks in decision-making both at the conceptual and sign-off stages, plus identifying KPI's to ensure progress. We are doing this via the following ways:

Carbon Literacy

- 2.2.2 Building upon the Council's 'bronze' status for Carbon Literacy which included senior management and members undertaking training, a new, bespoke Stockport Council Carbon Literacy course has been submitted to the Carbon Literacy Project for accreditation. The course embeds Stockport Council values and plans into an interactive and engaging course. The course has been successfully trialled during May 2022 with plans to make it available to all Council employees and Members by June 2022. We will explore how licencing Carbon Literacy work beyond the council (to other authorities for example) could be done to enable and demonstrate a proactive approach to opportunities within the green economy for SMBC and beyond and share our experience more widely.
- 2.2.3 A target to achieve 'silver' status for Carbon Literacy for Stockport Council has been set for next year which will mean a further 200 colleagues undertaking this training throughout 2022. A further criterion for achieving 'silver' status is to have helped facilitate Carbon Literacy training within other organisations. For more details of this action see 'Section 3: Additional CAN Plans for 2022/23' which outlines how the Council is co-developing courses with businesses and the voluntary, community, faith and social enterprise (VCFSE) sector across Stockport.

Environmental Impact Assessments

- 2.2.4 Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) have been in use at SMBC and inform elected members about the environmental impacts of decisions. They are mandatory for all decision-making reports, ensuring that all key decisions and major investments consider the impact of climate. Officers are undertaking a review of the current EIA template used by the Council which includes an analysis of how other local authorities and other organisations are undertaking assessments. The aim is to produce a revised EIA that will be suitable and consistent for use at both strategic and project level. The project-level EIA will be tested with internal teams as early as this summer.

Financial Appraisal

- 2.2.5 Work is continuing to develop a financial appraisal system that models carbon emissions of projects so that carbon costs can be a factor in decision-making. This is an extremely complex mechanism as it aims to place a value on the carbon cost of investment and policy initiatives. A preliminary tool was developed in collaboration with consultancy firm Anthesis in 2020, and officers are working with other authorities and funding partners to assess the feasibility of developing the model into an appraisal tool. Key to this will be ensuring best practice and collaboration outside of the Council informs the development and deployment of this tool. The financial appraisal tool will therefore need to be aligned with GHG accountancy protocols and be a transferable asset across all local authorities and partners.
- 2.2.6 There are a number of projects underway to tackle GHG emissions from our buildings and ways of working:

Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme

- 2.2.7 The council was awarded a Public Sector Decarbonisation (PSDS) grant worth £5.6m to carry out decarbonisation schemes across council-owned property. The investment includes work on Stopford House, Fred Perry House, the Town Hall, Grand Central Life Leisure and 4 schools, and covers carbon-reducing measures such as new insulation, LED lighting, new windows, installation of heat pumps and heating controls. Some of the most visible work as a result of the PSDS grant are taking place in Stopford House and Fred Perry House.
- 2.2.8 The remaining PSDS funded work will be completed during 2022 and represents an important step on the journey to net zero GHG emissions for the Council. This scheduled work is estimated to save around 600 tonnes of GHG emissions per year from council buildings.

Procurement and Social Value

- 2.2.9 A carbon reduction strategy for the Council's supply chain is in place via The Stockport Social Value Charter which was signed off in 2019. Officers are developing targets this year to ensure the Council is promoting social value and GHG emissions reductions across the council and our supply chains and updates will be brought within future annual reports. The aim is to embed sustainability by ensuring

environmental best practice is in place throughout the Council's operations and supply chain.

- 2.2.10 The Council aims to ensure that all procurement undertaken by the council will include climate targets, with minimal standards for all contracts and year-on-year climate efficiencies incorporated within any new procurement.

Ways of Working

- 2.2.11 The council's One Team People Plan, introduced in July 2021, represented a shift to a flexible hybrid working model in which the option is available for staff to either work from home or in the office. Working from home reduces the overall carbon emissions associated with the Council by reducing staff commuting and reduces demand for office space which in turn helps lower the carbon footprint of our civic estate. This will be reviewed as emissions data becomes more accurate.
- 2.2.12 For those who do travel to work, the council is encouraging sustainable travel by offering a range of incentives for council staff, including a Cycle to Work scheme and salary sacrifice schemes for bus and rail season tickets. Electric vehicle charging points are available to staff in the Stopford House car park.

SMBC Best Practice

- 2.2.13 Sharing and learning about best practice is key to improving the Council's performance in order to meet our climate targets. Stockport Council has committed to membership of UK100, which is a network of ambitious local government authorities with stretching climate targets that seek to devise and implement plans for the transition to clean energy and Net Zero emissions. Part of this journey includes reporting annually on the Council's GHG emissions (see Section 3 for Stockport Council's first GHG emissions report).

2.3 Renewable Energy

- 2.3.1 This workstream concerns how the Council is helping to increase the amount of renewable energy interventions across Stockport both directly through Council owned property and land, but also in partnership with public and private bodies. Reducing GHG emissions from energy use is paramount to meeting any net zero or carbon neutrality target.

Town Centre Renewable Energy Shared Heating Network

- 2.3.2 One of the largest sources of scope 1 GHG emissions for the Council stems from the heating of our civic estate and schools. In order to decarbonise heating and therefore meet our Net Zero target by 2030 we must look to deploying large-scale renewable energy infrastructure. Delivery of a renewable energy powered shared heating network for the town centre and A6 corridor could play a crucial role in decarbonising the Council's operations, and also the boroughs. Provision of a shared heating network for the Mayoral Development Corporation (MDC) developments and town

centre regeneration will have a 'game changing' effect on residential and business GHG emissions within the borough.

- 2.3.3 A feasibility study is underway part-funded by The Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy and the Council, to explore options for a large-scale shared heating network which could encompass the MDC site and civic / public buildings along the A6. The study being undertaken by AECOM and assisted by Anthesis will assess the possibilities for renewable energy to power a heating network plus the potential for scale of deployment across the town centre and A6 corridor, working with an energy provider to establish infrastructure to heat provisionally 20 public buildings and sections of development within the MDC. The detailed study will be completed by October this year. If a viable project is established, it is the intention to seek funding via the newly launched Government Green Heat Network Fund which could potentially cover 50% of the costs for commercialisation and delivery.

Council Buildings and Land

- 2.3.4 There are three renewable energy interventions planned for Council buildings this coming year involving solar PV installation on the roofs of Endeavour House, Stockport Exchange and Grand Central. They will provide renewable electricity for each of the buildings. These will be funded by grants already secured via the European Regional Development Fund.
- 2.3.5 The Go Neutral project will be a crucial tool for unlocking the potential for renewable energy interventions across the borough of Stockport, looking at feasibility, funding and procurement. It is reviewing the Council's portfolio of buildings and land to help identify potential projects for renewable energy interventions including the potential for public / private partnership in terms of finance and delivery. A long-list of potential sites for renewable energy interventions is being drawn up and this year officers will, as a minimum, assess and begin feasibility studies to identify the most promising sites for renewable energy interventions. Go Neutral has also created a procurement framework for delivery of numerous renewable energy technologies and also for private financing.
- 2.3.6 The installation of solar and participation in the Go Neutral initiative will lead to an investment plan for all council owned properties being developed in the next twelve months.

Local Area Energy Plan

- 2.3.7 Understanding energy consumption and where best to locate opportunities for renewable energy sources is critical if we are to meet our challenging targets. The council has worked with GMCA to commission a Local Energy Plan, which looks at borough wide data to establish the scenarios, different options and scales of renewable energy and transport interventions required across Stockport to meet the 2038 carbon neutrality target. The findings of which will be integrated in to plans across the Council, including a Strategic Review for Decarbonisation of Council's Civic Estates and Schools, plus Transport, Housing and Local Plans all due this year.

- 2.3.8 This will be completed by the end of this year.

2.4 Low Carbon Buildings

- 2.4.1 This workstream focuses on ways the Council can ensure the current buildings and future buildings of Stockport are sustainably designed and powered.

Stockport Council Housing

- 2.4.2 At the start of the financial year 38.7% of the Stockport Homes Group (SHG) managed housing portfolio had at least one form of renewable energy. Throughout 2021/22, SHG expanded this work with over 600 new measures through the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) project through works such as external wall insulation, ground source heat pumps, air source heat pumps, solar panels and battery storage. Unfortunately, global shortages of computer chips have impacted the availability of air source heat pumps which has directly affected delivery and as a result meant that only 39.1% of properties have at least one form of renewable energy. Work is continuing to try to source more heat pumps. Over 90% of Stockport Council's housing stock are at Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) rating C or above. Stockport Homes are planning to build 13 Passivhaus properties as part of the development on St Thomas's.
- 2.4.3 The council will be reviewing the investment programme for its housing stock with Stockport Homes this year and will be developing options for how the de-carbonisation of the council stock can be accelerated. This will be delivered by December.

'Your Home Better' - GMCA Retrofit Accelerator

- 2.4.4 Improving access to advice and good quality contractors is essential if residents are going to invest in their homes and reduce their carbon footprints. Without a long term committed programme of investment from central government, increasing consumer confidence in the technology available and growing the supplier and installation market will remain challenging. SMBC have worked with other GM authorities to support this market.
- 2.4.5 We will be building upon the success of iChoosr solar scheme in June by launching a programme with other GM local authorities called "Your Home Better" which provides a 'one-stop shop' for people wanting to improve the energy efficiency of their homes. Initially the scheme will provide opportunities for home-owners to commission a surveyor to assess retro-fit and renewable energy options together with estimated costs. An 'approved' contractor list will be available to those home owners wishing to proceed.
- 2.4.6 The 'Your Home Better' programme is aimed at the 'willing-to-pay' market, but there will be some funding available for air source heat pumps in terms of boiler upgrades via the UK Government 'Boiler Upgrade Scheme' which can provide funding of £5K per household dependent on qualifying criteria.

Net Zero Carbon Social Rented Homes

- 2.4.7 The GMCA has committed to the delivery of 30,000 net zero carbon social rented homes by 2038, as part of the GM Mayor's commitments to become a carbon neutral city region by 2038 and deliver 50,000 additional affordable homes by the same date. In recent years affordable housing delivery has been running at just over 1,500 per annum across GMCA, with Stockport delivering in the range of 10-20% of that total. During that time very few have achieved net zero carbon standards, and most are 'affordable rent' or 'low cost home ownership' products rather than social rent. In order to meet the 'whole system challenge' to transform business as usual construction to net zero standards, and to complement this with a switch back to social rent as the majority tenure for affordable housing delivery in GM, an initial implementation plan has been agreed, and work to co-produce a detailed delivery strategy with all industry and community stakeholders will be underway for the remainder of 2022.

Planning Changes

- 2.4.8 Changes to 'Part L' and 'Part F' alongside a new 'Part O' and a new 'Part S' of building regulations come into force on 15th June 2022. They are designed to help the UK on its path to deliver net zero new homes and buildings. The changes focus on greater fabric performance, lower energy demand, and a move away from fossil fuels (gas and oil boilers) to electric heating systems. New sections of the building regulations are also being introduced to consider mitigating overheating risk and provide facilities for electric cars. The Government believed the changes should cut carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions from new homes by around 31%.

Cheadle Eco-Business Park at Birdhall Lane

- 2.4.9 Cheadle Eco-Business Park at Birdhall Lane is moving forward in development and aiming to be one of the most energy efficient industrial buildings in the north west. Current plans incorporate solar PV and battery storage and it is aiming to be an exemplar low-carbon light-industrial eco-park employment hub.

2.5 Sustainable Transport

- 2.5.1 The Sustainable Transport workstream focuses on how the Council can move Stockport towards having more carbon-free transport options, including the promotion of walking, cycling and the use of public transport within the borough and the wider GMCA

Walking and Cycling Opportunities

- 2.5.2 Stockport has identified a number of desirable locations for Active Neighbourhoods. The Council's first Active Neighbourhood trials was progressed in the Heaton, and the consultation on a final scheme is to be completed in 2022. The Council is working closely with residents in the other proposed Active Neighbourhood areas to develop local schemes with the community that reduce the impact of cars in neighbourhoods and improve the opportunities to walk, cycle and play on streets. The delivery of these

is largely funding dependent with expectations that the next trial proposal to be undertaken would be in Romiley.

- 2.5.3 The development and delivery of Stockport's Active Travel Programme continues to take place across the borough utilising various funding streams including the Mayor's Challenge Fund for Cycling & Walking and Cheadle Town Fund. The council remains committed to deliver transformational change to cycling and walking facilities within the borough and the delivery of its 14 schemes, funded by the Mayoral Challenge Fund, plus developing other active neighbourhood activities such as school and play streets.

Public Transport – Buses & Trams

- 2.5.4 The council and TfGM submitted a successful Zero Emission Bus Regional Areas (ZEBRA) scheme funding bid to enable retrofitting of buses in the borough which will result in Stockport being a town with an entirely electric fleet of busses by 2024.
- 2.5.5 The new bus interchange is progressing with the temporary bus station at Heaton Lane now in operation and demolition of the old bus station complete. Work on the new interchange, park and flats began early this year.
- 2.5.6 Work has commenced on a programme of studies and schemes for improvements to the highway network to support bus travel. These include improved bus stops, removing pinch points which impact timetable reliability and crossing points to help people access bus stops more safely. This is funded through City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement and any improvements will be delivered over the remainder of this and next financial year.
- 2.5.7 Stockport officers are continuing to work with TfGM to secure funding for Metrolink to Stockport and to review routing options.

Public Transport – Trains

- 2.5.8 The council has secured funding for feasibility work on a new rail station in Cheadle, connecting more residents to the rail network and submitted the outline business case for the scheme in February. Also, in partnership with TfGM we have been awarded funding to undertake a feasibility study on the Stockport – Ashton line through Reddish South to have regular passenger services. Initial work on this has begun.
- 2.5.9 The council is working with Avanti, Network Rail and TfGM to developed plans and source funding for improvements to Stockport Station. Officers are also investigating capacity constraints on the rail network around Stockport.

Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure (EVCI)

- 2.5.10 A programme to identify sites for EV charging points has been completed, utilising existing Early Measures funding. There are now charging points at Newbridge Lane (Stockport) and Massey Street (Cheadle). Additional taxi charging point sites have been identified on Newbridge Lane, Lomas St (Edgeley) and in Torkington Park

(Hazel Grove) and further rapid chargers are being considered at Massey Street (Cheadle), Commercial Road (Hazel Grove) and Romiley Precinct. In terms of publicly accessible EVCI there are currently 7 charging locations with 18 terminals plus 10 additional sites that are open to the public with 41 terminals.

- 2.5.11 Work is being undertaken to develop a procurement strategy for the Council to accelerate the EV charging network with a delivery agent to further accelerate EV charging delivery. The Council are currently in negotiations with a private company regarding the installation of EVCI within car parks owned by Stockport Council. Consideration being given to a 'fair' spread across the borough. Other factors in consideration are EV ownership and behaviour, expected increase in demand for public EVCI married with potential sites for development across Stockport based on traffic flows and housing without driveways. We are seeking greater clarity regarding the business case and risk for the council and expect to have a clear view for consideration by the summer of 2022.

LED Lighting and Energy Efficiency Project for Street Lighting

- 2.5.12 The council is in the process of upgrading over 33,000 street lights to Light Emitting Diode (LED) units. This is expected to reduce energy demand by 40% and reduce the cost of energy.

GM Clean Air Plans

- 2.5.13 A GM-wide consultation about clean air proposals was undertaken late 2020 (closed December 2020) with Stockport achieving the second highest response rate in Greater Manchester. Proposals for GM clean air plans have been through Scrutiny and Council and was approved at Cabinet in July 2021. The aim was for the clean air zone to be operational by June 2022. However, the impact of the COVID pandemic and the current cost of living crises escalated by vehicle availability and cost increases due to global supply chain issues has resulted in the need to review the plan. The review of the plan will aim for the air quality of GM to be at legal levels by 2026, and within Stockport we will continue to look at measures to help improve our local air quality and reduce the harm caused by pollution.

2.6 Natural Environment

- 2.6.1 As part of the Natural environment workstream there is a 10-year plan to enhance biodiversity and increase 'green canopy' across the borough. Planning for 10% Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) legislation is underway for delivery in 2024 in line with the UK legislation. Almost 7,000 trees have been planted across Stockport by the Council during 2021-22.

Woodlands, Orchards & Meadows

- 2.6.2 Three new woodlands (4500 trees) were created during 2021-22 which means the CAN target of creating ten new woodlands within the borough over 10 years has already been achieved.

- 2.6.3 A further 1,074 new standard trees were planted in other sites across the Borough in line with the target of planting 11,500 standard trees in the borough by 2030.
- 2.6.4 Two new orchards were created during 2021-22 with 500 new fruit trees being planted at these two sites and other existing orchards in the borough. There are a remaining 9 orchards to create to meet the target of every ward having an orchard by 2030.
- 2.6.5 A new grassland meadow has begun to be created in Mill Lane Recreation Ground which now leaves only 7 wards remaining to achieve a managed species-rich grassland meadow in every ward by 2030.
- 2.6.6 A three-year Highways-funded tree replacement programme to address all historical empty tree pits on the highway has been completed. The only remaining exceptions will be where utilities and other considerations have prevented a replacement tree at or near the original location. From 2022 onwards, there will be only contemporary highway tree replacements necessary. A further 600 trees have been planted at the different sites across the borough in conjunction with work carried out by the Highways Service in delivering local cycle schemes.
- 2.6.7 A partnership has been agreed with the Kindling Trust to supply the Council with trees for the orchard programme over the next 3 to 4 years thereby supporting local production from a charitable trust providing training and job opportunities for local residents.

Community Biodiversity Projects Funded by the Stockport CAN Fund

- 2.6.8 The Stockport CAN Fund has supported multiple community led projects that will see trees being planted and areas of enhanced biodiversity being established. To date, the CAN Fund has supported a number of projects that will plant over 150 trees on public and private land in total, three areas of increased biodiversity through planting wildflowers and shrubs which will attract insects and birds, and fourteen projects that will see fruit and vegetables being grown locally, including in nine schools.

Recycling & Waste

- 2.6.9 In 2020/21, Stockport Council were ranked 37 out of 338 for recycling rates of English local authorities, with 55% of household waste in the borough sent for reuse, recycling or composting. This was the highest rate in Greater Manchester.

Source: [ENV18 - Local authority collected waste: annual results tables - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/env18-local-authority-collected-waste-annual-results-tables)

- 2.6.10 The national Government's waste strategy, expected at the end of the year, is set to impose ambitious targets on local government increasing recycling to 65% and halving municipal solid waste by 50% from 2019 levels. It is anticipated that separate collections of food waste will be mandated along with a requirement to collect more post-consumer plastics (i.e. pots, tubs and trays which are currently not collected in the domestic recycling streams across GM due to processing capacity and end markets issues).

- 2.6.11 A review of how the current waste communication campaigns can be supplemented to reflect the expected clarification of the national waste strategy will happen later this year.

2.7 Climate Friendly Borough / CAN Engagement

- 2.7.1 The final workstream is about how the Council can help bring about positive change and climate action outside the confines of Council operations. This workstream is clearly concerned with helping to deliver on the 2038 carbon neutrality target by influencing businesses, residents and communities across the borough of Stockport to adopt measures that significantly reduce carbon emissions.

Stockport CAN Summit

- 2.7.2 The first Stockport CAN Summit was held on 9th November 2021 as a full day, online conference. Over 200 people attended the event. The day was split into four sections: Stockport CAN, Businesses, Young People and Communities. The event showcased local organisations, projects and opportunities. The Young People's section of the day was co-developed with and hosted by young people from across the borough who shared their thoughts on climate change and discussed the climate actions they would like to see.

- 2.7.3 Feedback received:

"I really enjoyed the programme and all the positive messaging and tips on how to make changes, both individually and as a business. It was also really interesting hearing about all the local projects and support that is available that I didn't know about."

"That was very inspiring. It can be off putting thinking we as individuals are too small to make a difference, but the number of people here and the great ideas should encourage us all to keep doing our bit"

"I was really impressed and great to see the fabulous work that is being done in our borough for climate change, well done to all."

- 2.7.4 The next CAN Summit will be a hybrid event held on Friday 15th July.

Stockport CAN Fund

- 2.7.5 The [Stockport CAN Fund](#) was launched at the Climate Action Now summit in November 2021. The fund aims to provide funding to support residents, communities, not-for-profits and schools with activities that help to tackle climate change. Therefore, encouraging more and more people to become aware and be active in the CAN agenda.
- 2.7.6 To date there have been 37 applications to the CAN Fund with 26 applications having been approved by Members at Area Committee. Some of the projects funded so far include supporting groups to remove their dependence on petrol in their activities; upgrading community buildings with insulation, LED lighting and other energy-saving

devices; funding fourteen school projects, including nine different fruit and vegetable growing schemes; plus kick-starting awareness-raising and behaviour changing campaigns within local communities, and the planting over 150 trees across Stockport.

Climate Action Business Forum

- 2.7.7 The Climate Action Business Forum (CABF) was re-launched at the CAN Summit and meets every 4 months. The meeting aims to take businesses beyond the initial stage of understanding climate change, towards actively addressing and implementing change within their organisations. It allows an opportunity both to encourage more businesses to reduce their footprint but also for green economic growth, creating network of interested businesses.
- 2.7.8 Over 40 businesses attended the most recent meeting in February 2022. The next meeting will be on 16th June with a theme of how best to establish Carbon Reduction Plans for SME's.

Pioneer 10 – Low-Carbon Competition

- 2.7.9 Stockport Business and Innovation Centre (SBIC) launched the 'Pioneer 10' competition in March and are searching for Stockport's innovative and ambitious businesses who can be true 'Pioneers' in the low carbon economy. The free to enter Pioneer 10 competition is SBIC's business acceleration programme that stimulates innovation and fosters talent in the locality.

Schools & Youth Climate Assemblies

- 2.7.10 From February to July 2022, the CAN team are running the Schools & Youth Climate Assemblies. The project will see young people learn about, propose, debate and vote on climate action ideas. The project aims to engage pupils with both climate change and democracy.
- 2.7.11 The project has been promoted to every school and college in Stockport. 29 schools and 4 colleges have signed up, with 9 schools attending 3 online climate action lessons run by the CAN team.
- 2.7.12 Schools submitted their climate action ideas in April, and the pupils will now debate these ideas in Council Chambers in June. The conclusions from the Schools Climate Assembly debates will be presented by young people at full council on the 14th July.

3 Additional CAN Plans for 2022-23

- 3.1.1 In addition to the previous and current actions undertaken during 2021-22 outlined in Section 2 of this report, the following details highlight further significant work planned for delivery during 2022-23.

Reporting Stockport Council's GHG Emissions

- 3.1.2 Officers have collected emissions data in preparation for issuing Stockport Council's first GHG emissions report later this year. This is unverified data and further work will be needed to assess and verify the GHG emissions data before issuing a final report in July. The reliability of the data is crucial as this will ultimately inform the CAN strategy, science-based targets and CAN KPI's.
- 3.1.3 The initial analysis of data indicates that the council's current areas of focus are correct. It is expected that as more detailed analysis of verified data takes place that additional priorities within the borough will be identified.
- 3.1.4 Once the baselines and boundaries for reporting the Council's GHG emissions have been set the next step is to determine science-based targets for the reduction of the Council's operational GHG emission in line with the Council's 2030 net zero target.
- 3.1.5 Stockport Council's science-based GHG emissions reduction targets and the yearly GHG emissions public reporting will require external verification and accreditation via a nationally recognised organisation.

Establish KPI's for CAN Workstreams & Develop Carbon Budgets for Council Services

- 3.1.6 Based on the development of science-based targets, the Borough Plan Outcomes Framework and Local Area Energy Plans, this year we aim to refresh CAN KPI's and establish internal quarterly update reports for CLT and the Portfolio Holder in line with the financial cycles. Work will also begin on setting carbon budgets across key areas of the Council to aid long-term planning and the ability to meet our 2030 net zero target.

Risk Assessment Exercise

- 3.1.7 During this year, officers will carry out an adaptation-based risk-assessment across all areas of the council to help highlight potential short, medium and long-term risks of climate change to council operations and service provision.

External Stockport CAN Advisory Board

- 3.1.8 This year the council will seek to establish an external CAN advisory panel. This panel will include residents, youth groups, businesses, community groups and climate change experts to assess the effectiveness of the CAN strategy and make suggestions for improvement.

Local Climate Engagement programme

- 3.1.9 Stockport Council was successful in our application to be part of the Local Climate Engagement programme run by UK100, Involve, Climate Outreach, Democratic Society and Shared Futures. We join the Coaching Group as one of only 15 councils across the country to get places. The work and training undertaken here will create an opportunity to learn from other ambitious local authorities which will help inform how the Council can be more effective in its CAN programme.

Carbon Literacy & CAN Webpages Refresh

- 3.1.10 The council will relaunch its carbon literacy training for officers in June. The Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Environment has also asked that carbon literacy training is offered to all councillors this year. A full refresh of the CAN webpages will be published in July 2022.

Zero-emission Fleet Review

- 3.1.11 Early analysis of emissions shows that over 10% of the council's emissions comes from our operational fleet. During this financial year, the council will initiate a review into how to decarbonise the Council's fleet, starting with its waste fleet.

Co-developing a Climate & Environment Community Network

- 3.1.12 Working with Sector3, a climate and environment network for VCFSE organisations is being developed. A survey went out via Sector3 to gather initial interest and 30 organisations responded. A meeting to develop the network was convened in May this year at which plans to launch a network this year were developed.

Co-developing Carbon Literacy Toolkits for Businesses and VCFSE

- 3.1.13 Following the first Climate Action Business Forum meeting, the CAN team are working with local businesses and the Carbon Literacy project to develop and pilot a toolkit for micro and SME businesses. Further to this, the CAN team are working with Sector3 and the developing climate and environment network to create a toolkit suitable for VCFSE organisations in Stockport.

4 Conclusion

- 4.1.1 It is evident from the draft Council's GHG emissions data and those already published concerning borough, GMCA and global emissions that the scale of the climate crisis is huge both at a local and global level.
- 4.1.2 However, the good news is that this has been recognised by leaders across the globe and here within Stockport Council, and that there are actions we can undertake today to reduce our carbon emissions to combat climate change. Internationally, the agreements reached at COP26 towards the end of last year in Glasgow, point to a route map for us to stay within some form of global warming which isn't catastrophic. UK law enshrines that we must reach a national net zero position no later than 2050. This is a global problem, which can only be tackled globally, but it will require a myriad of action at a local level across the entire planet.
- 4.1.3 The main sources of GHG emissions in Stockport come from energy use, heating our homes and buildings, travel and the products and services we consume. The role the Council plays in shaping our society from everything from planning, to education, to working in the community, means we have a vital role to play in determining how society tackles this problem. We need to ensure the way the Council operates is exemplary when it comes to cutting carbon emissions in our buildings and service

delivery, but also how we communicate this to our local residents and businesses to encourage them to be part of the solution.

- 4.1.4 It is self-evident that the battle against climate change is not one that solely rests with Stockport Council. As already indicated, collaboration and cooperation across all areas of the region, the UK and the planet are crucial. However, the Council's civic leadership position means it has never been more important to lead the way on action to reduce GHG emissions at a local level and at a much larger scale than before.
- 4.1.5 As previously stated in last year's CAN Report, Stockport Council must understand and continue to outline what is achievable given the current resources. Increasing work across all aspects of the CAN Strategy workstreams must continue, and it is clear from the early analysis of Council GHG emissions data that the ambition for large-scale renewable energy interventions must be accelerated and be adaptable given the constantly changing landscape of local and national legislation and funding.
- 4.1.6 As outlined previously, work on reporting the Council's GHG emissions and progress in relation to the 2030 net zero target must be delivered this year so that the leadership of the Council can be informed about what is necessary to ensure Stockport plays its part and is able to set science-based targets and KPI's. Stockport Council must understand what is necessary but also to place this in the context of what is achievable. Understanding what is required will help set the strategic framework.

4.2 Recommendations

- 4.2.1 Scrutiny Committee is asked to:
 - Note and comment on the progress achieved since the CAN Progress Report issued in November 2021.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

[Stockport Council CAN Strategy - Oct 2020](#)

[CAN Progress Report & Further Plans – Nov 2021](#)