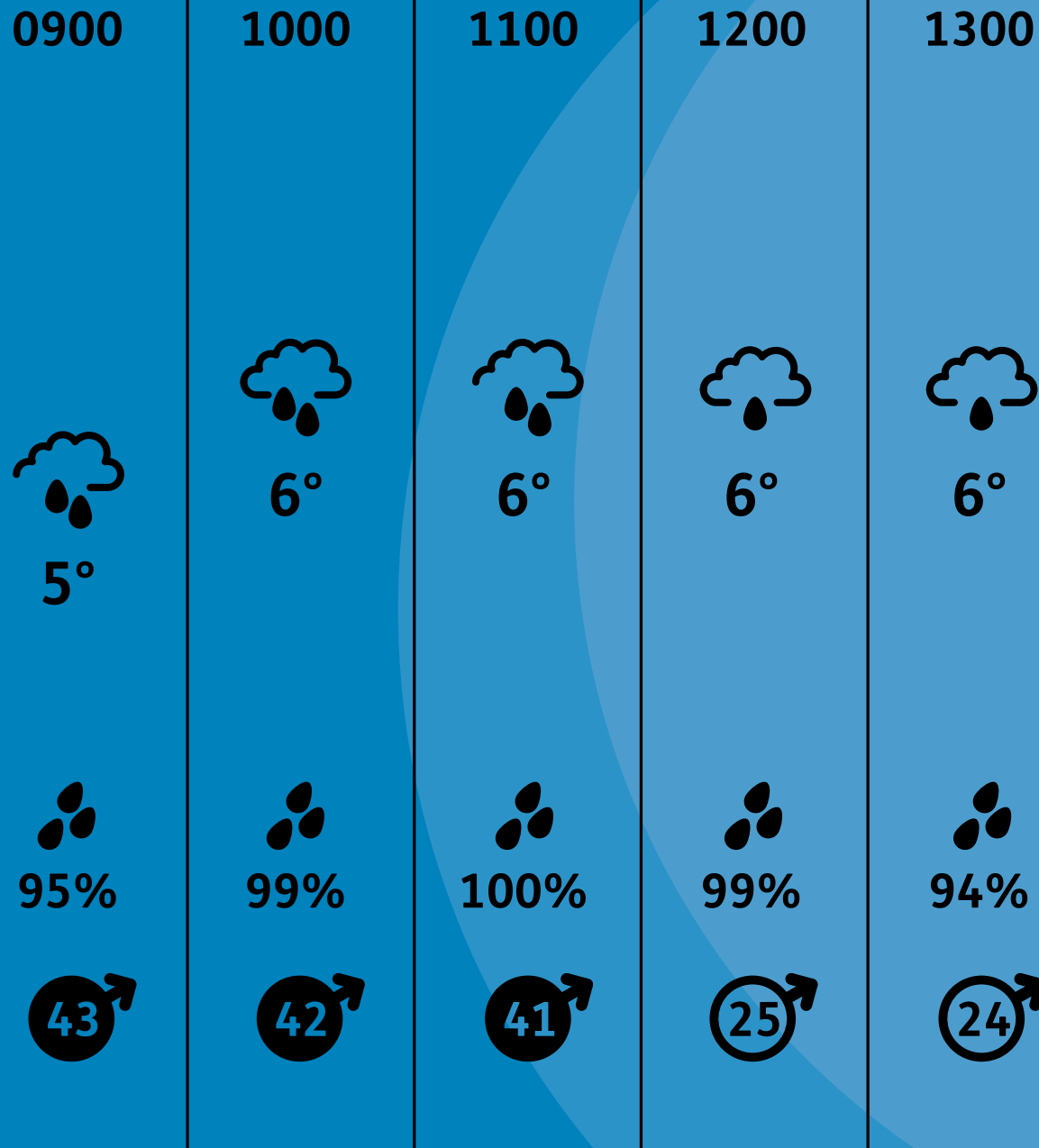


# Sefton Climate Emergency Strategy

What Sefton Council  
are doing about  
Climate Change



## Foreword

Climate change represents a significant threat to our future and preventing and protecting ourselves from climate change is a top priority.

Recent extreme weather events over several years have presented severe challenges to property, transport, agriculture and other services in the Sefton area and have led to the deaths and displacement of thousands of people worldwide.

The Meteorological Office clearly states that these kind of extreme weather events are significantly more likely if we take no action on reducing our carbon emissions; the main driver of man-made climate change.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is the United Nations body for assessing the science related to climate change. In their report “Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change 1.5C report”, published in October 2018, they conclude that humanity has 11 years for “ambitious action from national and sub-national authorities, civil society, the private sector, indigenous peoples and local communities” to deliver the “rapid and far reaching transitions in land, energy, industry, buildings, transport, and cities” needed to turn this around, so we can avoid reaching tipping points where we would no longer have the ability to avoid extreme weather events.

Children in Sefton will be in their teens and twenties in 11 years’ time. They deserve a liveable Sefton. We must act now to ensure this. Bold climate action can deliver economic benefits in terms of new jobs, economic savings and market opportunities, as well as improved wellbeing for people locally and worldwide.

Work on reducing carbon emissions does not start from a zero base. Sefton has been involved with numerous projects aimed at reducing emissions and will continue to do so, in the context of the climate emergency and with increased urgency.

This strategy sets out our vision and broad aims and objectives and represents our commitment to maximise the opportunity within climate action and to protect our communities from that damage already caused by climate change.

It will be followed by a series of implementation plans which will detail our journey towards net zero carbon operations by 2030.

We will report our progress in a series of Annual Reports, detailing actions taken so far and progress towards our 2030 net zero carbon target. The first of these will be available in July 2020.

We are committed to taking responsibility for our carbon emissions and playing our part in limiting global average temperature rises. Business as usual is no longer an option.

**Cllr Paulette Lappin**

# Introduction

Climate change represents a major threat to our planet, its people and its wildlife and the vast majority of the scientific community agree that urgent action must be taken to halt this change.

The climate has changed over millions of years; however, human activity and the burning of fossil fuels has caused the rate of change to increase.

This is not a prospect for our distant future, this change is happening now. The planet has already experienced abnormal heating of 1°C and the damaging impacts of climate change are already being felt across the world by animals and humans alike.

This strategy aims to ensure that Sefton plays its part in limiting global average temperature rises and responding to this significant threat to our planet.





## Context

The Sefton Council Climate Emergency Strategy has been developed in response to the declaration of a Climate Change Emergency on the 18<sup>th</sup> July 2019 by Sefton Council.

It will provide the basis for the development of future plans and represents a commitment from Sefton Council to taking on the Climate Change Emergency.

The United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is the leading global authority on climate change.

In 2018, the IPCC produced a report which stated that governments had 12 years to make significant changes in order to limit average global temperature rise to 1.5°C.

The voice of the global public has added to this pressure in recent years and this activism has prompted climate emergency declarations across the global

Sefton Council joins 60% of UK local authorities in declaring a climate emergency and a growing consensus worldwide that urgent action is needed.

Sefton cannot tackle climate change alone, but joining this community is an important step.



# Climate Emergency and Sefton

As a coastal borough, Sefton feels the effects of climate change more keenly than other parts of the UK.

The impacts for Sefton from a changing climate include, more extreme weather events. This could include warmer and wetter winters, hotter and drier summers, more frequent and intense storms and increased coastal flooding and erosion.

Work has been ongoing to prepare Sefton for extreme weather. The Shoreline Management Plan sets the coastal defence policy for up to 100 years. However, the deliverability of these policies will be affected by the changes in the climate.

Extreme weather will impact negatively on our communities and businesses and we must do all in our power to reduce the likelihood of an extreme weather event.

Sefton has a wealth of urban and open space that can be adapted to mitigate some of the predicted climate impacts. The opportunities exist to not only to mitigate climate impacts but also contribute to biodiversity and human health and wellbeing





## Vision

Sefton Council will focus its efforts on energy use reduction as well as exploring the potential for green infrastructure and offsetting.

We will approach this as an opportunity, not a challenge and ensure our whole community reaps the benefits of climate action.

This work will be aligned to the delivery of the Sefton 2030 Vision and the Council's Core Purpose with the aim of making Sefton a better place to live and work.



# Climate

All work related to our Climate Emergency will follow the principles of our **CLIMATE** strategy and each action will be carried out with one or more of these crucial principles in mind.

This document sets out seven key principles which make up our **CLIMATE** strategy:

## **C**arbon Reduction **L**eadership **I**nnovation **M**obilisation **A**daptation **T**ransformation **E**ngagement

### **C**arbon Reduction

We will achieve 100% clean energy by 2030 and reduce demand across our organisation to work towards becoming net carbon zero by 2030.

### **L**eadership

We will provide clear direction and leadership when tackling the Climate Emergency.

### **I**nnovation

We will consider and adopt innovative approaches to tackling climate change.

### **M**obilisation

We will mobilise the workforce to ensure that all strategic decisions that support the delivery of the Sefton 2030 Vision and Core Purpose are in line with the shift to net carbon zero by 2030.

### **A**daptation

We will assess and implement adaptation measures to ensure resilience to known climate change impacts.

We will assess and adapt the way we use and manage our landscape and our services.

### **T**ransformation

We will transform the way we live and work in response to this serious threat and change our culture and behaviours

### **E**ngagement

We will take views from the community to inform the development of our plans and engage with the wider community.

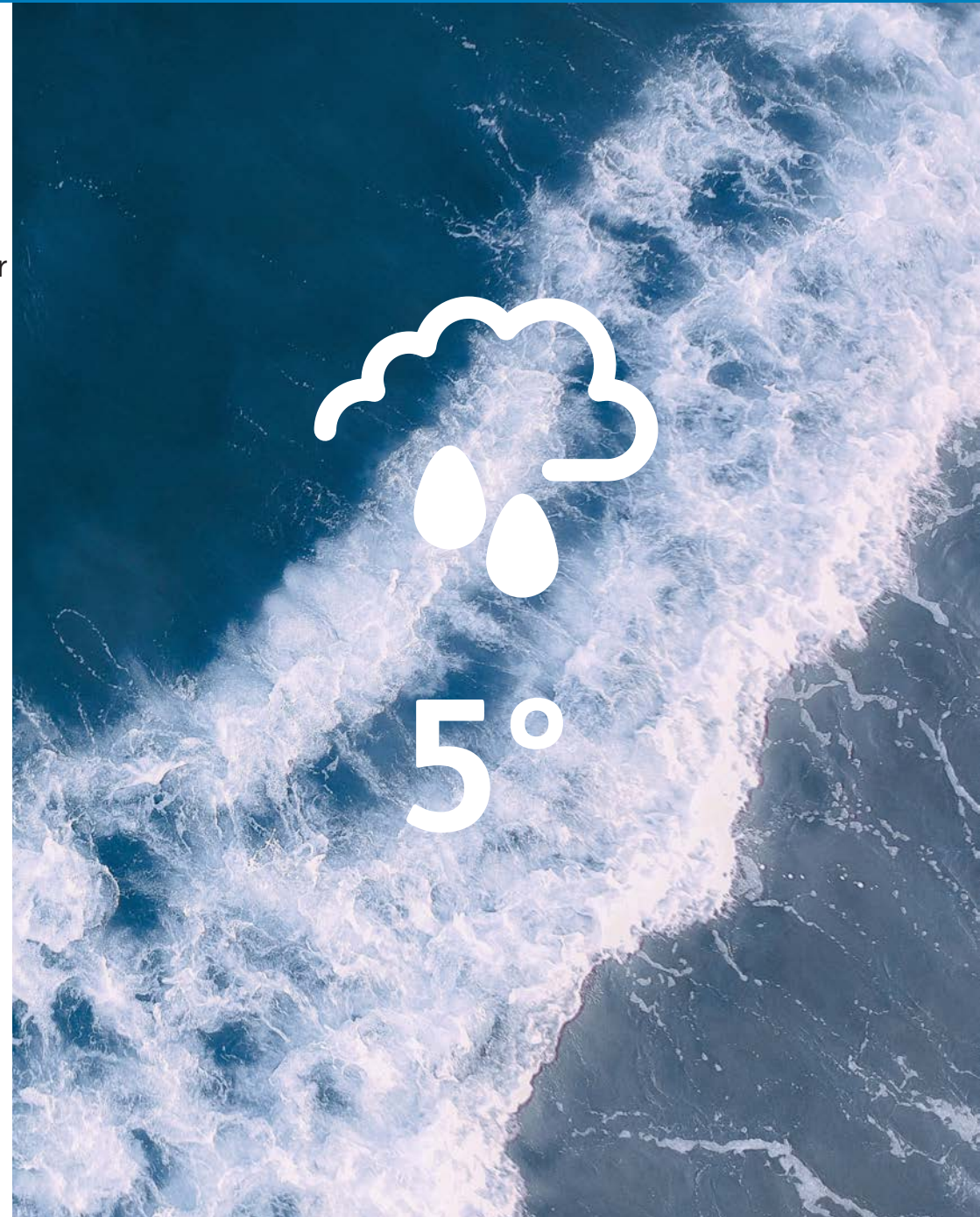
We will ensure all key stakeholders are aware of the climate emergency and encourage action across the borough.



## Objectives

Sefton Council have clear objectives for our climate action:

- To have established a clear baseline and full audit of all ongoing work that can contribute to the achievement of our net zero target.
- To have developed ambitious yet achievable targets for each of our proposed action plans based on our baseline evidence.
- To have achieved net carbon zero by 2030 and ensure all strategic decisions are in line with this target.
- To have raised awareness of the issues across the Council, our partners and our communities.
- To have engaged with young people and the wider community.
- To have embedded climate action and value into our decision making across the organisation.





# Approach

Sefton Council will define its emissions according to the Greenhouse Gas Protocol. This is the standard mechanism by which governments and local authorities measure and define their emissions.

**Scope 1:** Direct emissions which occur from sources that are owned or controlled by Sefton Council. E.g. Gas

**Scope 2:** Indirect emissions from the emissions generated when fuel is burned for the benefit of Sefton Council. E.g. Electricity

**Scope 3:** Indirect emissions which occur as a consequence of the activities of organisation. E.g. the extraction and production of purchased materials; transportation of purchased fuels; staff travel.

Sefton Council's Climate Emergency Declaration instructs the Council to make 'council operations' net zero carbon by 2030. This translates directly to Scope 1 and 2 against the Greenhouse Gas Protocol.

The declaration calls for wider action beyond the boundaries of our organisation. Therefore, work begins on measuring and addressing the emissions in Scope 3 and engaging with our community and partners to encourage vital action.

This strategy represents our broad direction of travel over the next decade on the journey to achieving net zero carbon by 2030 for council wide activities. Following this strategy, action plans will be produced detailing action to be taken to achieve our aims and strategic objectives.

Our immediate tasks are as follows:

- Establish a baseline figure for the carbon emissions of Sefton Council
- Identify all current projects that are taking place across the council that will support the delivery of the Council's Strategy
- Consider and define how the Sefton Strategy and implementation plan will align with the Liverpool City Region work being undertaken and that of key partners, for example, MerseyTravel, Merseyside Pension Fund
- Develop and resource the first 3-year implementation plan (2020-2023)
- Provide the first Annual Report to Council in July 2020.

## Glossary

Term	Definition
Adaptation	the process of adjustment to actual or expected climate change and its effects
Biodiversity	The diversity of flora and fauna in a habitat, it is best when biodiversity is high.
Carbon neutrality	Net zero carbon emissions by obtaining a balance between a measured amount of carbon released with an equivalent amount of carbon which has been offset or sequestered.
Carbon Reduction	Any activity that reduces carbon emissions. This can include: decreasing energy use or shifting to renewable energy use
Climate	Climate describes the average weather over a long period of time
Climate Change	A change in the state of the climate that can be identified over an extended period of time.
Greenhouse Gas	The atmospheric gases responsible for causing global warming and climate change, e.g. Carbon Dioxide (CO <sub>2</sub> ) and Methane (CH <sub>4</sub> )
UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change	Panel made up of global network of scientists convened to advise politicians on climate change.
Mitigation	Human intervention to reduce the sources or enhance carbon sinks for greenhouse gases.
Net zero carbon	achieving zero carbon emissions by balancing carbon emissions with carbon removal
Offsetting	Introducing measures which take up the carbon you produce, e.g. tree planting.
Weather	The conditions of the atmosphere over a short period of time in a particular place.
Zero Carbon	Eliminating all carbon emissions





