



## Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council

Forward timetable of consultation and decision making

Council 25 January 2022

Wards affected: All Wards

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### Climate Change Strategy

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Report of Director (Community Services)

#### **1. Purpose of report**

- 1.1 To present the Council's updated Climate Change Strategy for approval.

#### **2. Recommendation**

- 2.1 That Council approves the updated version of the Climate Change Strategy which acknowledges the work needed in the next 12 months, and beyond, for the Council to achieve its net zero target.

#### **3. Background to the report**

- 3.1 The Council declared a climate emergency in July 2019, and a Climate Change strategy was approved in July 2020. The Strategy was agreed for one year to enable an early refresh of actions. This updated strategy will take the Council through to 2024 and will be supported by an action plan, which will be reviewed annually.
- 3.2 The updated strategy has been discussed at the monthly officer climate change group and any comments have been included to ensure all aspects are covered. In addition to capturing all Council areas, the Group also discussed wording to ensure it was understandable to all residents. This resulted in a change to the themes. Therefore, the new headings are:
- Buildings and Land Use
  - Travel
  - Community
  - Waste
  - Economy

- 3.3 Progress has been made in a number of areas in relation to the current Strategy as detailed in appendix 1.
- 3.4 The work of the Climate Change Member Working Group has informed the refreshed Climate Change Strategy and members have had an opportunity to comment on a draft of the Strategy.
- 4. Exemptions in accordance with the Access to Information procedure rules**
  - 4.1 Report to be taken in open session.
- 5. Financial implications (DW)**
  - 5.1 The Council approved an Environmental Action Reserve of £100,000 at the February 2020 council meeting. Therefore any initial expenditure due to the implementation of the Council's Climate Change Strategy can be funded out of that reserve as needed, and if not spent in the financial year it will be carried forward as needed. This will mean there is no impact on the in-year general fund position due to expenditure, if kept below £100,000. However, it is highly unlikely that £100,000 will be sufficient to deliver a net zero emissions target for the Council by 2030.
- 6. Legal implications (MR)**
  - 6.1 None
- 7. Corporate Plan implications**
  - 7.1 Contributes to the place priority in the Corporate Plan as the strategy will help create clean places to live. Additionally, it will encourage people to be active and healthy, contributing to the people priority.
- 8. Consultation**
  - 8.1 Climate Change officer group has been consulted which consists of middle managers, directors and officers. This updated strategy has also considered the consultations which took place prior to the current strategy.
- 9. Risk implications**
  - 9.1 It is the council's policy to proactively identify and manage significant risks which may prevent delivery of business objectives.
  - 9.2 It is not possible to eliminate or manage all risks all of the time and risks will remain which have not been identified. However, it is the officer's opinion based on the information available, that the significant risks associated with this decision / project have been identified, assessed and that controls are in place to manage them effectively.

- 9.3 The following significant risks associated with this report / decisions were identified from this assessment:

Risk description	Mitigating actions	Owner
Capacity required to deliver work and drive progress	Budget identified for climate change work	Danielle Leggett
Failure to reduce carbon emissions will lead to heightened weather events in the borough such as increased flooding etc.	A net zero by 2030 target has been agreed to reduce the Council's carbon emissions and mitigate further impacts from climate change	Danielle Leggett

## **10. Knowing your community – equality and rural implications**

- 10.1 Climate change will impact every community and area within the borough, both urban and rural therefore, this strategy will focus equally on all areas.

## **11. Climate implications**

- 11.1 The Climate Change Strategy will set out actions the Council will work on to ensure the council becomes net zero by 2030. It outlines how the Council can work with schools, parishes, businesses and the wider community on climate change projects and initiatives. This strategy has come about from the declaration of a climate emergency.

## **12. Corporate implications**

- 12.1 By submitting this report, the report author has taken the following into account:
- Community safety implications
  - Environmental implications
  - ICT implications
  - Asset management implications
  - Procurement implications
  - Human resources implications
  - Planning implications
  - Data protection implications
  - Voluntary sector

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Background papers: Climate Change Strategy

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Executive member: Councillor M Cartwright