

DECISION-MAKER:	OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
SUBJECT:	GREEN CITY CHARTER UPDATE
DATE OF DECISION:	10 OCTOBER 2019
REPORT OF:	CABINET MEMBER FOR GREEN CITY AND ENVIRONMENT

CONTACT DETAILS

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STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY

None

BRIEF SUMMARY

The introduction of a Green City Charter ('the Charter') and subsequent delivery of a Green City Delivery Plan is intended to support and facilitate the delivery of the Council's existing priority outcomes, refresh existing activities, and deliver new ones. It will ensure that environmental impacts are given due consideration in the delivery of services and decision making and where possible ensure we maximise the opportunity to deliver benefits. It will provide an opportunity to satisfy the expectations and ambitions identified in the Clean Air Zone Consultation exercise. Southampton City Council will seek to encourage city stakeholders to adopt the same set of principles and deliver their own actions by signing up to the Charter. It will encourage all stakeholders, including business, community groups and public sector organisations, to work together to deliver a shared outcome, making Southampton a cleaner, healthier, more sustainable and attractive environment for all.

It is important to ensure that economic growth of the city is supported, but that this delivers a green and sustainable environment that will be resilient to the challenges of climate change. A move towards a low carbon, cleaner economy and greener landscape will enable the city to grow and evolve as a modern, healthy and attractive place to live, work and do business.

The Charter is intended to identify priorities and commitments that will facilitate the Council and other city partners and stakeholders to deliver actions that will:

- minimise the impact of climate change and inform our response to the climate emergency;
- reduce pollution and waste;
- reduce health inequalities and;
- shift to a sustainable and carbon free economy.

The Charter identifies a clear set of priorities which satisfy the local need and appetite for change, whilst being aligned with national priorities.

This report provides an update on the adoption and implementation of the Green City Charter and subsequent development of the Green City Delivery Plan.

RECOMMENDATIONS:		
	(i)	That the Committee notes the attached update on the adoption and implementation of the Green City Charter and subsequent development of the Green City Delivery Plan.
REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS		
1.		An update has been provided at the Committee's request.
ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED		
2.		Not applicable.
DETAIL (Including consultation carried out)		
3.		In 2018 the Council undertook a consultation exercise to seek opinions on measures needed to improve local air quality. The Council had been required by government to assess if a Clean Air Zone (CAZ) was needed to deliver compliance with the European Union's limit level for Nitrogen Dioxide. As a result of the consultation and technical assessments a package of measures was agreed with, and funded by government, to ensure likelihood of compliance. However, the consultation illustrated that there was expectation to achieve more than the CAZ project could deliver. A new set of objectives and actions would be needed if this greater ambition were to be satisfied.
4.		Government published 'A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment' in January 2018. This identifies key environmental benefits and pressures and sets out goals and targets for improving the environment within a generation. It details how government will work with communities and businesses to do this. Government also published its Clean Air Strategy on 14 th January 2019, which aligns with SCC's ambitions to improve air quality and protect the health of Southampton's residents.
5.		A Green City Charter for Southampton was proposed as a vehicle to harness the aspiration and enthusiasm seen during the Clean Air Zone Consultation, seek to maintain and even accelerate the momentum apparent during this exercise, and ensure Southampton's priorities are aligned with Government. As such it will assist in ensuring Southampton is well placed to benefit from the support, initiatives and funding that is likely to emerge from Government.
6.		A Green City Working Group comprising of Council officers from across its services has been established to support the delivery of the Charter and a Green City Delivery Plan.
7.		Internal and external stakeholder engagement was undertaken to develop the Charter. The remit was to ensure the Charter was appropriate in its scope, focused on the key priorities, capable of delivering the positive outcomes expected and inclusive to all.
8.		A draft Green City Charter was first presented to Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee on 4th April 2019. This was later adopted by Cabinet on 16th April 2019. The Green City Charter, attached as Appendix 1, provides a vision for a "cleaner, greener, healthier and more sustainable city and sets out nine aspirations for stakeholders to pursue in order to achieve

	that goal. This was launched on 20th June 2019 and to date 76 signatories have signed up to the Charter.
9.	<p>Development of the Council's Green City Delivery Plan is now being progressed. The Delivery Plan will establish the key actions that the Council needs to take facilitate the delivery of our Green City commitments. This process involves;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • measuring existing activity and progress; • identifying what additional activity and resources are required; • establishing priorities and timeframes and; • mechanisms for measuring and managing progress and performance. <p>A draft version of the Delivery Plan is expected to be available as part of an engagement exercise this month.</p>
10.	Southampton City Council is already actively delivering schemes that support sustainable living and the Charter. These include the Clean Air Strategy, the MyJourney sustainable travel programme, Fuel Poverty Action Plan and CitizEn Energy.
11.	A more detailed list of existing commitments either due to be delivered, being progressed, or, completed in recent months is included in Appendix 2. This represents the current Green City Programme. A further selection of activities are case studied in Appendix 3.
12.	It is evident that there is significant scope to build on our current activities and a need to pursue a wider range of opportunities to satisfy the Charter's vision.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Capital/Revenue

13.	A budget allocation of £30,000 was agreed by Council for 2019/20 to enable the delivery of the Green City Charter. This has been used to support the internal and external engagement needed to introduce the Charter and begin development of the Delivery Plan.
14.	Included within the overall capital programme are projects totalling approximately £60m which contribute towards SCC's Green City programme. These projects are split across a number of portfolios and over the next 5 years it is anticipated that we will spend in the region of £36m improving HRA homes to be more energy efficient, £9m on reducing road congestion, £8m improving cycle ways, £3m investing in public transport and £4m on smaller projects including improving our green spaces and investing in electric vehicles.
15.	The Charter represents an opportunity to establish more ambitious improvements through alternative long term, far reaching projects which will be developed during an Action Planning phase. This will involve a full assessment of the financial implications of proposed actions that are not covered by existing budgets, the identification of appropriate funding streams

	(including new grant opportunities) and ensuring project approvals are made in line with financial regulations.
16.	The Council will shortly publish the draft Medium Term Financial Plan which will contain the proposed budget for 2020/21 to 2023/24. This will detail the revenue and capital budgets to be allocated to support development and implementation of the Green City Delivery Plan.
17.	The Council is currently conducting a resourcing review, the result of which will soon be implemented to ensure that Council staffing resources are focused on the delivery of the Council's top priorities, the Green City Charter being one of these.
<u>Property/Other</u>	
18.	None associated directly with adoption of the Charter. Actions to be delivered through the Delivery Plan will identify specific implications that subsequently emerge.
LEGAL IMPLICATIONS	
<u>Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:</u>	
19.	s.1 Localism Act 2011 allows the Council to do anything deemed necessary or desirable to deliver or support its functions and duties providing that action is not otherwise prohibited by statute (the general power of competence). The preparation and delivery of a Green City Delivery Plan is authorised by virtue of s.1.
<u>Other Legal Implications:</u>	
20.	The contents of the Green City Delivery Plan may be authorised by a variety of statutory powers and duties, depending on what those actions are. Legal powers to undertake those actions emerging from the Charter will be further investigated as part of the delivery process and be subject to the democratic process as applicable. In undertaking the preparation of the Charter and subsequent actions the Council needs to have regard to the impact of any proposals on protected characteristics under the Equalities Act 2010 and s.17 Crime & Disorder Act (the duty to reduce or remove opportunities for crime and disorder in the area) as well as the duty to secure the rights and freedoms protected under the Human Rights Act 1998. These duties will be addressed by the preparation of an Equalities and Safety Impact Assessment ('EISA'). The Council also has various duties under the Environment Act 1995 and Environmental Protection Act 1990 to address air quality and other environmental pollutants and the proposals under the Charter will assist in delivering this duty.
RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS	
21.	There could be potential reputational risk for SCC if it is not seen to be 'delivering' the stated commitments in the Green City Charter. The Green City Working Group provides the opportunity to track and collate information on the work programmes and then maintain and publish information relating to performance of the Green City Charter and Delivery Plan. That in turn can be presented routinely to the Cabinet Member for Green City and Environment for scrutiny.

POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS	
22.	The Green City Charter and associated Delivery Plan supports the delivery of the Council Strategy 2016-2020 outcome “People in Southampton live safe, healthy, independent lives”.
23.	The Green City Charter and associated Delivery Plan supports the delivery of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2017-2025 outcomes “People in Southampton live active, safe and independent lives” and “Inequalities in health outcomes are reduced”.
24.	The Green City Charter and associated Delivery Plan supports the Clean Air Strategy by providing a mechanism to deliver further improvements in local air quality.
25.	The Green City Charter and associated Delivery Plan is consistent with the principles outlined in the Government’s Environment Strategy, 'A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment' and their Clean Air Strategy.
KEY DECISION	No
WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:	None directly as a result of this report
<u>SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION</u>	
Appendices	
1.	A Green City Charter for Southampton
2.	Green City Programme (Committed Actions)
3.	Case Studies
Documents In Members’ Rooms	
1.	None
Equality Impact Assessment	
Do the implications/subject of the report require an Equality and Safety Impact Assessments (ESIA) to be carried out?	No
Data Protection Impact Assessment	
Data Protection Impact Assessment Do the implications/subject of the report require a Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) to be carried out?	No
Other Background Documents - Equality Impact Assessment and Other Background documents available for inspection at:	
Title of Background Paper(s)	Relevant Paragraph of the Access to Information Procedure Rules / Schedule 12A allowing document to be Exempt/Confidential (if applicable)
1.	None