

# Low Carbon Transport Strategy Position Statement Introduction

## Introduction

Sefton Council has recognised the climate emergency and the urgent need for action to reduce Carbon emissions. The Council has committed to reducing its own direct and indirect emissions to Net Zero Carbon by 2030.

Transport-related activities make up almost one third (approximately 29%) of Carbon Dioxide emissions in the Liverpool City Region.

The Council also understands the important role it has to play in encouraging, supporting and enabling Sefton residents, businesses and visitors to reduce their Carbon emissions, in pursuit of the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority and UK Parliament Carbon reduction goals.

Sefton Council is developing a Low Carbon Transport Strategy (LCTS), and several supporting strategies to help us achieve these goals. The purpose of the LCTS is to help identify, prioritise and resource the actions needed and communicate what those actions are.

The Council had intended publishing its LCTS early in 2025, but we have chosen to delay this until several significant areas of uncertainty that will influence our strategy are clearer.

These include:

- *Integrated National Transport Strategy (INTS)* – in November 2024, the Government set out its high-level vision for an

Integrated National Transport Strategy, which it indicated would be published in summer 2025.

- *City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement (CRSTS)* – the CRSTS is Government funding for investment in the local transport network. The present settlement runs until 2027. The present settlement runs until 2027. In June 2025, the government confirmed allocation of a further £1,581m for the Liverpool City Region from 2027-2032 (now rebranded as Transportfor City Regions). The amount to be allocated to Sefton and the projects it will fund are currently being discussed and agreed with the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority.
- *Local Transport Plan 4 (LTP4)* – the Local Transport Plan shapes strategic action and investment on transport across the Liverpool City Region. Due to delays in the publication of national guidance on Local Transport Plans the completion and publication of the Liverpool City Region plan for the period 2025-2040 is unlikely to be finalised and published until mid-to-late 2025 when the national policy and funding is clearer.

In the meantime we are publishing this Low Carbon Transport Position Statement to

- reassure local people that the Council is continuing to work to address the climate emergency and pursue the above goals;
- help us communicate why we are taking certain actions and how they contribute to addressing the climate emergency and creating a cleaner, greener and healthier Sefton.

## What are we doing?

A wide range of actions is needed to reduce and remove transport-related Carbon emissions. These include measures to reduce carbon emissions from the Council's own activities and to help residents, businesses and visitors to reduce their carbon emissions.

These actions cannot and will not be delivered overnight. Some need substantial investment of time, energy and funding, while others require changes to how our towns and cities look and how people travel. These areas are set out below:

- *Staff Travel* – our staff have to travel to and from work, and many have to travel within the borough to do their job
- *Council work fleet and mobility* – the Council needs vehicles to deliver services. We have already switched some (e.g. small vans) to zero-emission vehicles, but others (e.g. recycling and refuse vehicles) are more difficult and costly. In some cases, practical replacements are not yet available.
- *Construction and embedded carbon* – construction activities create substantial carbon emissions, due to the nature of the materials used and the energy required to manufacture and install them (e.g. bitumen, steel, concrete)
- *Landscaping, maintenance and drainage* – action is needed to reduce carbon emissions from maintenance activity and also to reduce the impacts of climate change such as climate-related changes to weather, e.g. improving drainage systems and providing shade within urban areas.
- *Healthy places and active travel* – We need to support people to do more of their journeys -particularly short local journeys - by walking, wheeling (e.g. wheelchairs, mobility

aids, pushchairs) and cycling. These generate the lowest carbon emissions and are healthier for us all. We will seek to do this by making it safer, more convenient and more enjoyable to travel in these ways.

- *E-mobility and electric vehicles* – We need to support people to switch from petrol and diesel vehicles to electric vehicles by ensuring equitable access to Electric Vehicle Charging facilities.
- *Managing travel demand* – We also need to reduce the need for travel where possible and appropriate, facilitating more local access to work, services, facilities and recreation, connecting people through improved active travel infrastructure and cleaner, reliable and efficient public transport.

We are committed to working with our staff, residents, businesses, community groups and visitors, to fully understand what people need and support positive change. We will also work with the Government, the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority and other organisations to identify and deliver the necessary actions.

We have started work in all of the above areas, but have identified some as early priorities:

- *E-mobility and electric vehicles*

We are developing E-Mobility and Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Strategies. These will explain what the Council is doing to support the switch away from petrol and diesel, including seeking to ensure equitable access to electric vehicle charging infrastructure. We are working with the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority to secure

Government funding for improved access to charging facilities in Sefton in 2025.

During 2025, we will be consulting on our draft E-Mobility and Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Strategies and will commence the installation of new public electric vehicle charging facilities across the borough

- *Healthy places and active travel*

We are working with people to look at how we can make streets healthier and nicer places to be. We want them to be places that encourage people get around in an active, low carbon and healthy way. We want people and businesses to be able to travel and go about their work by electric vehicles such as e-bikes, e-cargo bikes, cars and vans. We are developing and delivering a range of projects which range in scale from minor to major schemes. We are also delivering a programme of School Streets and School Neighbourhoods, making it safer and more enjoyable to walk, wheel and cycle to school.

Later in 2025, we will be consulting on our Local Walking Cycling Infrastructure Plan, to make sure we understand correctly the journeys people make or want to make by walking, wheeling or cycling. We will also be setting out our 5–10-year plan for infrastructure delivery.

- *Landscaping, maintenance and drainage*

We have a major investment programme underway to change all of our street lighting to LED lighting, which improves lighting, and reduces energy use and carbon emissions. This has already reduced our energy consumption for street lighting by 58% and the associated

carbon emissions by more than 3,700 Tonnes of CO2 per year. We expect to finish this programme in 2026.

We have started looking at our road and street maintenance plans, to make sure that we create healthy and climate friendly streets that support a move to active, healthy and low carbon ways to travel. We are developing an Urban Greenways Strategy that will change and improve how we do things, helping to mitigate the impact of climate change and create greener, healthier, more biodiverse neighbourhoods.

In 2025, we will develop some Urban Greenway pilot sites to evaluate these new approaches.

- *Construction and embedded carbon*

We are working to correctly assess our carbon emissions and understand how we might change the materials and methods we use to reduce them.

If you want to understand more about the work we are doing, or want to know how you can get involved, then check our website.