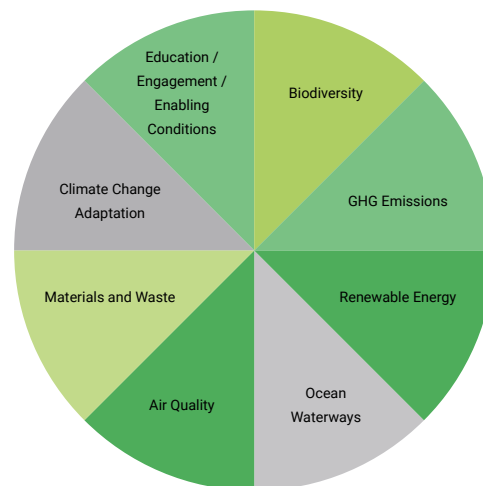


# Net Zero Action Plan 2024/27 FINAL



**Assessment ID:** NET491

**Assessment Author:** Emmanuelle Marshall

## Assessment Initial Summary:

The Net Zero Action Plan is the city council climate change mitigation action plan. It 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.

## Assessment Final Summary:

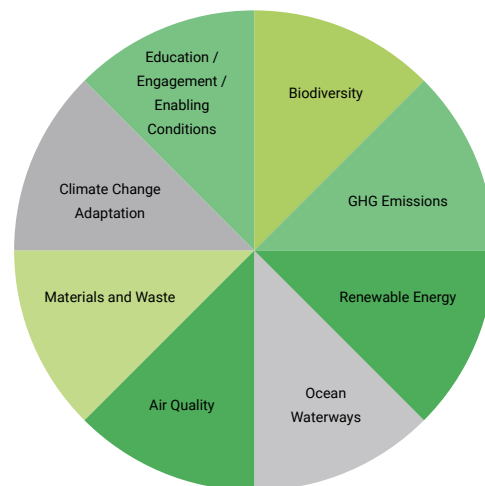
Given that the Net Zero Action Plan contains multiple individual initiatives, some of which will need to have their own climate impact assessments at decision-making stage, this assessment appraises the plan as a whole rather than its individual components. As a climate change mitigation plan, the Net 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.

## Biodiversity Score: 4

**Biodiversity Score Justification:** With a priority of climate mitigation (avoiding emissions followed by reducing emissions), the NZAP focuses on ensuring that carbon remains sequestered in existing biodiversity and green spaces through policy frameworks (BHP6, BHP7). Consideration of biodiversity is also built into the governance and delivery programmes for adaptation (GD4c., GD4d.) with support for natural infrastructure and the application of healthy streets principles as well as delivering the Council's Plan for Trees. The NZAP also includes creating an investment framework to support the increase of local biodiversity that will ultimately help to balance residual emissions in the city. Wider scale biodiversity enhancement is not the

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primary aim of the NZAP as this work is undertaken elsewhere in the Council.

**Biodiversity Score Mitigate: No**

**GHG Emissions Score: 5**

**GHG Emissions Score Justification:** The primary goal of the Net Zero Action Plan is to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases within the Council and across the city. It will do so by tackling the causes of emissions identified with a focus on key emission sources: buildings and power (BHP 1-10), transport (T1 to T6) and consumption and waste (CW1-4). The plan is a programme of transformation of how the Council's services are delivered and where the Council can leverage influence in the city to reduce emissions as much as possible and as fast as possible. Activities are supported by a broad programme of engagement and behaviour change (BC1-3). Work is continually underway to gain a more precise understanding of the carbon impacts of Council initiatives as well as identifying new and emerging opportunities for emissions avoidance and reduction.

**GHG Emissions Score Mitigate: No**

**Renewable Energy Score: 5**

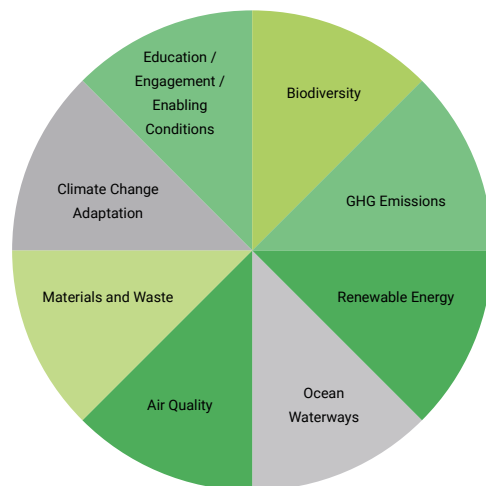
**Renewable Energy Score Justification:** The plan is anticipated to increase the provision of renewable energy in Plymouth (BHP10). Notably, it includes two significant projects: the development of a solar farm at Chelson Meadow (BHP3a.) and the delivery of a strategic heat network programme (BHP10c.). The NZAP also encourages other actors in the city to support the development of renewable energy even further. In particular, the Council is committed to working with the wider region on the development of a Local Area Energy Plan (BHP10e.).

**Renewable Energy Score Mitigate: No**

**Ocean and Waterways Score: 3**

**Ocean and Waterways Score Justification:** This project is not anticipated to have negative impacts on water quality or aquatic habitats. The Net Zero Action Plan is supportive of, and

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coherent with initiatives to improve the marine environment, by working in concert with the National Marine Park and with the Building Resilience in Communities project.

**Ocean and Waterways Score Mitigate: No**

**Air Quality Score: 5**

**Air Quality Score Justification:** The aims of reducing greenhouse gas emissions and improving air quality are highly compatible. By encouraging active travel, and public transport, the NZAP will have the co-benefit of driving down the emissions of other air pollutants. Several initiatives in the plan encourage walking and cycling (T5) and the adoption of public transport (T6) or car clubs. Where the use of private vehicle cannot be avoided, the plan encourages the adoption of Electric Vehicles by encouraging the development of the necessary charging infrastructure (T5)

**Air Quality Score Mitigate: No**

**Materials and Waste Score: 4**

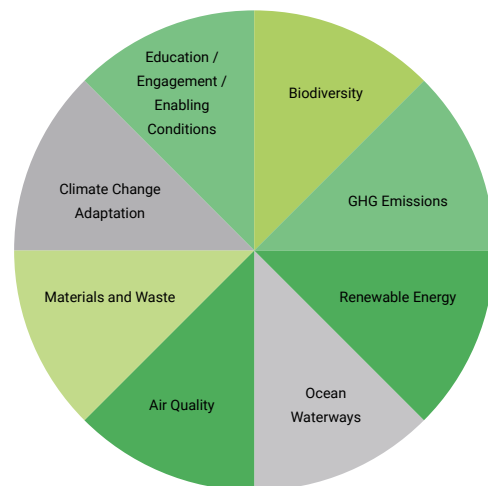
**Materials and Waste Score Justification:** The Net Zero Action Plan includes a number of actions designed to reduce our waste (CW). The plan encourages the adoption of the waste hierarchy, which first and foremost, promotes a reduction in overall volumes of waste through reuse (CW3), and recycling (CW4) when waste cannot be avoided entirely. Included in the plan is the development of a food waste collection programme (CW4).

**Materials and Waste Score Mitigate: No**

**Climate Change Adaptation Score: 3**

**Climate Change Adaptation Score Justification:** The Net Zero Action Plan focuses primarily on initiatives that are intended to drive down the Council's emissions of greenhouse gases i.e. mitigation. Nonetheless, it is recognised that it is also necessary to put in place initiatives that make the city more resilient to the impacts of climate change i.e. adaptation. The NZAP is encouraging and supportive of climate adaptation actions and awareness raising (BC1c.) and (BC2c.). The Council is also committed to the development of a corporate adaptation plan. Other

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significant adaptation projects are in progress outside of the NZAP.

**Climate Change Adaptation Score Mitigate: No**

**Education / Engagement / Enabling Conditions Score: 5**

**Education / Engagement / Enabling Conditions Score Justification:** The NZAP includes an extensive section on Behaviour Change (BC). It includes a suite of internal engagement activities designed to support colleagues with reducing emissions from the Council's business operations (BC1). It also includes commitments to engage more effectively with the Community (BC2) in a way that is consistent with principles of climate justice and the Council's duty in respect of equality and diversity.

**Education / Engagement / Enabling Conditions Score Mitigate: No**

## Wheel Key

- Long lasting or severe negative impact
- Short term or limited negative impact
- No impact or neutral impact
- Short term or limited positive impact
- Long lasting or extensive positive impact