

Cheltenham Borough Council

Cabinet – 28 May 2024

Updated Climate Emergency Action Plan

Accountable member:

Cllr Alisha Lewis, Cabinet Member

Accountable officer:

Maizy McCann

Ward(s) affected:

All

Key/Significant Decision:

No

Executive summary:

Cheltenham Borough Council declared a climate emergency in July 2019, the development of the Climate Emergency Action Plan: Pathway to Net Zero followed this and was approved by Council February 2022. The Action Plan details areas of focus and projects to deliver on, this has been under review and updated.

Working with the service teams across the Council, the document attached provides:

- a) A review of progress against the actions listed in the original plan and
- b) an updated plan looking forwards in order to expedite delivery of the 2030 targets.

Recommendations: That Cabinet:

- **approve and publish the updated Climate Emergency Action Plan.**
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1. Implications

1.1. Financial, Property and Asset implications

A costed plan with deliverables and milestones to address internal emissions is essential to drive delivery of the Climate Emergency Action Plan. Plans are being developed for each of the Council's key buildings as an essential first step during 2024.

CBH has separately drawn up a costed plan to retrofit existing social housing by 2030. As this exceeds the budget by four times, emission reduction will be brought forward as funding becomes available.

Signed off by: Gemma Bell, Director of Finance and Assets (Deputy Section 151 Officer)
gemma.bell@cheltenham.gov.uk

Legal implications

The overarching legislative context of the Council's Climate Emergency Action Plan: Pathway to Net Zero is the Climate Change Act 2008. This Act places a legal duty on central government to set legally binding targets to reduce UK greenhouse gas emissions to net-zero by 2050.

Where specific projects or actions are required going forward to support the Climate Emergency Action Plan and 'Cheltenham's Green Deal' (the Climate Change Investment Strategy) further legal advice and support should be sought.

The Council must ensure that any decisions taken must be in accordance with the Council's Constitution and Financial Rules, particularly in regard to decision making, implementation of strategy/action plans and any funding requirements.

Signed off by: One Legal, legalservices@onelegal.org.uk

1.2. Environmental and climate change implications

The updated climate action plan is designed to deliver against the Council's net zero commitments.

Signed off by: [Maizy McCann, Climate Emergency Officer,
maizy.mccann@cheltenham.gov.uk]

Corporate Plan Priorities

This report contributes to the following Corporate Plan priorities:

- Working with residents, communities and businesses to help make Cheltenham net zero by 2030.
- Ensuring residents, communities and businesses benefit from Cheltenham's future growth and prosperity.

1.3. Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Implications

The updated Climate Action Plan works in tandem with wider equality, diversity and inclusion

objectives. The plan is supported by the Climate Impact Assessment Tool which takes into account wider social value considerations to support a holistic and coherent approach to decision making, beyond simply considering climate ramifications.

Signed off by: Head of communities, wellbeing & partnerships,
richard.gibson@cheltenham.gov.uk

1.4. Performance management – monitoring and review

The submitted plan has clear accountabilities across the Council areas for delivering against the specific targets. Climate Programme Board will oversee the plan and ensure key personnel are involved to deliver against identified goals and that a funding plan is put in place to deliver against our targets.

2. Background

- 2.1. Cheltenham Borough Council has set an ambitious 2030 net zero target and has made a good start in terms of addressing emission reduction.
- 2.2. The plan has been reviewed and updated to:
 - focus effort on reducing key emissions internally and
 - to give us a clear focus to address emissions boroughwide in the three key areas: domestic heat emissions, business and industrial emissions and transport emissions.
- 2.3. Looking forwards, a costed plan to reduce our Scope 1 and 2 emissions to almost nothing must be developed and there is a requirement to explore the viability of compensating for the remaining emissions through mechanisms such as carbon-offsetting. Although we will address our Scope 3 emissions head on to reduce them, as far as possible, this may prove to be a longer process.
- 2.4. The plan includes delivery dates and has been devised with key accountabilities across the service areas of the Council to enable progress to be more accurately evaluated.

3. Reasons for recommendations

- 3.1. Progress will become more difficult to deliver over time without a costed plan.
- 3.2. Greater prioritisation around key areas of emissions will enable greater progress to be made, given the significant scale of the challenge.

4. Alternative options considered

- 4.1. n/a

5. Consultation and feedback

5.1. The updated action plan was drafted with the various service areas across the Council.

6. Key risks

6.1. See appendix 1.

Report author:

Maizy McCann

Appendices:

- i. Risk Assessment
- ii. Updated Climate Emergency Action Plan

Background information:

N/A

Appendix 1: Risk Assessment

Cheltenham Borough Council - Corporate Risk Register - Climate Target Risk

Risk Details	Risk Manager	Current Assessment (unmoderated)	Control Details	Risk Action	Review Date
Scope 1,2 & 3 Emissions					
Scope 1 & 2: CBH integration - carbon footprint for CBH will be integrated with CBC.	Frances Crick	Impact - 4 Probability - 5 Score - 20	There is a need to balance need for social housing volume & quality. Plan in place suggests funding would need to increase fourfold to achieve net zero target. Consider funding sources Ensure new housing stock is highly efficient.	Reduce	Q4 2024
Scope 1 & 2: Property Portfolio (key buildings including the Pool, Pittville Pump Room, Municipal Offices, Stadium etc).	Gemma Bell	Impact - 4 Probability - 4 Score - 16	Clear 10-15 year asset investment strategy in tandem with the Sports Strategy. Costed Proactive Maintenance Plan (incl. energy measures & paybacks) for each key asset Cabinet engagement - budget proposals Identify budget and funding for these works Plan in place for less critical assets	Reduce	Quarterly progress Q2 2024

Scope 1 & 2: Ubico emissions reduction plan incl. depot	Karen Watson	Impact - 3 Probability - 4 Score 12	Clear 10-15 year asset investment strategy required. Costed Proactive Maintenance Plan (incl. energy measures & paybacks) for depot Long term vehicle replacement strategy (beyond HVO) possibly hydrogen. Ubico-wide Long Term waste strategy	Reduce	Formulate plan to address during 2024
Scope 3 Supply Chain Targets	Claire Hughes	Impact -3 Probability - 4 Score - 12	Segmented strategic approach to emission reduction Development of internal procurement function with consideration of emission approach. Effective Offsets Strategy Put in Place Consideration of CBH scope 3 emission approach.	Reduce	30/09/2024
Organisational Resourcing in place to deliver plan	Ann Wolstencroft	Impact - 4 Probability - 3 Score - 12	Recruitment of Climate Change Manager & Provision of Director Level Support Effective Integration of CBH Administrative Support & retention of existing resources	Reduce	22/01/2024
External Borough Wide Emissions					
Domestic heat emissions account for 42% of borough wide emissions and are difficult to address given the high volume of listed buildings across	Climate Change Director (TBC)	Impact -3 Probability - 5	Formulate a clear retrofit strategy that fits alongside boroughwide approach Consider proactive development consent order to make it easier to retrofit historic properties.	Reduce	18/12/2024

Cheltenham and building net zero new houses is expensive. Councils are not encouraged to go beyond national targets to deliver highly efficient new homes.		Score - 15	Develop a local supply chain to deliver retrofit Consider funding/financing options		
Business and industrial emissions account for 32% of borough wide emissions. Although Cheltenham Zero has made a start to establish broad engagement, a segmented approach is needed to address emitters large and small to support emission reduction across the borough.	Climate Change Director (TBC)	Impact - 3 Probability - 4 Score - 12	Work with Key Emitters to address emission reduction barriers Provide support for smaller emitters and community groups to take tangible action around emissions Consider wider sustainability targets Rescope service provision and consider reputational impacts during transition	Reduce	30/06/2024
Golden Valley Development - If the development does not achieve the anticipated emission reduction then the planning permission maybe refused by Councillors or there is reputational risk given the ambitions outlined in the SPD.	Paul Minnis	Impact - 3 Probability - 4 Score - 12	Sessions with Councillors to build awareness around what can be achieved and issues inherent in delivering full net zero development.	Reduce	30/09/2023
Climate Adaptation Risks					
Identify and evaluate adaptation risks internally and borough wide, to ensure that these are taken into account in day to day decision making using the Climate Change Committee Framework	Climate Change Director (TBC)	Too early to say	Identify strategic adaptation risks to inform the SLP. Complete Climate Change Committee/Local Partnerships Framework to identify key risks enable Service Manager's to plan more effectively.	Reduce	30/09/2024

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