

**Report to OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD**

# **Climate Change & Green New Deal Strategy**

**Portfolio Holder:**

Cllr Abdul Jabbar, Cabinet Member for Finance & Corporate Resources, Deputy Leader

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## **Purpose of the Report**

To provide a summary of the work on the forthcoming Oldham Green New Deal Strategy.

## **Recommendations**

That the Board:-

1. Notes the breadth and ambition of the Oldham Green New Deal approach, and the commitment of the Council to this ground-breaking approach
2. Considers the questions in Section 4 and provides a view on how the Council can maximise the benefit of the Oldham Green New Deal approach through effective engagement and partnership working

## **Climate Change & Green New Deal Strategy**

### **1 Background**

- 1.1 At its meeting on 10 July 2019, the Council announced its intention to become a “Green New Deal Council”, making it the first council in the UK to do so. This commitment includes a target for the borough to be ‘carbon neutral’ by 2030 and for the Council as an organisation to be carbon neutral by 2025.
- 1.2 The ‘Climate Change and Green Oldham’ report contained a commitment for the Council to develop a new “Oldham Green New Deal” strategy and delivery plan. This will set out how these new carbon neutrality targets will be met, as well as initiatives aimed at maximising the economic benefit for Oldham residents and businesses in terms of jobs, training, educational opportunities and reductions in energy costs.
- 1.3 The council meeting on the 11 September declared a ‘Climate Emergency’ and pledged to engage staff, residents, partners and elected members in the creation of a new strategy to replace the council’s current Climate Change Strategy, which ends in 2020.
- 1.4 A climate change strategy should sit alongside a wider ‘green new deal’ approach and it is therefore proposed to develop a single strategy encompassing a range of green issues and developments under the umbrella of the Oldham Green New Deal Strategy.
- 1.5 This note sets out a headline ‘vision’, themes and objectives that could form the basis for the scope and content of the Green New Deal Strategy, as well as the wider engagement that will be planned as part of developing and implementing the Strategy. They reflect the extensive work already underway, as reported to council in July.

### **2 Current Position**

- 2.1 The draft Vision, Objectives and Pledges were tested and amended at an internal workshop with Council officers from a range of services.
- 2.2 The vision is a short statement aimed at summing up what the overall purpose of the strategy is about.

***“Making Oldham a greener, smarter, more enterprising place to be.”***

- 2.3 The objectives and pledges are set out below. Many of these flow from current strategies, plans and programmes. Others will need to be developed as part of the Oldham Green New Deal Strategy.
- 2.4 The objectives define in broad terms what the Strategy is aimed at achieving, while the pledges set out more specific, measurable changes that should result from implementing the delivery plan. These will be quantified as part of delivery planning.

### **Objectives**

- a) Make Oldham a leading local authority area for environmental quality and play a leading role in meeting the GM Mayor’s Green City Region objectives
  - b) Develop a sustainable economy, tackling fuel poverty and generating training and employment opportunities in the growing sustainability sector
  - c) Support a local environment which delivers health and wellbeing benefits for residents, including food and recreation, reducing costs for public services
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- d) Generate inbound tourism for the borough by building on Oldham's reputation for being a green, attractive and forward-thinking sustainable borough
  - e) Keep Oldham at the forefront of development and deployment of cutting-edge environmental technologies, and ensure that the benefits are kept locally
  - f) Future-proof the regeneration of the borough by establishing Oldham as an exemplar Green City on energy, carbon, water and green infrastructure
  - g) Ensure that Council staff and strategic partners, residents, schools and businesses are 'carbon literate' and actively engaged in delivering environmental change

### **Pledges**

- i. We will work co-operatively with our residents and partners to make Oldham a destination for green tourism regionally and nationally, taking pride in our towns, villages, countryside and communities
- ii. Per head of population, Oldham will remain the borough with the lowest carbon footprint in Greater Manchester
- iii. We will be a carbon neutral borough by 2030 and the Council itself will be carbon neutral by 2025
- iv. Oldham borough will continue to have the most renewable energy generation in community ownership in the city region, and will encourage the other Greater Manchester local authorities to work with their own community groups to build the community energy sector
- v. We will aim to eradicate fuel poverty in the borough, making sure that lower income households can also take part in, and benefit from, the low carbon transition
- vi. We will improve air quality in Oldham
- vii. We will increase tree cover in the borough
- viii. We will regenerate our Town Centres to a standard of environmental excellence, and new developments across the borough will be built to high environmental standards
- ix. We will hold a 'Citizens' Assembly' on climate change and support the community to develop and deliver its own climate change action plan

## **3 Key Issues for Overview and Scrutiny to Discuss**

- 3.1 The Board to note the context for, the focus of, and the ambition of, the forthcoming Oldham Green New Deal Strategy.
- 3.2 The Board to note the key Council priorities supported by the forthcoming Oldham Green New Deal Strategy, as detailed in Section 5 of this report.

## **4 Key Questions for Overview and Scrutiny to Consider**

- 4.1 Are the vision, objectives and pledges appropriate and complete? Are there any areas for action which are missing from them?
- 4.2 How can the Council best use its position and relationship with strategic partners in Oldham and Greater Manchester to promote the Green New Deal approach?

## **5. Links to Corporate Outcomes**

- 5.1 An Inclusive Economy where people and enterprise thrive:-
    - Attracting investment and encouraging business and enterprise to thrive
    - Delivering key regeneration projects that are growing our business base, creating jobs and transforming opportunities
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- Working with partners to create quality work prospects - and ensuring all residents can access new skills and opportunities and be work-ready

5.2 Thriving Communities where everyone is empowered to do their bit:-

- Increasing the sense of involvement and ownership of issues that affect people and they care about

5.3 Co-operative Services with people and social value at their heart:-

- Building a sustainable co-operative workforce that innovates based on the principle of being equal partners and co-creators

## 6 **Financial Implications**

6.1 N/A – briefing only.

## 7 **Legal Services Comments**

7.1 N/A – briefing only.

## 8. **Co-operative Agenda**

8.1 Although there is much that the Council can implement directly as the lead in Oldham for the Green New Deal agenda, if maximum benefit is to be achieved then the programme needs to be a co-operative effort between the Council, strategic partners, residents, schools and businesses.

8.2 As well as the commitment to hold a Citizens' Assembly and support the development and delivery of a community climate change action plan, the Council will develop a strategic programme of communications associated with the new strategy to ensure maximum engagement with all stakeholders across the borough and co-operative delivery of the Green New Deal programme, to achieve the greatest possible benefit for Oldham. (Andrew Hunt)

## 9 **Human Resources Comments**

9.1 N/A – briefing only.

## 10 **Risk Assessments**

10.1 N/A – briefing only.

## 11 **IT Implications**

11.1 N/A – briefing only.

## 12 **Property Implications**

12.1 N/A – briefing only.

## 13 **Procurement Implications**

13.1 N/A – briefing only.

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14      **Environmental and Health & Safety Implications**

14.1      The forthcoming Oldham Green New Deal Strategy will provide the framework whereby the Council can work to meet its stated commitments and obligations on reducing carbon emissions in the borough. It should be noted though that although the Council has a wide influence in the borough, the success or otherwise of the new strategy in delivering against these commitments will depend to a significant extent on the national context in terms of central Government policy and the background economy. (Andrew Hunt)

15      **Equality, community cohesion and crime implications**

15.1      N/A – briefing only.

16      **Equality Impact Assessment Completed?**

16.1      N/A – briefing only.

17      **Key Decision**

17.1      N/A – briefing only.

18      **Key Decision Reference**

18.1      N/A

19      **Background Papers**

19.1      N/A

20      **Appendices**

20.1      None

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