

**REPORT TO:** C&EAC

24 September 2019

**LEAD CABINET MEMBER:** Cllr Handley

**LEAD OFFICER:** Gemma Barron

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## **Zero Carbon Action Plan 2019-24 Report**

### **Executive Summary**

1. This report provides the C&EAC with the Council's agreed Zero Carbon Action Plan 2019-24, comprising 14 actions from the Council's Business Plan 2019-24 through which the Council will influence carbon emissions in South Cambridgeshire.
2. The report also proposes arrangements by which the Zero Carbon Action Plan 2019-24 will be monitored and the process for revisions and/or additions to the Plan.

### **Recommendations**

It is recommended that the C&EAC:

3. Notes the Zero Carbon Action Plan 2019-24
4. Considers, comments and agrees the proposed reporting arrangements for the Zero Carbon Action Plan 2019-24.
5. Considers, comments and agrees the proposed process for revising the Zero Carbon Action Plan 2019-24 and/or including additional actions.

### **Reasons for Recommendations**

6. The purpose of the C&EAC is to advise the Portfolio Holder responsible for climate change and environmental sustainability and for matters more specifically related to services or corporate direction, the relevant service Portfolio Holder or Cabinet, as appropriate, on matters relating to climate change and environmental sustainability including, but not limited to:
  - Understanding how climate change could affect the District Council's services and developing and recommending appropriate mitigating actions

- Reviewing the internal operations of the Council with a view to promoting sustainability, adopting best practice and strengthening the Council's environmental performance
  - Providing community leadership on climate change and sustainability, facilitating and engaging public sector partners, businesses, community groups and the public
  - Influencing and interpreting county, regional and national policy for the benefit of South Cambridgeshire
  - Making recommendations on bids for funding relating to climate change
7. The Zero Carbon Action Plan 2019-24 sets out the actions agreed in the Council's 2019-24 Business Plan through which the Council will influence the progressive reduction in carbon emissions produced in South Cambridgeshire.
  8. In order to meet its terms of reference, the C&EAC needs to be aware of the Zero Carbon Action Plan 2019-24 and arrangements for reporting progress and reviewing the Plan.
  9. The proposed arrangements for monitoring progress on the Zero Carbon Action Plan 2019-24 allow the C&EAC to provide appropriate advice to relevant lead Cabinet Members on actions in the Zero Carbon Action Plan 2019-24 and avoid duplicating the arrangements already in place for monitoring the Business Plan.
  10. The proposed process for revising the Zero Carbon Action Plan 2019-24 and/or including additional actions through the usual processes for revision of the Business Plan is necessary in order to ensure that the necessary resources to deliver actions are available.

## Details

11. The Council has agreed a far-reaching programme of action to accelerate the transition to zero carbon in the Business Plan 2019-24.
12. The Business Plan includes actions to quickly and significantly reduce the Council's own carbon footprint and actions which will result in reduced carbon emissions from the wider district.
13. The Zero Carbon Action Plan 2019-24 sets out these actions. It includes all relevant actions from the Business Plan and relevant additional detail where this is provided in the Business Plan. It also includes the putting in place of new governance and staffing arrangements.
14. The Zero Carbon Action Plan 2019-24 is organised into an initial section setting out changes to governance and staffing necessary for other actions to be taken, followed by:
  - Actions to reduce emissions for which the Council is directly responsible, ie its Estate and Operations
  - Actions in relation to emissions for which the Council is not directly responsible, but has a direct influence, eg through policy

- Actions in relation to emissions for which the Council is not directly responsible but can influence through communications, partnerships, etc
15. Each section of the Plan is then further divided into sector, ie residential, commerce and industry, transport, waste, land use and forestry. These sectors align with the data on carbon emissions by local authority available from the government's Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy Department.
  16. Actions completed in 2018-19, ie before commencement of the current plan are included for reference in a final section of the document.
  17. The Zero Carbon Action Plan is provided in Appendix A. A 'headlines' version of the Zero Carbon Action Plan consisting of 14 actions is provided in Appendix B.

### **Proposed arrangements for reporting and revising the Zero Carbon Action Plan**

18. Plans and progress reports providing detail on the high level actions which make up the Zero Carbon Action Plan will be provided to the C&EAC in order that they can advise the lead Cabinet Member for the relevant service. A schedule of reports will be agreed in due course for inclusion in the forward agenda for the C&EAC.
19. Since the Zero Carbon Action Plan consists of actions in the Business Plan, reports on these actions are included in the quarterly performance reports to Cabinet. These include a statement on the Council's position with regard to key performance indicators and an update in respect of projects.
20. Carbon emissions from the Council's Estate and Operations are one of the key performance indicators in the quarterly performance reports.
21. The proposed process for revising the Zero Carbon Action Plan 2019-24 and/or including additional actions is through the usual processes for revision of the Business Plan.
22. The C&EAC may also wish to provide advice to Cabinet on actions which the Council should include in plans beyond the end of the current Business Plan period in support of reductions in carbon emissions in the district which will be necessary in order to achieve the net zero carbon target of 2050.

## **Options**

The C&EAC can:

23. Note the Zero Carbon Action Plan 2019-24
24. Consider, comment and agree or recommend changes to the proposed reporting arrangements.
25. Consider, comment and agree or recommend changes to the proposed process for revising the Zero Carbon Action Plan 2019-24 and/or including additional actions.

## **Implications**

26. In the writing of this report, taking into account financial, legal, staffing, risk, equality and diversity, climate change, and any other key issues, the following implications have been considered:-

### **Climate Change**

27. The Zero Carbon Action Plan is a key tool through which the Council can fulfil its priority of 'Being green to our core'.

## **Effect on Council Priority Areas**

### **Being green to our core**

28. The Zero Carbon Action Plan is a key tool through which the Council can fulfil its priority of 'Being green to our core'.

## **Background Papers**

Full Council 21 February 2019, Report Pack, item 8d, Business Plan 2019-24  
<https://scams.moderngov.co.uk/documents/g7363/Public%20reports%20pack%20Thursday%2021-Feb-2019%2015.00%20Council.pdf?T=10>

## **Appendices**

Appendix A: Zero Carbon Action Plan 2019-24  
Appendix B: Zero Carbon Action Plan 2019-24 – headline version

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