



Report to:	Climate and Environment Advisory Committee 13 July 2021
Lead Cabinet Member:	Cllr Bridget Smith
Lead Officer:	Rebecca Weymouth-Wood

Zero Carbon and Doubling Nature Action Plan

Executive Summary

1. This report presents the Climate and Environment Advisory Committee with
 - a progress review on the Zero Carbon Action Plan at end of 2020-21
 - a revised and updated version of the plan which incorporates actions to deliver the Doubling Nature Strategy adopted by Cabinet on 3 Feb.
2. The committee is invited to note these and provide comments.

Recommendations

3. It is recommended that CEAC notes the progress review of the Zero Carbon Action Plan at end of 2020-21 and the revised and updated version of the plan incorporating actions on 'Doubling Nature'.

Reasons for Recommendations

4. The progress update and revised plan have been brought to CEAC to allow them to fulfil their role which includes advising Cabinet on policies, actions and resources required to deliver on the Council's climate change and environmental ambitions, and providing updates on progress towards achieving agreed targets and outcomes.

Details

5. A progress update on the Zero Carbon Action Plan at 30 September 2020 was presented to CEAC on 3 November 2020. The document at Appendix 1 provides a further update of progress at 31 May 2021.
6. This initial version of the plan is in two sections. Section 1 lists actions intended to achieve the target reduction of 45% in GHG emissions from the Council's own

estate and operations by 2025 relative to a 2018-19 baseline. Section 2 lists actions contributing to reductions in GHG emissions in the wider district. Section 2 is further divided into 6 sub-sections: Domestic, Commercial Sector, Transport, Land Use and Forestry, Energy and Waste & Recycling.

7. A RAG rating is provided for each action, with the action marked green where progress is on track for completion by the expected date; amber where progress is continuing but a delay to the expected completion date has been agreed; and red where progress has stalled.
8. Taking each section in turn, Section 1 lists 8 actions aimed at reducing emissions on the Council's own estate and operations.
9. Actions relating to energy improvements at the Depot and to our commercial properties are on track, as are actions to replace diesel refuse vehicles, and to plant trees on our housing estates. Actions to minimise paper at Council meetings, through introduction of the Modern Gov app; and to complete works to South Cambs Hall, streetlight LED replacements and develop a solar pv array are behind the original schedule but otherwise on track.
10. Section 2.1 lists eight actions relating to reducing carbon emissions from housing. Four different service areas – Housing, Planning, Environmental Health and Climate and Environment have actions in this section. Progress is on track except for action relating to energy efficiency in private rented sector homes, which has not been feasible. The two actions here are marked grey. Advice and guidance from our Environmental Health officers on energy efficiency has been available to landlords but has not been sought over this period; there have not been opportunities to develop enforcement action under the MEES legislation. Work in this area will be possible if, and only if, funding for this is secured from the government's Enforcement and Compliance competition. Advice and guidance will continue to be available when a need is identified by the EH team.
11. Section 2.2 lists four actions relating to reducing emissions from the industry and commerce sector. All of these are on track.
12. Section 2.3 lists eight actions relating to reducing emissions from transport. Three of these relate to the installation of electric vehicle charging infrastructure; one is around taxi licensing; one is around supporting staff to reduce travel emissions and three are around sustainable travel more generally.
13. Four actions in this section are green. Progress on actions A14-16 (working with partners on a community transport scheme for the northern villages; installing EVCPs at Sth Cambs Hall as part of the retrofit programme, and reviewing and updating our staff Travel for Work plan) is behind expected schedule and so these are amber. Despite a thorough exploration of options, it has not proved possible to identify a suitable location to install an EVCP for taxis and so this action is marked red.
14. Section 2.4 lists eight actions to reduce emissions from waste. Two of these were adversely affected by Covid and are red and amber. Otherwise all are green.

15. Section 2.5 lists four actions relating to renewable energy generation. Progress is behind schedule with two of these (Cambridgeshire Solar Together and plans for a solar PV array to power our fleet). They are otherwise on track. All others are green.
16. Section 2.6 lists three actions relating to Land and Trees, all of which are on track and marked green.

Zero Carbon and Doubling Nature Action Plan

17. The 2021-22 revision of the Zero Carbon Action Plan can be viewed at Appendix 2. Following adoption of the Doubling Nature Strategy in February, the action plan has been expanded to include a 3rd section listing actions working towards the doubling nature target.
18. These comprise three actions from our Planning teams, five actions supporting community action, three actions on our own estate, one through our work managing awarded watercourses and one working with partners.
19. We have also made changes to the action plan to make it easier to follow. The 21-22 revision includes several sub-headings and has an improved structure. A new section lists actions which cut across several sectors such as those relating to planning policy and to our Zero Carbon Communities programme. The energy section has been removed and actions formerly in this section moved to other sections. Actions which have been completed, or which are, or have become, business as usual are not included in the 21-22 revision. Column O indicates the new location of each action from the original plan in the 21-22 revision. Where an action is not included, the reason is given.
20. Many of the actions are copied directly from the Council's Business Plan. To clarify where this is the case, these are in blue.

Implications

21. 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:-

Financial

22. Financial resources for the actions in the Zero Carbon and Doubling Nature Action Plan have been assigned through the Council's usual budgetary processes.

Staffing

23. Staffing for the actions in the Zero Carbon and Doubling Nature Action Plan have been assigned through the Council's usual processes.

Climate Change

24. The action plan sets out the actions the Council is taking to mitigate climate change.

Consultation responses

25. The action plans have been the subject of internal consultation.

Alignment with Council Priority Areas

Being green to our core

26. The action plan sets out the actions the Council is taking to mitigate climate change and double nature.

Background Papers

Zero Carbon Strategy report to Full Council, 21 May 2020

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

2020-21 Zero Carbon Action Plan progress report to CEAC, 03 November 2020

<https://scambsmoderngov.co.uk/documents/s119451/201103%20CEAC%20ZCAP%20Progress%20Report.pdf>

Doubling Nature Strategy report to Cabinet, 03 February 2021

[https://scambsmoderngov.co.uk/documents/s120629/210203%20Cabinet%20Doubling%20Nature%20Strategy .pdf](https://scambsmoderngov.co.uk/documents/s120629/210203%20Cabinet%20Doubling%20Nature%20Strategy.pdf)

Appendices

Appendix A: Zero Carbon Action Plan 2020-25 Progress Update at 31 May

Appendix B: Zero Carbon and Doubling Nature Action Plan, 2021-22 revision

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