

DECISION-MAKER:	Cabinet
SUBJECT:	UK100 Membership
DATE OF DECISION:	29 November 2023
REPORT OF:	COUNCILLOR KEOGH CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT

<u>CONTACT DETAILS</u>			
Executive Director	Title	Executive Director for Place	
	Name:	Adam Wilkinson	Tel: 023 8083 5853
	E-mail:	Adam.wilkinson@southampton.gov.uk	
Author:	Title	Sustainable Projects Lead	
	Name:	Jessica Lewis	Tel: 023 8083 2338
	E-mail:	Jessica.lewis@southampton.gov.uk	

STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY	
Not applicable	
BRIEF SUMMARY	
<p>Southampton City Council (SCC) declared a climate emergency in 2019 and soon after set itself the challenge of being a net zero carbon organisation by 2030 in its Green City plan. The Southampton City Council Corporate Plan (2022-2030) sets a vision for a zero carbon city by 2035.</p> <p>UK100 is an organisation that offers its members a number of benefits that support their transition to net zero. Members are required to sign a Net Zero Pledge to demonstrate their commitment to reducing emission in their area. It is proposed that SCC signs the UK100 Pledge and joins their membership.</p> <p>UK100 have a further focus on clean air policy and can offer additional support to assist SCC in the delivery of delivering ongoing improvements in local air quality as established in its Clean Air Policy and Air Quality Action Plan.</p>	
RECOMMENDATIONS:	
(i)	Approve Southampton City Council's membership of UK100 and delegate authority to the Executive Director for Place to sign their Net Zero Pledge subject to the adoption of its Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan and, to renew the membership annually following consultation with the Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport.
REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS	
1.	Membership of UK100 offers access to support and resources to assist SCC to deliver on its commitments to net zero and clean air.

2.	Through UK100 membership, SCC is provided with an opportunity to collaborate with other Local Authorities to share best practice to benefit our own activities. In addition, we would have access to business and industry to help problem solve some of the barriers to achieving net zero and improving air quality. Reputationally we would be aligning with local and national leaders in our ambitions and demonstrating our commitment to the targets we have set.
3.	It provides an opportunity to collectively lobby government for improvements in net zero and air quality policy and regulation that can benefit our local area.
ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED	
4.	To not join UK100. There is no cost associated with membership and members have access to a number of benefits that promise an opportunity to support their activities in respect to climate change, clean energy and local air quality.
DETAIL (Including consultation carried out)	
5.	UK100 is a cross-party membership organisation that that provides a network for local leaders who support a local-led rapid transition to Net Zero and Clean Air. It offers the opportunity for member to collaborate, learn together and agree on priorities for legislative and regulatory change while empowering them to engage with national decision-makers. Members are promised resources, tools and connections to make this happen.
6.	<p>Membership of UK100 supports local authorities by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • facilitating dialogue with national politicians and senior officials across Whitehall, amplifying the voices of local leaders via collective advocacy to national government, • enabling knowledge sharing between members including meetings, webinars, roundtables and workshops, and promoting best practice via social media (Twitter and LinkedIn) and newsletters, • providing tailored insights, evidence and recommendations on the challenges and solutions to local Net Zero, inviting members to inform and participate in research, • connecting local leaders with world-leading business and industry to help local authorities plan and implement the solutions needed to reduce emissions in their local area, • demonstrating the collective ambition, commitment and ability of democratically elected local leaders to deliver Net Zero. <p>Local authorities have access to members-only programmes and services, including briefings on their research and publications.</p>
7.	SCC has historically been a member of UK100 and was a particularly active member when determining how it could ensure compliance with EU air quality standards (2018 to 2020). Membership is renewed annually.
8.	From November 2020, councils wishing to join and maintain membership with UK100 have been asked to sign the UK100 Net Zero Pledge. The pledge is designed to demonstrate the ambition and ability of democratically elected local leaders to deliver net zero. SCC's adopted net zero ambitions and targets at that time were not aligned with the Pledge and the membership

	lapsed. Since then, SCC has introduced further clarity on its net zero ambitions and established targets that are aligned with the UK100 Pledge.
9.	<p>UK100's Net Zero Pledge requires the following commitments from SCC:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Councils should have set ambitious Net Zero targets for greenhouse emissions of 2030 for council operations and 2045 for areawide emissions at the latest. 2. Councils should report their carbon emissions annually, for scope 1 and scope 2, for council emissions and areawide emissions. 3. Councils should commit to limiting the use of offsets, and if used, to be as local as possible. <p>These are fulfilled by existing commitments that are detailed in the strategies and plans listed below:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Green City Plan sets a target for Southampton City Council to be a net zero carbon organisation by 2030. 2. The Southampton City Council Corporate Plan (2022-2030) sets a target for a zero carbon city by 2035. <p>The proposed Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan support these ambitions and is applicable to the Council's operations and the city.</p>
11.	The Net Zero Pledge does not mandate local authorities to take any specific measures or adopt any specific policies to achieve their Net Zero targets.
12.	UK100 acknowledges that local authorities have limited control over emissions in their area and the areawide target is set on the basis that local leaders do everything within their power and influence to rapidly reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS	
<u>Capital/Revenue</u>	
13.	There are no direct financial implications as there is no cost for being a member of UK100. Membership does offer several benefits to support the council's capacity to deliver actions associated with those strategies listed above. There are ongoing work streams delivered by the Sustainability Team and across different services in the council such as in Transport and City Services. The Council's current commitment to net zero is outlined in the Green City Plan and proposed Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan. This consists of funded projects to help achieve net zero ambitions and any new projects or activities would be subject to a business case based on appropriate funding arrangements.
<u>Property/Other</u>	
14.	Not applicable

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:

- | | |
|-----|---|
| 15. | S.1 Localism Act 2011 empowers a Council to do anything an ordinary person could do for the benefit and improvement of its area (the general power of competence), subject to there being no statutory bar on taking such action. |
|-----|---|

Other Legal Implications:

- | | |
|-----|--|
| 16. | <p>The UK has a legally binding net zero target by 2050 and interim targets to reduce emissions by 78% by 2035. The net zero target was made legally binding by the Climate Change Act 2008 (2050 Target Amendment) Order 2019 and is monitored by the Climate Change Committee who set carbon budgets (interim targets) to measure progress.</p> <p>There are currently no net zero statutory targets for local authorities, but many, like SCC, have adopted commitments to reduce carbon emissions . These are often more ambitious than the national net zero targets with the intention of boosting local action.</p> <p>The UK100 Net Zero Pledge is not legally binding. UK100 will not take legal action if local authorities do not reach the targets set out as part of the UK100 Net Zero Pledge.</p> <p>Where any council adopts a net zero target, and sets it as an official policy, then elected members will be accountable in the same way they would be for other policies to which local authorities have publicly committed.</p> |
| 17. | The requirements of the UK100 Pledge would be delivered by the council's proposed Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan which has been subject to an Equality and Safety Impact Assessment. This is included in Appendix 2 to demonstrate how the council will satisfy its duties under s.149 of the Equalities Act 2010 when delivering on the Pledge. |

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

- | | |
|-----|--|
| 18. | <p>There is a risk that future activities and outputs produced by UK100 will not align with Southampton City Council policy or reflect its stance at any point in time. However, the current aims and objectives of UK100 are well defined and are aligned with SCC's. UK100 has previously undertaken consultations with its members when reviewing its activities or, proposes to pursue anything where it might be representing its members.</p> <p>SCC has the option to withdraw their membership at any time if they believe that UK100 is no longer representing the council's own principles. Membership can also be terminated by UK100 if a local authority no longer meets the membership criteria.</p> |
|-----|--|

POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS	
19.	The resources and benefits offered by UK100 membership will assist with delivery of; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corporate Plan 2022/30 (<i>becoming a Zero Carbon City by 2035</i>), • Green City Plan 2030 • Clean Air Strategy 2016-2025 • Air Quality Action Plan 2023-2028 • proposed Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan.

KEY DECISION?	No
WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:	All
<u>SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION</u>	
Appendices	
1.	UK100 Membership Pack and Pledge
2.	Equality and Safety Impact Assessment for proposed Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan

Documents In Members' Rooms

1.	None
Equality Impact Assessment	
Do the implications/subject of the report require an Equality and Safety Impact Assessment (ESIA) to be carried out.	The requirements of the UK100 Pledge would be delivered by the council's proposed Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan which has been subject to an ESIA and is included for reference.
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	
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.	Not applicable
2.	