



Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council

Forward timetable of consultation and decision making

Council 30 January 2024

Wards affected: All Wards

Climate Change and Biodiversity Strategy

Report of Director (Community Services)

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 To present the Council's updated Climate Change and Biodiversity Strategy 2024-2028 for approval.
- 1.2 To present the key achievements from the Climate Change Strategy 2022-2024.

2. Recommendation

Council:

- 2.1 Acknowledges the achievements of the Climate Change Strategy 2022-2024.
- 2.2 Approves the updated version of the Climate Change and Biodiversity Strategy which reflects the recent biodiversity emergency declaration and includes the work which is needed to align with the emergency.

3. Background to the report

- 3.1 The Council declared a climate emergency in July 2019, and a Climate change strategy was approved shortly after. This was updated in 2022 to last until 2024, but with the recent biodiversity emergency declaration it was agreed the climate change strategy should be updated to reflect this. This updated strategy will take the Council through to 2028 and will be supported by an updated action plan, which will be reported on quarterly, and the task and finish groups will be refreshed to reflect the new strategy.

3.2 The updated strategy has been developed through the officer climate change task and finish groups and discussed at the Climate Change Member working group. The themes of the new strategy are:

- Biodiversity
- Buildings and Land Use
- Community
- Economy
- Travel
- Waste and Pollution

4. Exemptions in accordance with the Access to Information procedure rules

4.1 To be taken in public session.

5. Financial implications (DW)

5.1 The Council approved an Environmental Action Reserve of £100,000 at the February 2020 council meeting which it is expected will be fully utilised by 31st March 2024. The Medium Term Financial Strategy currently being prepared for submission to Council for approval assumes an additional £200,000 will be added to the reserve to meet future expenditure although it is unclear if this will be sufficient to deliver a net zero emissions target for the Council. The use of this reserve and future additional pressures will require approval in accordance with financial procedure rules.

6. Legal implications (MR)

6.1 None

7. Corporate Plan implications

7.1 The Strategy contributes to all aspects of the Corporate plan. More specifically:

Places – the strategy will help create clean places to live.

People- the strategy will encourage people to be active and healthy.

8. Consultation

8.1 Climate Change officer group has been consulted which consists of middle managers and officers. The cross-party member working group were also given the opportunity to feedback with the executive member for climate change also providing feedback. Task and finish groups were consulted, providing actions for the action plan. As the strategy now includes partnership work, the Green Living Leicestershire group were consulted.

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:

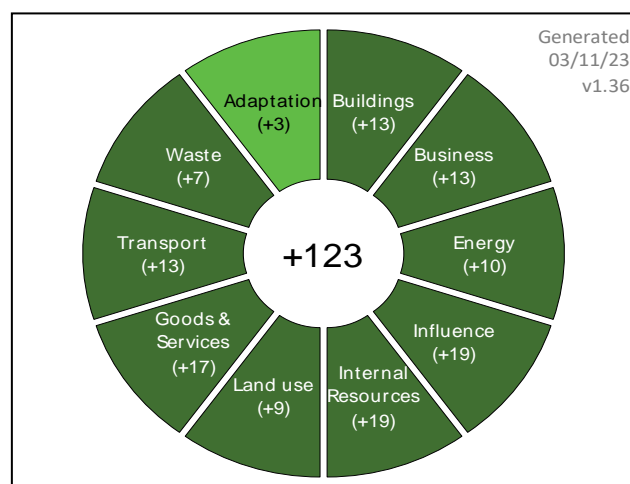
Risk description	Mitigating actions	Owner
Capacity required to deliver work and drive progress	Budget identified for climate change work	Danielle Leggett
Failure to reduce carbon emissions will lead to heightened weather events in the borough such as increased flooding etc.	A net zero by 2030 target 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, other partners and the wider community on climate change projects and initiatives. This strategy has come about from the declaration of a climate emergency and biodiversity 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

Background papers: Climate Change and Biodiversity Strategy 2024-2028, Key Achievements 2019-2023

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