

03 November 2020

**REPORT TO:** Climate and Environment Advisory Committee

**LEAD CABINET MEMBER:** Cllr Bridget Smith

**LEAD OFFICER:** Head of Shared Waste Services and Environment

---

## 2020-21 Zero Carbon Action Plan Progress Report

1. This report presents the Climate and Environment Advisory Committee with a progress update on actions arising from the Zero Carbon Strategy for consideration and comment.
2. This arrangement allows the Climate and Environment Advisory Committee to monitor progress and identify any areas of concern.

### Recommendations

3. The committee is invited to review the Zero Carbon Action Plan Progress Report at Appendix A and, where necessary, highlight to Cabinet any issues of concern and actions recommended to address these.

### Reasons for Recommendations

4. The role for the Climate and Environment Advisory Committee in monitoring progress was agreed by Full Council as part of the Zero Carbon Strategy adopted on 21 May.

### Details

5. The Zero Carbon Strategy adopted by Full Council on 21 May set out the Council's approach to supporting the transition to net zero carbon emissions in South Cambridgeshire.
6. The table at Appendix A provides a progress report on how the Council is delivering the strategy. It is organised into two main sections:
  - i) actions to reduce net carbon emissions on the Council's estate and operations
  - ii) actions to support the net reduction of carbon emissions in the wider district

#### **Section i) actions to reduce net carbon emissions on the Council's estate and operations**

7. The Zero Carbon Strategy includes a target of reducing net emissions from the Council's own estate and operations by 50% on a 2018-19 baseline by 2025, and 75% by 2030.

8. Eight actions to reduce net carbon emissions on the Council's estate and operations are set out, including trialling electric refuse vehicles, moving forwards with energy efficiency and renewable energy measures to buildings owned or leased by the Council, minimising paper use and planting trees. RAG (red/amber/green) ratings are included for each action. Progress is on track for all eight actions in this section, as indicated by the green RAG rating.

### **Section ii) actions to support the net reduction of carbon emissions in the wider district**

9. As well as actions to reduce net emissions from its own estate and operations, the Zero Carbon Strategy includes 35 actions to support the net reduction of carbon emissions in the wider district. The Council shares with partners the aspiration to reduce net emissions in the district by 50% on a 2018-19 baseline, and to zero by 2050.
10. The 35 actions are further arranged into six subsections, these being Domestic, Industry & Commerce and Transport Sectors, Waste & Recycling, Energy and Land & Trees.
11. Progress on three actions relating to community events in the Waste and Recycling section has been delayed due to Covid 19 which has prevented planned events taking place. Otherwise progress on all actions is on track.

### **Future reporting**

12. An update will be provided for the period from adoption of the strategy to the end of March 2021 at the end of the financial year. This will be accompanied by the Council's GHG Emissions accounts for 2020-21, which will enable monitoring of progress against the target of achieving a 50% reduction in GHG emissions from the Council's own estate and operations by 2025 relative to the 2018-19 baseline.
13. Progress in the district towards the aspiration of a 50% reduction in GHG emissions relative to a 2018 baseline can be monitored using UK local authority carbon dioxide emissions estimates, published by the UK government's Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS). These are released 18 months after the end of the year, ie in June 2021 for 2019.

## **Implications**

14. There are no significant implications, (financial, legal, staffing, risk, equality and diversity, climate change or any other key issues) raised in this report.

## **Effect on Council Priority Areas**

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

15. The purpose of this report is to allow monitoring of progress towards the Council's targets and aspirations for reducing greenhouse gas emissions in order to mitigate climate change.

### **Background Papers**

Zero Carbon Strategy report to Full Council, 21 May 2020

<https://scambs.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s116330/200521%20Zero%20Carbon%20Strategy%20Report%20to%20Council%20FINAL.pdf>

### **Appendices**

Appendix A – Zero Carbon Action Plan Progress Report for the period to 30 September 2020

### **Report Author:**

Siobhan Mellon – Development Officer, Climate and Environment  
Telephone: 01223 752458 (Teams)