

# Growth and Infrastructure Overview and Scrutiny Committee



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|--------------------------|---|
| Date of meeting:         | 14 February 2024  |
| Title of Report:         | <b>Net Zero Action Plan 2024-2027</b>   |
| Lead Member:             | Councillor Tom Briars-Delve (Cabinet Member for Environment and Climate Change) |
| Lead Strategic Director: | Anthony Payne (Strategic Director for Place)                                    |
| Author:                  | Emmanuelle Marshall   |
| Contact Email:           | Emmanuelle.marshall@plymouth.gov.uk   |
| Your Reference:          | NZAP 2024/27  |
| Key Decision:            | No  |
| Confidentiality:         | Part I - Official   |

## Purpose of Report

The report seeks the Scrutiny Committee's consideration of a draft Net Zero Action Plan (NZAP) 2024-2027 prior to the plan being taken to the City Council's meeting on 18 March 2024.

The NZAP is the City Council's climate action plan, which covers a three-year period and is rolled forward annually. It identifies actions to tackle the direct greenhouse gas emissions of the Council, with the aim of being a 'net zero' organisation by 2030. It also sets how the Council will use its influence to support the City-wide net zero agenda.

## Recommendations and Reasons

- It is recommended that the Growth and Infrastructure Overview and Scrutiny Committee support and endorse the Plymouth City Council Net Zero Action Plan 2024-2027

*Reason: To ensure that the Council continues to play its part in helping Plymouth to become a net zero city by 2030, in accordance with the decision of the City Council on 18 March 2019 to declare a climate emergency (Minute 89 refers) and to prepare annual action plans through to 2030, as first agreed on 16 December 2019 (Minute 7 refers).*

## Alternative options considered and rejected

- To not roll forward the NZAP and instead allow the current NZAP to run through until 2026 before reviewing it. However, this has been rejected because organisational responses to the net zero challenge grow over time and it is important that the Council is able to refresh and update its programme.

## Relevance to the Corporate Plan and/or the Plymouth Plan

Policy GRO7 of the Plymouth Plan sets out that: 'The city will pursue the following approaches to deliver significant reductions in carbon emissions in Plymouth, aiming to achieve net-zero by 2030 ...' The NZAP sets out the City Council's commitment to support the implementation of this policy.

## Implications for the Medium Term Financial Plan and Resource Implications:

Many actions in the NZAP can be delivered from existing resources and through adjustments to 'business as usual'. As a three-year plan, not every NZAP action will have full funding in place from day

one, but many do. The inclusion of such actions demonstrates a commitment to explore funding and delivery options over the three-year period of the plan, including grant applications.

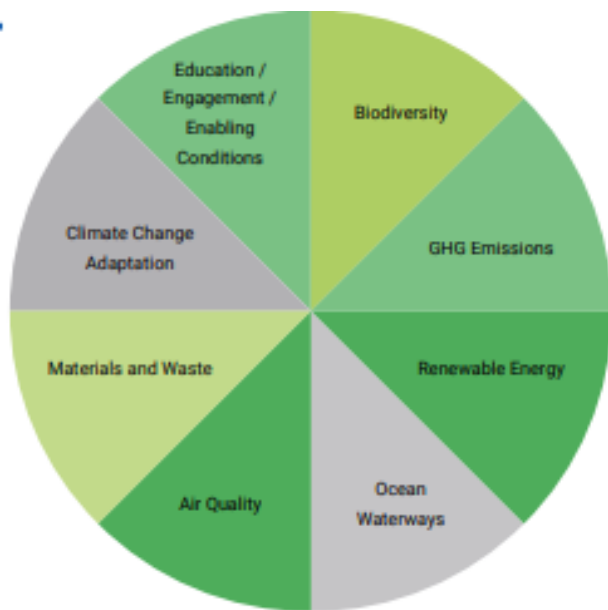
### Financial Risks

The NZAP itself does not introduce financial risks. However, there may be some risks associated with specific actions and projects, depending on how these become funded and delivered. These will need to be considered in accordance with the relevant governance arrangements in place at the appropriate time.

### Carbon Footprint (Environmental) Implications:

The driver and focus of NZAP is reducing both the Council's and the city's carbon footprint. A Climate Impact Assessment of the NZAP has been undertaken, which the outcomes of this assessment summarised in the chart below.

Given that the Net Zero Action Plan contains multiple individual initiatives, some of which will need to have their own climate impact assessments at decision-making stage, this assessment appraises the plan as a whole rather than its individual components. As a climate change mitigation plan, the Net Zero Action Plan focuses on initiatives that are intended to drive down the Council's emissions of greenhouse gases, guided by the Carbon Management Hierarchy (CMH). The CMH prioritises actions that avoid emissions in the first place, followed by those that reduce emissions. Lower in the hierarchy are actions to replace high carbon energy sources with low carbon alternatives, and removal is seen as the last resort for any residual emissions.



On this basis, the plan scores 5 for its positive and long-lasting impact on GHG emissions, renewable energy supply, air quality and supporting education, engagement and enabling conditions. The plan also supports waste reduction according to the waste hierarchy and supports biodiversity scoring 4/5. Neutral scores are selected for climate change adaptation and oceans and waterways, as significant work in these areas is predominantly being undertaken by the Council outside of this plan

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

Climate change affects every person and every sector of the community, and climate action is ultimately about creating a healthier, safer, more sustainable world for everyone. Climate action often brings co-benefits. For example, it can have benefits in relation to the impacts of high inflation and the cost-of-living crisis through supporting people and businesses reduce energy consumption.

Additionally, actions that reduce transport related carbon emissions (and associated particulates) will improve air quality and support healthier lifestyles, with associated health benefits.

However, not everyone has equal ability to take climate action and it is therefore important that the NZAP includes some key principles about how initiatives will be designed and delivered so that no one is left behind.

**Appendices**

| Ref. | Title of Appendix   | Exemption Paragraph Number (if applicable)<br><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 |
| A    | Net Zero Action Plan 2024-2027: Briefing Paper and Draft Plan |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| B    | Net Zero Action Plan 2023-2026 – Progress Report              |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| C    | Equality Impact Assessment                                    |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| D    | Climate Impact Assessment                                     |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |

**Background papers:**

| Title of any background paper(s) | Exemption Paragraph Number (if applicable)<br><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> |   |   |   |   |   |   |
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**Sign off:**

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| Originating Senior Leadership Team member: Anthony Payne (Strategic Director for Place)  |                                       |  |                                       |            |                                       |    |                                       |            |                                       |               |                                 |
| Please confirm the Strategic Director(s) has agreed the report? Yes  |                                       |  |                                       |            |                                       |    |                                       |            |                                       |               |                                 |
| Date agreed: 26/01/2024  |                                       |  |                                       |            |                                       |    |                                       |            |                                       |               |                                 |
| Cabinet Member approval: [electronic signature (or typed name and statement of 'approved by email/verbally')] Tom Briars-Delve 'approved by email' |                                       |  |                                       |            |                                       |    |                                       |            |                                       |               |                                 |
| Date approved: 30/01/2024  |                                       |  |                                       |            |                                       |    |                                       |            |                                       |               |                                 |

