

Date of meeting:	17 March 2025
Title of Report:	<b>Net Zero Action Plan 2025-2028</b>
Lead Member:	Councillor Tom Briars-Delve (Cabinet Member for Environment and Climate Change)
Lead Director:	Paul Barnard (Service Director for Strategic Planning and Infrastructure)
Author:	Emmanuelle Marshall
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Your Reference:	NZAP 2025/2028
Key Decision:	No
Confidentiality:	Part I - Official

## Purpose of Report

The report seeks the support and endorsement of the City Council for its Net Zero Action Plan (NZAP) 2025-2028. 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 40 actions, each of which reflecting our more strategic focus on *transport, buildings and behaviour change*.

## Recommendations and Reasons

1. It is recommended that the City Council 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, 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.

### Legal Implications

(Provided by Liz Bryant)

There are no implications arising from the NZAP itself. Any specific aspects of the actions or projects arising from the NZAP will be considered separately to identify relevant legal issues.

### 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 appendix C.

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 of the plan than each of 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:

Climate change affects every person and every sector of the community, and climate action is ultimately about creating a healthier, safer, more sustainable environment 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, bringing about 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	Net Zero Action Plan 2025-2028							
B	Equality Impact Assessment							
C	Climate Impact Assessment							


**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)						
	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.						
	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: [electronic signature (or typed name and statement of 'approved by email/verbally')]											
											
Date approved: 05/03/2025											