

LIVERPOOL CITY REGION COMBINED AUTHORITY

To: The Metro Mayor and Members of the LCR Combined Authority

Meeting: 25 September 2020

Authority/Authorities Affected: All

EXEMPT/CONFIDENTIAL ITEM: No

Key Decision Yes

REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF POLICY AND STRATEGIC COMMISSIONING AND PORTFOLIO HOLDER: LOW CARBON AND RENEWABLE ENERGY

LIVERPOOL CITY REGION CLIMATE PROGRESS UPDATE

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The report provides an update on progress to address the Climate Emergency declared by the Combined Authority at the Annual Meeting in 2019, including a roadmap for the creation of an LCR Climate Action Plan and associated strategies.
- 1.2 The report also updates the Combined Authority on the establishment of the LCR Climate Partnership and launches the Community Environment Fund to support community efforts to address the climate and ecological emergency.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority:
 - (a) Note the progress made to achieve the commitments made by the Combined Authority and Metro Mayor in response to the Climate Emergency Declaration in 2019;
 - (b) Note the activity undertaken by the Climate Partnership to date;
 - (c) Approve the creation of a stakeholder based Climate Panel to broaden participation in development of a Climate Action Plan;
 - (d) Approve the Key Principles proposed for the development of the Climate Action Plan (Appendix B) and note the proposed programme of work; and
 - (e) Approve the Community Environment Fund with a total initial budget of £500,000 and delegate authority to award funding to projects to the Director of Policy and Strategic Commissioning, in consultation with the Combined Authority Treasurer, up to a maximum sum of £50,000 per project and in accordance with guidelines agreed by the Climate Partnership.

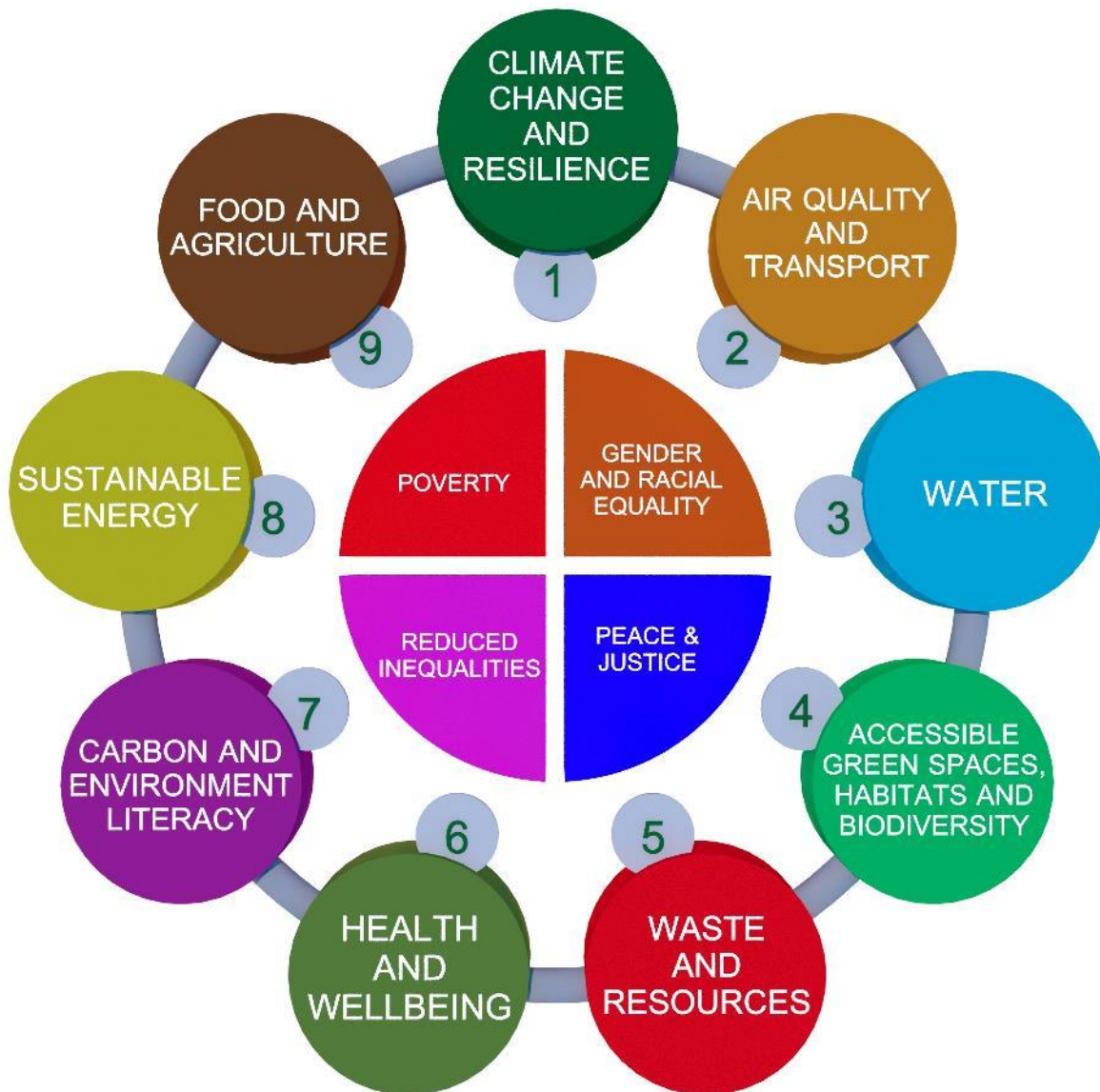
3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 A Climate Emergency was declared by the Combined Authority in June 2019, pledging the Liverpool City Region to become zero-carbon by 2040. In July 2019 the Government committed to achieve this target across the UK by 2050. The scale and pace of action required to achieve these ambitious targets is not underestimated, however the recent COVID pandemic has shown how effective rapid and concerted action can be. It was determined by the Combined Authority that a Climate Action Plan should be proposed that would set out a strategy for the Liverpool City Region to achieve zero-carbon by 2040.
- 3.2 A shared determination to take action on climate and environment exists across the City Region, as demonstrated during the LCR Listens public engagement activities. The hugely successful Year of Environment 2019 programme saw more than 580 events and activities engaging thousands of people and resulted in over 1500 environmental pledges from people and organisations. The appetite for participation in this important agenda led to a resolution that the emerging Climate Action Plan should be guided by the Liverpool City Region community in a highly participative manner.
- 3.2 At the Year of Environment Summit in November 2019, the Metro Mayor announced the creation of a new City Region Climate Partnership to shape and direct the work of the Combined Authority in taking forward this agenda, aiming to achieve a 'climate in all policies' approach. At the same event, a new Community Environment Fund was announced that would focus on participation, engagement and community action.
- 3.3 This report provides an update on the progress made on these initiatives and sets out a programme of action for the next steps of the journey.

4. LCR CLIMATE PARTNERSHIP

- 4.1 The role of the Climate Partnership established by the Metro Mayor in late 2019 is *to provide expert advice and support towards the LCR Climate Action Plan, helping to mitigate the Climate and Ecological Emergency and reach zero-carbon by 2040.*
- 4.2 The LCR Climate Partnership has now been established with membership comprising the academic community, environmental organisations (both LCR and nationally based), statutory bodies, third sector and faith community representatives and a number of young people representing the student community. Chair of the Climate Partnership is Gideon Ben-Tovim OBE who is Mayoral Adviser on the Environment and Chair of Nature Connected. The Deputy Chair is Cllr. Gill Wood who is the deputy portfolio holder for low carbon and renewable energy. Monthly meetings have been taking place on a virtual platform during the lockdown period and this has enabled considerable progress to be made despite the pandemic.
- 4.3 The Climate Partnership has set out a series of Key Principles and Action Areas that will underpin their work. A copy of the full Terms of Reference for their activities can be found in Appendix A. Nine themes for action are proposed which encompass the breadth of environmental concerns across the City Region (see Figure 1). The themes are aligned to the UN SDGs to enable reporting against this internationally recognised framework.

Figure 1: Nine themes to create a framework for action aligned with UN SDGs



- 4.4 The Climate Partnership is determined to catalyse rapid actions to make significant progress against the 2040 target. It is recognised that preparation of an evidence based action plan to meet the 2040 goal will take some time. In addition, the Climate Partnership wish to enable all members of the community to participate in the development of the action plan. The Climate Partnership therefore propose to produce a ‘year one’ action plan which will set out short term actions and targets, ensuring that actions commence rapidly in line with the nature of the emergency, whilst allowing time for full participation in developing the longer term plan.
- 4.5 The Climate Partnership has identified a need to engage and communicate with a wider forum of interested parties across the City Region. In addition to public consultation it is therefore proposed that a broad-based Climate Panel be formed to participate in the formation of the Climate Action Plan and support its implementation.

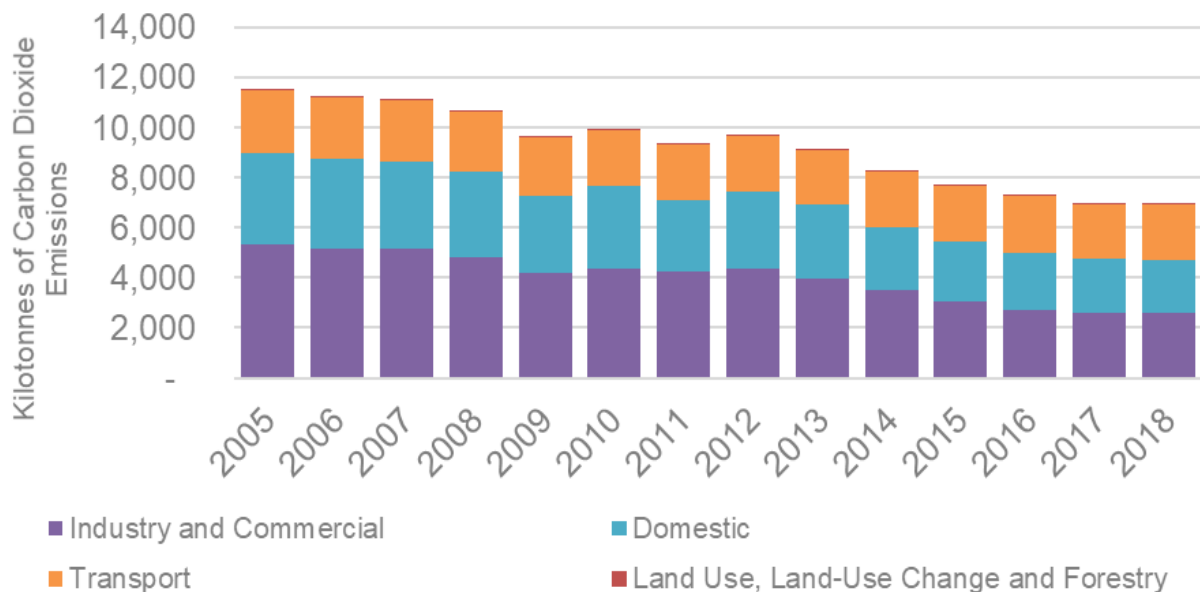
5. CLIMATE ACTION PLAN PROGRESS

5.1 Climate evidence baseline

5.1.1 Work to create the climate evidence baseline is ongoing, however Government data on carbon emissions from 2018 (the most recent available) are now published and show a considerable reduction over time. In 2018, LCR produced almost 7,000 kilotonnes (kt) CO₂; a reduction of approximately 4,500kt (40%) since 2005.

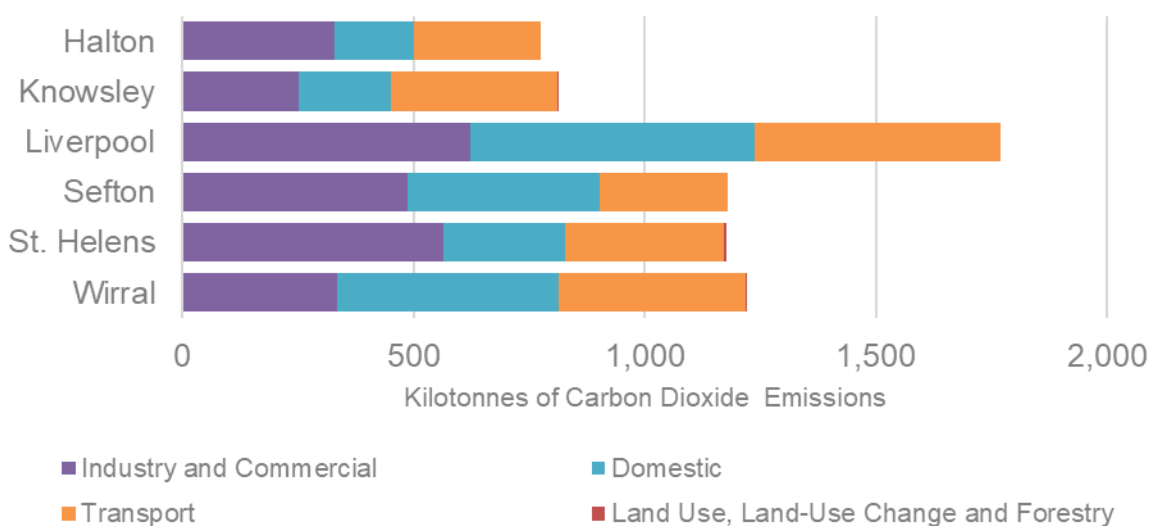
5.1.2 The sectoral split shows that carbon emissions have fallen in the industrial and commercial and domestic sectors, but have remained static in the transport sector.

Figure 2: Estimated Carbon Dioxide Emissions by Sector, Kilotonnes, Liverpool City Region, 2005 to 2018.



5.1.3 Per capita emissions average 4.5 tonnes per annum across the LCR area; lower than the England or North West average, although there is considerable variation between the 6 local authority areas. The reason for this variation can be seen in the sectoral split for each local authority area, with industrial and commercial emissions higher in Liverpool, Sefton and St Helens.

Figure 3: Estimated Carbon Dioxide Emissions by Sector, Kilotonnes, Liverpool City Region Districts, 2018.



5.2 Programme of work towards zero carbon target

- 5.2.1 With the completion of the climate evidence baseline it will be possible to move forward to plan a roadmap toward the zero carbon target at 2040. A series of carbon budgets will be put in place to enable progress to be monitored over time, with interim action plans aligned to these budgets. This will enable the roadmap to be sufficiently flexible to respond to new opportunities and technologies as they emerge, whilst encouraging rapid progress.
- 5.2.2 There are various pathways that the LCR could take to reach the zero carbon target, depending on the technologies available and the preferred local route to decarbonisation. The preferred pathway will also depend on actions and policy interventions that national government enact. Each pathway will have different associated costs and benefits; as a result, the choice of zero carbon pathway will be a key element of the public discussion that the Climate Partnership wish to have with LCR residents and businesses.
- 5.2.3 Almost all carbon emitted in the Liverpool City Region is the result of fossil fuel energy use in industry, homes and businesses, and in motor vehicles. All the possible zero carbon pathways will need to include deep reductions in the amount of energy used, but will also have to include a transition away from natural gas, petroleum fuels and non-renewable electricity. It will therefore be necessary for a strategy regarding LCR future energy to be developed in tandem with the Climate Action Plan. Considerable progress is already being made by the Combined Authority and Merseytravel in terms of transforming energy use in the City Region, including the work being undertaken to deliver the hydrogen bus trial project, electric vehicle charging and the next stages of the Mersey Tidal Project.
- 5.2.4 The following key milestones are proposed as a programme of work:

Preparation of year one action plan:	October 2020 – March 2021
Establishment of Climate Panel:	November 2020
Commencement of year one action plan:	April 2021
Completion of climate evidence baseline:	February 2021
Completion of carbon pathways analysis:	May 2021
Public engagement on pathways and plan:	May 2021 – September 2021
Publication of final zero-carbon Climate Action Plan:	November 2021

5.3 Year One Climate Action Plan

- 5.3.1 The purpose of the Climate Action Plan is to create a clear framework for actions to achieve the city region climate and sustainability goals. The Climate Partnership propose a set of principles that will apply to both the Year One and longer term Climate Action Plans (see Appendix B). These principles recognise that the people who are most vulnerable to the impacts of climate and ecological breakdown are often those who are least likely to have contributed to the human causes of the emergency. It is proposed that the Climate Action Plan be driven by 'climate justice' and aim to put fairness, equality and inclusion at the heart of the city region's response.
- 5.3.2 The Year One Climate Action Plan will ensure that opportunities for early action are not missed, enabling early achievements in the City Region to be captured without

detracting from the important goals that must form part of the longer term action plan. The early delivery of this short-term action plan will allow the inclusion of projects and initiatives that will form part of the LCR Recovery Strategy, ensuring that the city region Grows Back Greener from the tragedy of the COVID pandemic.

6. COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT FUND

6.1 The Community Environment Fund has been set up to support communities to engage in a range of local environmental activities. The importance of this fund has been emphasised during the COVID pandemic with an increased interest in the local environment and many people appreciating access to parks and natural spaces. The fund aims to enable communities to continue this work and expand projects into other areas.

6.2 Environmental projects eligible for funding under this initiative will be those that fit within one or more of the environmental themes proposed by the Climate Partnership (see section 4.3). Funding will be divided into three streams:

Stream 1: LCR-wide projects across any or several of the environmental themes, with benefits across the City Region (i.e. 2 or more authority areas). Projects that enhance or encourage carbon literacy, communication and engagement are particularly welcomed.

Stream 2: Focussed projects that may target the achievement of specific environmental initiatives across a defined area such as a single authority area.

Stream 3: Community projects to achieve environmental benefits in a specific area of the City Region, such as a park, street or school.

6.3 The total value of the Community Environment Fund is limited to £500,000, with an emphasis on distribution of the funding rapidly in order to assist community organisations to contribute to the Green Recovery from the COVID pandemic. The amount of funding that will be granted to any individual project will be capped at £50,000. It is intended that all grant funded projects will commence by the end of March 2021, with all funded elements of the projects completed by the end of September 2021. Officers are exploring opportunities for match-funding from a partner organisation in the region, this will boost the amount of grant funding available.

6.4 To assist rapid distribution, the Combined Authority are requested to approve delegated approval to the Director of Policy and Strategic Commissioning, in consultation with the Combined Authority Treasurer to authorise expenditure on projects that meet the funding guidelines proposed by the Climate Partnership (subject to approval by lead legal and financial officers).

6.5 Benefits and outcomes from the funded projects will be recorded and reported on at least a quarterly basis, building on lessons learned and best practice from other funding streams managed by the Combined Authority. This information will be included in future progress updates to the Combined Authority.

7. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Resources to deliver this ambitious response to the climate emergency are now in place, including lead officers to support the Climate Partnership, to deliver the

Community Environment Fund and to lead the transformative energy projects on hydrogen and tidal energy. Resource needs will be reviewed in light of the Climate Action Plan and in terms of specific project opportunities to deliver the Plan.

7.1 Financial

The financial cost of resources to deliver the programme of work and for the £500,000 Community Environment Fund has already been identified in the Combined Authority budget for this financial year. Once the Climate Action Plan is proposed the financial implications of delivery will be assessed.

8. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

8.1 Legal implications of the Community Environment Fund proposals have been assessed by Combined Authority legal advisors at an early stage of development. All recipients of funding will be required to enter into a short form Grant Funding Agreement prepared by Legal Services.

8.2 It is noted that the UK Government commitment to achievement of zero-carbon by 2050 is a legally binding target and therefore failure to act in a timely manner to achieve this goal could have negative legal implications.

9. RISKS AND MITIGATION

9.1 The risks associated with implementing the recommendations of this report have been minimised by careful consideration and risk management from an early stage in the development of the proposals. The impact of residual risks such as changes of national policy are considered to be low at this time. Risks and opportunities will be kept under constant review and will be subject to regular appraisal.

9.2 Risks to delivery of projects under the Community Environment Fund will be managed throughout the process of fund allocation and monitoring. Fund applicants will submit risk assessments as part of their application and the risks will be monitored through the project monitoring process.

9.3 Not implementing the recommendations would result in a risk to delivery of environmental projects and ultimately, a risk to the achievement of the Combined Authority's stated goal of achieving zero-carbon by 2040.

10. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

10.1 The Climate Partnership, its terms of reference, the themes for development of a Climate Action Plan and the formation of the Community Environment Projects Fund have been specifically designed to address inequality across the City Region. Poverty, racial and gender inequality and climate justice are central themes to the achievement of action on climate and the environment. The Community Environment Projects Fund will support projects that aim to address inequalities in line with a commitment to Climate Justice.

11. PRIVACY IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 Both Data Protection and confidentiality implications will be explicitly addressed within application guidance for the Community Environment Fund on the advice of Legal Services, with applicants being informed of the purposes for which information provided will be used and by whom.

12. COMMUNICATION ISSUES

- 12.1 The Climate Partnership and the Combined Authority are determined to embrace a participative approach to climate action, encouraging stakeholders, organisations and members of the public to take an active role in determining future direction and actions. The Climate Partnership is itself a stakeholder group whose role is fundamental to this process. The creation of a Climate Panel will further enable active participation. In addition, indicative dates of proposed public engagement are included in section 5.2.3.

13. CONCLUSION

- 13.1 This report summarises progress that has been made against commitments on Climate Action announced in 2019, following the declaration of a Climate Emergency by the Combined Authority. The formation of stakeholder groups to take a firm lead on these matters and the commitment of the Combined Authority to a fully participative methodology for progressing action embodies the concept of Climate Justice. The programme of work outlined in this report sets out a clear framework for future delivery of actions to achieve zero-carbon in the Liverpool City Region, whilst demonstrating a clear commitment to community action on the environment.

Cllr POLHILL

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Appendices:

Appendix A – Liverpool City Region Climate Partnership Terms of Reference

Appendix B – Liverpool City Region Climate Action Plan, Key Principles

Background Documents:

Year of Environment 2019, A Year in Review: Cleaner, Greener, Well, Together. MEAS report for Nature Connected reflecting on the outcomes of the Year of Environment 2019. Available on Nature Connected website <http://www.natureconnected.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/YOE-Evaluation-Report-Published-15.07.20.pdf>



LIVERPOOL CITY REGION CLIMATE PARTNERSHIP

TERMS OF REFERENCE

- 1) The Liverpool City Region Climate Partnership has been established to act as an Advisory Body to the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority, to which Reports and Minutes from the Partnership shall be submitted on a regular basis.
- 2) The first responsibility of the Partnership shall be to provide expert advice and support towards the development of the **Liverpool City Region Climate Action Plan** which will help mitigate the Climate and Ecological Emergency declared by the Combined Authority, and help ensure the Region meets its commitments to reach zero-carbon by 2040 at the latest.
- 3) The Action Plan will be prepared for the LCR Combined Authority by the end of 2020, for implementation from 2021, and the Partnership will help monitor the delivery of the plan, and advise on its annual updating and enhancement.
- 4) The second responsibility of the Partnership shall be to advise on the establishment by the Combined Authority of a broad-based **Liverpool City Region Climate Panel**, which will act as a **Forum** which engages and communicates with the widest possible range of stakeholders with an interest in developing the Action Plan and supporting its implementation.
- 5) It is envisaged that the early members of this Panel shall include the range of organisations who were partners in or contributed to the Year of Environment 2019, as well as many other committed groups from across the City Region.
- 6) The third initial responsibility of the Partnership shall be to oversee the establishment and delivery of a **Liverpool City Region Community Environment Fund**, including establishment of the criteria for the fund and agreement of the mechanism by which grants will be awarded.
- 7) Membership of the Partnership shall be reviewed by the Authority on an annual basis, and the Authority may agree further co-options during the year.
- 8) Membership of the Partnership is on an individual basis, but members may nominate a named alternative, should that be necessary.
- 9) However in certain cases, with agreement from the Chair, membership of the Partnership can be rotated to other individuals within the member's organisation.
- 10) Meetings of the Partnership shall, in the initial phase, be held on a monthly basis, but this may evolve over time.
- 11) The Partnership may establish Working Groups/ Task and Finish groups to help it fulfil its responsibilities, and to ensure all relevant expertise is engaged. To that end also, it may commission specific pieces of work or issue calls for evidence and organise listening events or evidence taking sessions.
- 12) The Partnership shall aim to work by consensus, but if votes are taken, this shall be on a majority basis with the Chair having a casting vote.
- 13) Members are expected to declare an interest as appropriate.

APPENDIX B



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LIVERPOOL CITY REGION

LCR Climate Action Plan: Key Principles

Purpose

The purpose of the Climate Action Plan is to create a clear framework for actions to achieve the city region climate and sustainability goals.

Principles

Liverpool City Region recognises that Climate change is the biggest challenge we face not just as a city region but as a society. Often the people who are most vulnerable to the impacts of climate and ecological breakdown are those who are least likely to have contributed to the human causes of the emergency. The Climate Action Plan will be driven by 'climate justice' and aims to put fairness, equality and inclusion at the heart of the city region's response to climate change.

The Climate Action Plan will:

- **Recognise the urgency** of the climate and ecological emergency and the need for rapid transformative action.
- **Set out the scale of the challenge** – where do we need to be on the net zero pathway by 2030? What must our priorities be to get to that point? How will we measure our progress?
- **Set out regular and clear 'check-in' points**, so that everyone can understand what progress we are making as a City Region.
- **Adopt a robust, evidence-led approach**, building on the strengths of the City Region's academic community to set challenging yet achievable goals.
- **Build in flexibility** – so that we can include innovative new technologies, the latest scientific thinking and respond to new opportunities as they arise.
- **Plan for the change to climate and weather patterns** that is already inevitable – protecting our most vulnerable residents and businesses from harmful impacts.
- **Address issues of inequality and fairness**, so that everyone in Liverpool City Region benefits from the cleaner, greener future that we are building.
- **Include actions in multiple spheres of influence**, ranging from actions that we can take ourselves, to the influence we can have on decisions taken by others.
- **Be transparent and understandable** – setting out the basis behind each action point, why it is important and what will be crucial to successful achievement.
- **Reflect the interconnected nature of climate actions** – aiming to promote understanding of the complex interconnections that exist between different priorities and seeking to achieve a sustainable way forward.
- **Be collaborative in nature**, allowing all parts of the community to have an input into the development process and fostering a sense of ownership in the plan.
- **Contribute to an environmentally beneficial post-COVID recovery across the Liverpool City Region.**
- **Seek alignment with the Climate Emergency plans of the 6 Local Authorities within the Combined Authority**, whilst respecting their unique characteristics and priorities.
- **Ensure integration with various Combined Authority strategies policies and groups**, for example; Industrial Strategy, Air Quality Commission, Transport, Waste, Housing and Energy Strategies, Spatial Development Strategy, Social Justice Commission.