

Natural Infrastructure and Growth Scrutiny Panel



Date of meeting:	12 February 2025
Title of Report:	Net Zero Action Plan 2025-2028
Lead Member:	Councillor Tom Briars-Delve (Cabinet Member for Environment and Climate Change)
Lead Strategic Director:	Karime Hassan (Interim Strategic Director for Growth)
Author:	Emmanuelle Marshall
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Your Reference:	NZAP 2025/28
Key Decision:	No
Confidentiality:	Part I - Official

Purpose of Report

The report seeks the scrutiny panel's consideration of a draft Net Zero Action Plan (NZAP) 2025-2028 prior to the plan being taken to the City Council's meeting on 17 March 2025.

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. This new NZAP includes 42 actions, each of which reflecting our more strategic focus on *transport, buildings and behaviour change*.

Recommendations and Reasons

1. It is recommended that the Natural Infrastructure and Growth Scrutiny Panel support and endorse the Plymouth City Council Net Zero Action Plan 2025-2028.

Reason: To ensure that the Council continues to play its part in helping Plymouth transition to a net zero city by setting out its commitments to directly reduce its own greenhouse gas emissions and to use its influence to support the city in reducing emissions.

Alternative options considered and rejected

1. To not roll forward the NZAP and instead allow the current NZAP to run through until 2027 before reviewing it. However, the Council's response to the net zero challenge does change over time, as new opportunities are identified and lessons from previous initiatives are learnt. It is important that our action plans continue to reflect this evolution.

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. The city council's

mission, outlined in the corporate plan, is to make Plymouth a 'fairer, greener city'. The NZAP contributes to this mission by reducing the city council's impact on the climate.

Implications for the Medium Term Financial Plan and Resource Implications:

The NZAP includes a range of actions, some that will require funding and some that will be addressed through business as usual. As a three-year plan, not every measure has full funding in place from day one, although the majority already are funded. Their inclusion demonstrates a commitment to explore funding and delivery options over the three-year period of the plan, including external grant applications. This report makes no new ask for capital investment.

Financial Risks

The NZAP does not introduce new 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 whole plan 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.

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.*

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

*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
A	Draft Net Zero Action Plan 2025-2028							
B	Net Zero Action Plan 2024-2027 Progress Report							

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

Please confirm the Strategic Director(s) has agreed the report? Yes

Date agreed: 28/01/2025

Cabinet Member approval Date approved: 30/01/2025

