

Date of meeting:	25 January 2021
Title of Report:	Corporate Carbon Reduction 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
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Your Reference:	CCRP2021
Key Decision:	No
Confidentiality:	Part I - Official

Purpose of Report

The proposed Corporate Carbon Reduction 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.

Introduction

The City Council agreed the first Corporate Carbon Reduction Plan in December 2019. This marked a key milestone towards achieving a net zero carbon city by 2030. The Plan is a dynamic, living document that will be reviewed and updated yearly, and will evolve during the three phases of the Climate Change Action Plan Strategic Approach. The commitment is to produce annually a new action plan for each of the 11 years of the Climate Emergency period (2019-2030).

Proposals for Year 2

The Corporate Carbon Reduction Plan 2021 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.

This second Corporate Carbon Reduction Plan contains 24 actions, all of which are deliverable within existing budgets and through existing staff resources by December 2021. Many of the proposed actions will deliver measurable carbon reductions from the specific activities planned and these will be monitored going forward. Others, whilst not directly measurable, nevertheless will still contribute to reducing overall corporate carbon reduction impacts of the City Council estate and the delivery of its services and functions.

Recommendations and Reasons

It is recommended that the City Council:

- I. Support and endorse the Corporate Carbon Reduction Action Plan 2021.

REASON: To set the direction of travel for the decarbonisation of Plymouth City Council's estate and functions, encourage and 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 continue the commitment 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 those of the Plymouth Plan.

Implications for the Medium Term Financial Plan and Resource Implications:

The Corporate Carbon Reduction Plan 2021 sets out the direction and necessary corporate focus in relation to climate change issues for the 11 years of the emergency, with a detailed priorities for the next year. The finance and resourcing implications will be assessed against each individual action as they are progressed. As detailed business cases associated with the proposed actions set out in the Corporate Carbon Reduction Plan 2021 start to take shape, the City Council will need to consider the longer term resourcing implications. 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. It should be noted that a number of the actions already have funding secured either through the use of existing budgets or external grants, but further funding bids will be necessary.

Carbon Footprint (Environmental) Implications:

As previously reported, climate science is clear that to a close approximation, the eventual extent of global warming is proportional to the total amount of carbon dioxide that human activities add to the atmosphere. So, in order to stabilise climate change, CO2 emissions need to fall to zero. The longer it takes to do so, the more the climate will change, with existential implications for humanity. Emissions of other greenhouse gases also need to be constrained. The Corporate Carbon Reduction Plan 2021 will drive and support the efforts to ensure the City Council is playing its part in laying the foundations to achieve net zero carbon by 2030.

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 recommit 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 within the next Corporate 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
CCRP 2021	Corporate Carbon Reduction 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											