

Date of meeting:	24 January 2022
Title of Report:	Climate Emergency Action Plan 2022
Lead Member:	Councillor Mrs Maddi Bridgeman, Cabinet Member for Environment and Street Scene
Lead Strategic Director:	Anthony Payne (Strategic Director for Place)
Author:	Paul Barnard, Service Director for Strategic Planning & Infrastructure
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Your Reference:	CEAP2022
Key Decision:	No
Confidentiality:	Part I - Official

Purpose of Report

Climate Emergency Action Plan 2022

The proposed Climate Emergency Action Plan 2022 is submitted for consideration by the City Council in accordance with the commitment made by the Cabinet Member for Environment and Street Scene at the meeting of the Brexit Infrastructure and Legislative Change Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 15 January 2020 (Minute 40 refers). The Climate Emergency Action Plan sets out the strategic direction adopted by the City Council and its partners to tackle climate change in Plymouth. It is a demonstration of the City Council's commitment to lead the city towards net zero carbon by 2030.

The proposed Climate Emergency Action Plan 2022 was considered by the Brexit, Infrastructure and Legislative Change Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 08 December 2021 which made the following recommendations:

1. support and endorse the Climate Emergency Action Plan 2022, noting that the Climate Emergency Investment Fund has yet to be funded or established;
2. contextualise prior actions within the Climate Emergency Action Plan in 2022;
3. support Plymouth Climate Emergency Action Plan by asks to Government through local MPs and national channels;
4. provide the public with a Plymouth Climate Emergency Action Plan website support tool by May 2022.

These recommendations were all agreed by the Cabinet Member for Environment and were subsequently approved at Cabinet on 11 January 2022. In accordance with the second recommendation from the Brexit, Infrastructure and Legislative Change Overview and Scrutiny Committee, this report provides further information on the context leading to the development of this third action plan for Plymouth. It is intended to use the web site version of the Climate Emergency Action Plan 2022 to contextualise progress with the actions from the 2019 and 2021 Action Plans to highlight what has been achieved to date and thereafter to showcase that work with case studies on the web site.

The Climate Emergency Action Plan continues to be a dynamic, living document that is prepared annually. The Climate Emergency Action Plan 2022 maintains the five key areas for action established since the first plan (buildings, mobility, power and heat, waste and engagement and responsibility). The plan continues to be action-oriented and is a continuation of the work undertaken in Climate Emergency Action Plans 2019 and 2021. As set out in the strategic approach to the climate emergency, the focus is to ramp up delivery of projects that deliver significant carbon reductions. The Council is committing in this 2022 Climate Emergency Action Plan to the establishment of climate budgets, monitoring trajectories and year-on-year milestone targets for all 5 key climate emergency sectors, thus completing a full scenario testing for achieving zero carbon. This new plan illustrates the growing momentum behind the climate emergency response across Plymouth. The Climate Emergency Action Plan 2022 outlines a total of 114 realistic, achievable and deliverable actions, 101 of which the City Council is committed to delivering during 2022 and beyond. In addition to new case studies, this plan includes, for the first time, 13 actions and commitments from partners in the Plymouth Net Zero Partnership. The City Council and its partners are embedding new behaviours and new ways of working within their own corporate carbon reduction plans, although there is more to do in transplanting good practice across sectors and partners. In accordance with the climate emergency values – specifically that Plymouth is a city that supports national and global change (in addition to local actions) – this Action Plan continues to commit to lobbying central government for the necessary powers and resources to enable Plymouth to meet its climate emergency ambitions.

To ensure that the city moves towards zero carbon living with everyone playing their part, this 2022 Climate Emergency Action Plan contains 38 engagement actions. This includes the continued delivery of successful initiatives such as the City Change Fund Climate Challenge, Preventing Plastic Pollution and Green Minds, and the renewal of events first held in 2020; including Future Plymouth 2030 series of webinars, engagement with the Youth Parliament and the library service Climate Emergency information event. The first Climate Change Ambassador was appointed at the Youth Parliament's Climate Summit held on 29 October 2021, and during 2022 the scheme will be expanded throughout the city.

The 2022 Climate Emergency Action Plan continues to try and ramp up the delivery of projects that deliver significant carbon emission reductions, including building retrofits, new low carbon energy generation and changes to mobility infrastructure, albeit within a challenging wider local government budgetary context. The City Council continues to pursue the delivery of a number of projects designed to encourage the use of active travel and public transport, funded by the Transforming Cities Fund, many of which began last year and are now reaching completion. Further progress is being made towards the delivery of the Transforming Cities Fund flagship Mobility Hubs project, including the recent completion of the tender process. The installation of EV charging points across the city is also ramping up, with 185 EV installations now complete across the city, as part of a programme to deliver 615 by 2023. Planning consent has also been granted on the former parks depot site at Outland Road for one of the country's first 'Electric Forecourts' providing 32 ultra-fast charging bays using 100% renewable energy. Activity is also ramping up to decarbonise the city's building, power and heating, as is evident in the many case studies included in the plan. In 2022, the Eco Homes Programme within Plan for Homes was increased from £250,000 to £1.5 million and planning permission secured for exemplar low carbon affordable housing schemes on land off Coombe Way, Kings Tamerton and Broadland Green, Plymstock. Preparatory work and successful funding bids continue to be pursued to deliver a low carbon heat network in the city centre; and progressing the detailed business case for a Solar Farm at Chelson Meadow nears completion. The 2019 Climate Emergency Action Plan strategic approach highlighted the need to continue work on projects and initiatives that are effective in reducing emissions. The proposed creation of the Climate Emergency Investment Fund in this Action Plan is therefore a vital step to enable to ensure that the city collectively moves towards zero carbon living with everyone playing their part and with the necessary pace and focus as 2023 will see the city moving from the 'Transitional Phase' into the 'Acceleration Phase' if the 2030 net zero ambition is to be achieved.

Recommendations and Reasons

It is recommended that the City Council support and endorse the Climate Emergency Action Plan 2022.

Reason: To set the direction of travel for the decarbonisation of Plymouth, encourage the submission of funding bids to deliver the commitments set out in the plan, 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 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 2021-2025 and as well as those of the Plymouth Plan. On 16 December 2019, the City Council resolved to undertake an early review of the Plymouth Plan with city partners in order to ensure that the Plymouth Plan reflected the ambitious targets set out in the City Council's Declaration of a Climate Emergency. The outcomes of this review of the Plymouth Plan were adopted by the City Council on 25 January 2021. The 2014-2034 Plymouth Plan's commitment to tackling environmental issues was strengthened in the version adopted by the City Council in January 2021. Climate Change issues are embedded, including references in the "Growing City" theme showing that the plan is attempting to balance growth creation with the need to reduce carbon emissions. A policy devoted to climate change, Policy GRO7 'Reducing carbon emissions and adapting to climate change', sets out a range of measures to deliver significant reductions in carbon emissions in Plymouth, aiming to achieve net-zero by 2030.

Implications for the Medium Term Financial Plan and Resource Implications:

The actions set out in the Climate Emergency Action Plan 2022 are already funded either through the use of existing budgets or external funding. The Climate Emergency Action Plan 2022 has 114 action; 13 of which are led and funded by partners in the Net Zero Partnership. Out of the 101 action that are City Council-led, 46 are funded by exiting departmental budgets, 37 by grants that have already been secured, with an additional 7 awaiting decisions related to funding bids. 11 actions will require funding from the Climate Emergency Investment Fund, which is a specific action proposed in this 2022 Action Plan. The scale of the challenge to reduce emission across the city to net zero carbon by 2030 is not underestimated. The Climate Emergency Action Plan will require further significant revenue and capital resources in order to deliver the scale of activity needed to impact on carbon emissions in the city. 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, as was always envisaged from 2023 as Plymouth moves into the 'Acceleration Phase'.

Carbon Footprint (Environmental) Implications:

As previously reported, climate science is clear that the eventual extent of global warming is broadly proportional to the total amount of carbon dioxide that human activities add to the atmosphere. In order to stabilise climate change, CO2 emissions need to fall to zero and emissions of other greenhouse gases also need to be curtailed. Alongside the Corporate Carbon Reduction Plan 2022, the Climate Emergency Action Plan 2022 will ensure Plymouth is playing its part in reducing its carbon

emissions. It has set itself the challenging target of meeting net zero carbon by 2030, in advance of the 2050 target of national government.

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

The report recommits 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 in the Plymouth 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
CEAP 2022	DRAFT Climate Emergency Action Plan 2022							

Background papers:

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: 10/01/2022											
Cabinet Member approval: Councillor Mrs Maddi Bridgeman, Cabinet Member for Environment and Street Scene, via One-to-One Portfolio Holder meeting. Date approved: 10/01/2022											