

<b>Report For:</b>	<b>Executive</b>
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	20 September 2022
<b>Report Of:</b>	<b>Service Director – Sustainable Development</b>
<b>Report Author:</b>	<b>Katarzyna Wysocka</b>
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Draft Luton Net Zero Roadmap</b>
<b>Lead Executive Member(s):</b>	Cllr Shaw
<b>Wards Affected:</b>	Borough-wide
<b>Consultations:</b>	<div>Councillors <input type="checkbox"/></div> <div>Scrutiny <input type="checkbox"/></div> <div>Stakeholders <input type="checkbox"/></div> <div>Others <input type="checkbox"/></div>

## Recommendations

1. That the Executive is recommended to:
  - (i) Support Luton Council's commitment to a set of carbon reduction objectives as listed in paragraphs 15-20.
  - (ii) Acknowledge that the draft Luton Net Zero Roadmap is the town's guiding document in achieving net zero by 2040, providing a clear timeline, pathways and milestones.
  - (iii) Approve releasing of the draft Luton Net Zero Roadmap for public consultation, with the outcomes of this consultation and final document to be presented to the Executive for adoption and action.

## Background

2. The Council has declared a climate emergency in Jan 2020 and commissioned Anthesis to provide the evidence base for the first Climate Change Action Plan.
3. Public meeting to discuss the action plan was held in Feb 2020, however further public debate and engagement was curtailed by Covid-19.
4. Since March 2020 a number of high value projects significantly impacting on carbon emissions' reduction had been underway including £34M external wall insulation of 10 highrise blocks, £7.7M investment in 16 schools and public buildings to provide IoT lighting, heat pumps and PV panels. 95% of street lights have been converted to LEDs.
5. Climate change awareness raising also took place. An e-learning module had been developed for council staff and elected members. A Climate Change Guide for residents and refreshed advice for home energy improvements have been published on the council website.
6. In Dec 2021 Aether had been employed to develop a Net Zero Roadmap for the council and town that would present in a visually attractive and incremental way the opportunities and steps that need to be taken during the next 2-3 years and the broader direction and pathways to net zero carbon by 2040.

7. Aether have undertaken a review of the baseline emissions data and gap analysis of council policies, held two workshop sessions and 13 in-depth interviews with officers from key service areas. Online co-creation sessions were organised with businesses and anchor organisations, environmental activists, Climate Change Advisory Board and all Members.
8. The figure below illustrates the Net Zero Roadmap development process. **The current stage is the 'Draft Roadmap'.**



9. The draft Roadmap comprises of the following deliverables:
  - i. The Luton Net Zero Roadmap – one page - Appendix 1
  - ii. The Luton Net Zero Roadmap - report - Appendix 2
  - iii. The Luton Net Zero Roadmap – climate change policy and action plan – Appendix 3

## The Current Position

10. The Luton Net Zero Roadmap distinguishes three main stages for the transition:
  - i. **Setting the Foundations** – planning and learning - the next 5 years
  - ii. **Scaling up** – supported transition - late 2020s into 2030s
  - iii. **Reaching net zero** – widespread implementation – 2030s
11. The Roadmap report lists priority objectives and key actions for the main sectors needing carbon reduction. The key actions fall into the three stages as above – Foundations, Scaling Up and Reaching Net Zero.
12. Suitable funding streams need to be identified and / or development of innovative financing mechanisms needs to take place with the help and support from wider range

of stakeholders. These will need to be promoted to key regional, national and international organisations with the aim of bringing forward the necessary funding programmes to Luton.

13. Significant external grant funding is required to deliver many of the town wide schemes outlined in the Roadmap, however the council can provide leadership and demonstrate best practice with its buildings, fleet, active travel, resource management, biodiversity and housing projects.

## **Goals and Objectives**

14. For the key areas, the high level aims and objectives for the Council and external stakeholders are outlined below:

15. Homes

- Improve building fabric such as walls and roofs to reduce energy needs (the “fabric first” approach)
- Replace gas fired heating systems with electric heating, including heat pumps
- Increase the amount of renewable electricity through roof solar photovoltaics (PV)
- Enable new jobs through providing training for new skills (such as whole house retrofit, installing heat pumps, EV chargers etc)

16. Non-residential buildings

- Improve energy efficiency and increase on site renewable electricity generation
- Replace gas fired heating systems to zero carbon sources including heat pumps
- Increase the amount of renewable electricity through rooftop solar PV
- Improve efficiencies in manufacturing systems

17. Transport and active travel

- Promote walking and cycling for shorter trips
- Promote public transport for longer journeys and accessing the airport
- Increase electric vehicle charging network for public, council and taxi use
- Use of biofuels in place of petrol and diesel where electric vehicles are not yet available

18. Luton Airport

- To work with the Airport Operator to deliver carbon neutral airport ground operations by 2030 and net zero by 2040, and to deliver carbon neutral surface access by 2040.
- Playing their part in delivering the Government's ambition of net zero aviation through supply of sustainable aviation fuels and support for electric aircraft

19. Waste and consumer choices

- A thriving green and circular economy, with businesses providing accessible low carbon services and offering sustainable, local and healthy products

- Residents are aware of best practice waste management and are empowered to prevent waste and to recycle

## **20. Biodiversity and resilience**

- Work towards increasing tree canopy by 1 hectare in 5 years
- Increase access to green space for residents and improve biodiversity in gardens and public spaces
- Connect the Town Centre more to nature, with residents feeling ownership over green space
- Improve climate resilience to reduce the impact of extreme weather: heatwaves and heavy rainfall

- 21.** As the council's direct and indirect emissions (Scope 1&2 in the Green House Gases Protocol) represent less than 3% of Luton's emission, central to the Roadmap report is the message that we all - residents, businesses and communities - have a role to play and Luton will only achieve net zero with everyone actively involved.
- 22.** The council is committed to town-wide vision for Luton as a place to thrive where no-one has to live in poverty. Building sustainable partnerships is seen as key to successful delivery of carbon reduction at the scale that is required to achieve the town wide ambition of net zero carbon and climate resilience by 2040.
- 23.** In achieving the key strategic aim of being a carbon neutral town by 2040, the council is committed to providing leadership to all sectors of the borough in helping to achieve a greener future. The council will champion climate change with key partners and organisations nationally, regionally and at a local level with the community and businesses.
- 24.** The Council will ensure that there is strong engagement with the community and make sure that there is access to appropriate resources and materials to support education and culture change.
- 25.** Though there is no statutory obligation to provide climate and resilience leadership, it is a key priority in our 2040 Vision and helps to create a better town to live and work.

## **Proposal**

- 26.** That the Draft Zero Roadmap is released for public consultation, with the outcomes of this consultation and the final document to be presented to the Executive for adoption.

## **Key Risks**

- 27.** It should be noted that actions and recommendations proposed in the Net Zero Roadmap documents are subject to funding and deliverability. Further work is required on the cost of implementation of individual actions.
- 28.** Lack of understanding and engagement from the community, stakeholders & residents is a key risk in achieving required levels of carbon reduction to meet the 2040 net zero target.
- 29.** Deliverability is reliant on government and national organisations to provide key external funding and support, which can be subject to change and significant impacts dependent from other regional, national and international priorities.

30. The council cannot be seen to be the sole deliverer of projects, schemes and innovation. The council operates in the context of national policy and regulations that may be subject to change. Changes to the regulatory environment may impact on the deliverables and ambitions of a net zero UK.

## Consultations

31. As part of the development of the draft Roadmap we have had a number of workshops with officers, stakeholders and community. The draft report Roadmap was taken to Overview and Scrutiny Board and their comments have been incorporated.

## Alternative options considered and rejected (please specify)

32. Although the production and adoption of a Net Zero Roadmap is not a statutory requirement, not producing one was rejected, as the Roadmap is considered key to our net zero aims of the 2040 Vision.
33. Not seeking stakeholder and public views on a key strategic document was rejected, as public ownership of the Roadmap is seen as key to a successful implementation of town wide carbon reductions.
34. Though producing a Net Zero Roadmap is not a statutory obligation, it will provide key guidance on how the town can work towards becoming net zero by 2040. It will outline key milestones and wider stakeholder engagement needed to achieve our targets for the borough. Public opinion will shape the direction of travel we take and the opportunities we should prioritise to help us achieve this ambition. Public consultation is seen as key approach in helping to understand the public's understanding and opinions.

## Appendices Attached

Appendix 1 Draft Luton Net Zero Roadmap – one page

Appendix 2 Draft Luton Net Zero Roadmap – report

Appendix 3 Draft Luton Net Zero Roadmap – climate change policy and action plan

Appendix 4 Integrated Impact Assessment

## List of Background Papers - Local Government Act 1972, Section 100D

[LBC Climate Action Plan Support, Jan 2020 by Anthesis](#)

## Implications - an appropriate officer must clear all statements

For CLMT only Legal and Finance are required

### Required

Item	Details	Clearance Agreed By	Dated
<b>Legal</b>	The Roadmap does not currently have a statutory legal basis rather it is a framework to provide guidance for project delivery.	Rachael Campbell – Litigation Officer	22/08/2022

Item	Details	Clearance Agreed By	Dated
<b>Finance</b>	Roadmap activities are high level and most will need to be funded from external sources. Some current activities are being delivered across the council within existing budgets. Any new projects that may require council resources would be subject to the Capital Programme approval process. The cost of the Roadmap consultation itself will be met from existing budgets.	Roy Baker – Principal Accountant (Inclusive Economy)	23/08/2022
<b>Equalities / Cohesion / Inclusion (Social Justice)</b>	The Roadmap is expected to have a positive impact on the protected groups related to race, disability and age, especially around improved conditions of housing and air quality co-benefits.	Maureen Drummond, Equality and Diversity Adviser	23/08/2022
<b>Environment</b>	The Luton Roadmap will have a positive impact on a wide range of environmental benefits including reducing carbon emissions, air pollution, promotion of active travel and bio-diversity.	Shaun Askins – Service Manager Strategy & Sustainability	23/08/2022
<b>Health</b>	The Roadmap will provide a framework for positive actions, which will provide both direct and indirect health benefits to the residents of the town, especially related to thermal comfort in the home and increased physical activity.	Susan Milner Interim Consultant	23/08/2022

## Optional

Item	Details	Clearance Agreed By	Dated
<b>Community Safety</b>			
<b>Staffing</b>			
<b>Other</b>			