

Date of meeting:	25 January 2021
Title of Report:	Climate Emergency Action Plan 2021
Lead Member:	Councillor Sue Dann (Cabinet Member for Environment and Streetscene)
Lead Strategic Director:	Anthony Payne (Strategic Director for Place)
Author:	Paul Barnard, Service Director for Strategic Planning & Infrastructure
Contact Email:	Paul.Barnard@Plymouth.gov.uk
Your Reference:	CEAP2021
Key Decision:	No
Confidentiality:	Part I - Official

Purpose of Report

The proposed Climate Emergency Action Plan 2021 is submitted for consideration in accordance with the decisions of the City Council on 18 March 2019 to declare a climate emergency (Minute 89 refers) and to prepare annual actions plans through to 2030, as first agreed on 16 December 2019 (Minute 7 refers). A draft of the Plan was presented to Brexit, Infrastructure and Legislative Change Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the 13th January 2021 and was endorsed with no recommended changes.

The Climate Emergency Action Plan sets out the strategic direction for the City Council and its partners in relation to climate change for Plymouth. It is a demonstration of the City Council's commitment to lead the city towards net zero carbon by 2030.

The Climate Emergency Action Plan 2021 is a dynamic, living document that is prepared annually. The Plan maintains the five key areas for action established by the first plan to ensure that it is fit for purpose as actions are ramped up through the three strategic phases of the journey to zero carbon emissions by 2030.

Initially, the response to the climate emergency required quick and decisive action to reverse the on-going increases in carbon emissions. This period of activity is identified as the "emergency response phase". There are two further stages identified in the journey towards net zero carbon. The "transitional phase" will focus on the delivery of more substantial carbon reduction projects, a reshaping of policy and a realignment of resources to meet the 2030 net zero carbon challenge. The final phase, known as the "acceleration phase", will drive a significant shift towards net-zero-carbon living, working and travelling, ramping up still further decarbonisation actions and initiatives.

The Climate Emergency Action Plan 2021 is intended to be the last of the current "emergency phase". It outlines over 80 realistic, achievable and deliverable actions the City Council is committed to delivering during 2021 in order to make tangible progress in this period of urgent response. In 2020, the City Council, in partnership with a number of external partners, helped to establish the Plymouth Net Zero Partnership, a resilient governance structure that will support joint working between key public and private sector partners to drive the actions needed to achieve net zero by 2030. Detailed case studies provided by partners in the Plymouth Net Zero Partnership have been included in this second Climate Emergency Action Plan to illustrate the growing momentum behind climate emergency work across Plymouth.

Recommendations and Reasons

It is recommended that the City Council:

1. Support and endorse the Climate Emergency Action Plan 2021.

REASON: To set the direction of travel for the decarbonisation of Plymouth, encourage the submission of funding bids to deliver the commitments set out in the plan, facilitate stakeholder engagement for further revisions to the plan in accordance with the decisions of the City Council on 18 March 2019 to declare a climate emergency (Minute 89 refers) and to prepare annual actions plans through to 2030, as first agreed on 16 December 2019 (Minute 7 refers).

Alternative options considered and rejected

Option 1 – Prepare a single plan covering the 11 years of the Climate Emergency – This was rejected as it would soon be out of date and not fit for purpose. Nor would it be sufficiently flexible and able to respond quickly to new science and new funding and other opportunities.

Option 2 – Do not prepare any Climate Emergency action plans – This was rejected as it would not be consistent with the decision of the City Council on 18 March 2019 to declare a Climate Emergency.

Relevance to the Corporate Plan and/or the Plymouth Plan

The actions being proposed in this report are consistent with the themes and values of the Corporate Plan 2018-2022 and as well as those of the Plymouth Plan. The 2014-2034 Plymouth Plan's commitment to tackling environmental issues was evident in the version adopted by the City Council in March 2019. The "Green City" theme contains numerous references to topics of relevance to the climate emergency. Climate Change issues were also embedded, including references in the "Growing City" theme showing that the plan is attempting to balance growth with climate emergency. A whole policy devoted to climate change: "Policy GRO7 - Reducing carbon emissions and adapting to climate change" set out a range of measures to reduce carbon emissions.

On 16 December 2019, the City Council resolved to undertake an early review of the Plymouth Plan with city partners in order to ensure that the Plymouth Plan reflected the ambitious targets set out in the City Council's Declaration of a Climate Emergency. The outcomes of this review of the Plymouth Plan are presented today to the City Council alongside this new version of the Climate Emergency Action Plan.

Implications for the Medium Term Financial Plan and Resource Implications:

All the actions set out in the Climate Emergency Action Plan 2021 are already funded either through the use of existing budgets or external funding.

The scale of the challenge to reduce emission across the city to net zero carbon by 2030 is not underestimated and the challenges ahead are significant. When it reaches the "transition phase", the Climate Emergency Action Plan will require further resources. The City Council will need to consider the longer term resourcing implications as future action plans take shape. Budgets will need to be reassessed and capacity released to enable effective delivery of the necessary decarbonisation actions which will inevitably have to be ramped up each year through to 2030.

Carbon Footprint (Environmental) Implications:

As previously reported, climate science is clear that the eventual extent of global warming is broadly proportional to the total amount of carbon dioxide that human activities add to the atmosphere. In order to stabilise climate change, CO2 emissions need to fall to zero and emissions of other greenhouse gases also need to be curtailed.

Alongside the Corporate Carbon Reduction Plan 2021, the Climate Emergency Action Plan 2021 will ensure Plymouth is playing its part in reducing its carbon emissions. It has set itself the challenging target of meeting net zero carbon by 2030, in advance of the 2050 target of national government.

Other Implications: e.g. Health and Safety, Risk Management, Child Poverty:

* When considering these proposals members have a responsibility to ensure they give due regard to the Council's duty to promote equality of opportunity, eliminate unlawful discrimination and promote good relations between people who share protected characteristics under the Equalities Act and those who do not.

The report recommits the City Council to promote a fairer, more equal Plymouth by investing in communities, putting citizens at the heart of decision making, promoting independence and reducing health and social inequality. By embedding this commitment in the Plymouth Plan the City Council is acknowledging the importance of ensuring all communities have an opportunity to thrive in a zero carbon world.

Appendices

*Add rows as required to box below

Ref.	Title of Appendix	Exemption Paragraph Number (if applicable) <i>If some/all of the information is confidential, you must indicate why it is not for publication by virtue of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by ticking the relevant box.</i>						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7
CEAP 2021	Climate Emergency Action Plan 2021							

Background papers:

*Add rows as required to box below

Please list all unpublished, background papers relevant to the decision in the table below. Background papers are unpublished works, relied on to a material extent in preparing the report, which disclose facts or matters on which the report or an important part of the work is based.

Title of any background paper(s)	Exemption Paragraph Number (if applicable) <i>If some/all of the information is confidential, you must indicate why it is not for publication by virtue of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by ticking the relevant box.</i>						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

Sign off:

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Originating Senior Leadership Team member: Paul Barnard, Service Director for Strategic Planning & Infrastructure											
Please confirm the Strategic Director(s) has agreed the report? Yes											
Date agreed: 13/01/2021											
Cabinet Member approval: Councillor Sue Dann, Cabinet Member for Environment and Street Scene, via One-to-One Portfolio Holder meeting.											
Date approved: 13/01/2021											