



Purpose: For Decision

Cabinet Report

Date **09 SEPTEMBER 2021**

Title **CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENT STRATEGY**

Report of **CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT, HERITAGE AND WASTE**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. This Report seeks Cabinet Approval for a Climate Change and Environment Strategy (Appendix 1) This follows the motion to full council in July 2019, in which the council stated an aim to achieve net zero emissions by 2030, in both the council's own activities and the wider Isle of Wight.
2. This purpose of this report is to seek approval for the Climate Change and Environment Strategy and the following associated actions:
 - (a) The aim to meet the target dates, as set out in the Strategy, to be net-carbon zero as a council by 2030, across the school estate by 2035 and as an Island by 2040;
 - (b) The commitment to:
 - the required staff resources to manage the co-ordination and the delivery of the Action Plan (through the 2021/22 budget process).
 - the resources already committed within existing council service plans and budgets. and
 - business cases, applications for grants and other external funding for future projects to fulfil other council and community led actions.
 - (c) A full Strategy review and update for publication every two years;
 - (d) The Action Plan is reviewed as and when required and in the first instance within the next nine months.
 - (e) The delegation to commence the projects within the Action Plan, subject to available resources, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Environment, Heritage and Waste.

3. A significant research piece was commissioned to model the carbon pathways to net carbon zero has demonstrated that the council can achieve net-carbon zero by 2030. It is however apparent from the modelling that the scale of change required across the island, including adaptations to homes, infrastructure, transport and the environment, will require a longer timescale of up to 2040.
4. The approval of the Climate and Environment Strategy will provide a mandate to council staff to continue to develop policies, make decisions and service delivery plans to pro-actively to reduce the carbon footprint of the council business activities and tackle the impacts of climate change and seek.
5. The strategy also seeks to enable the council to reach into the Island community to encourage and enable actions to reduce the overall carbon footprint and support the adaptation of homes, businesses, and transport.
6. It should be noted that the scale of the financial requirements set out in the strategy to achieve the targets set out is currently unaffordable to the council acting alone and will require a national Government response and significant private sector investments.
7. A copy of the Climate and Environment Strategy is at Appendix 1, the Detailed Action Plan is at Appendix 2 and Actions requiring additional grant or other funding is at Appendix 3.

RECOMMENDATION

8. Cabinet are requested to approve Option 1 from the recommendations, that the Climate Change and Environment Strategy and Action Plan is adopted with the following commitments:
 - (a) The aim to meet the target dates, as set out in the Strategy, to be net-carbon zero as a council by 2030, across the school estate by 2035 and as an Island by 2040;
 - (b) To provide for the required staff resources to manage the co-ordination and the delivery of the Action Plan, of £94,314 (through the 2021/22 budget process).
 - (c) The resources already committed within existing council service plans and budgets.
 - (d) The development of business cases, applications for grants and other external funding for future projects to fulfil other council and community led actions.
 - (e) A full Strategy review and update, for publication every two years.
 - (f) The Action Plan is reviewed as and when required and in the first instance within the first nine months.
 - (g) The delegation to commence the projects within the Action Plan, subject to available resources, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Environment, Heritage and Waste.

BACKGROUND

9. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) published a Special Report on predicted Global Warming in October 2011¹. This report concluded that a 2°C increase in global average temperatures is likely to cause far greater harm to the global environment and economy than if we can limit global warming to 1.5°C. It found that emissions globally must be reduced by at least 45% by 2030 (from a 2010 baseline) to meet 1.5°C or less increase in Global temperatures. Governments, businesses, and communities globally will need to cooperate to reach this goal.
10. The updated International Panel on Climate Change sixth assessment report August 2021, following further research by the IPCC states:

*“It is unequivocal that human influence has warmed the atmosphere, ocean and land. Widespread and rapid changes in the atmosphere, ocean, cryosphere and biosphere have occurred.”*²
11. The report goes on to state:
 - (a) *Global surface temperature will continue to increase until at least the mid-century under all emissions scenarios considered. Global warming of 1.5°C and 2°C will be exceeded during the 21st century unless deep reductions in carbon dioxide (CO₂) and other greenhouse gas emissions occur in the coming decades*
 - (b) *Many changes in the climate system become larger in direct relation to increasing global warming. They include increases in the frequency and intensity of hot extremes, marine heatwaves, and heavy precipitation, agricultural and ecological droughts in some regions, and proportion of intense tropical cyclones, as well as reductions in Arctic sea ice, snow cover and permafrost*
 - (c) *Continued global warming is projected to further intensify the global water cycle, including its variability, global monsoon precipitation and the severity of wet and dry events.*
12. The UK Government have signed up to the Paris Agreement, a legally binding international treaty on climate change. Its goal is to limit global warming to well below 2, preferably to 1.5 degrees Celsius, compared to pre-industrial levels. To achieve this long-term temperature goal, countries aim to reach global peaking of greenhouse gas emissions as soon as possible to achieve a climate neutral world by mid-century.
13. The Climate Change Act 2008 introduced legally binding carbon budgets, with the aim of achieving net zero emissions across England and Wales by 2050 (initially

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¹ [Global Warming of 1.5 °C \(ipcc.ch\)](https://www.ipcc.ch)

² [AR6 WGI Summary for Policymakers Headline Statements \(ipcc.ch\)](https://www.ipcc.ch)

stated as a reduction of 80% by 2050 but updated to a net zero by 2050 target in 2019) via several interim targets. Local authorities do not have a statutory duty to implement the carbon budgets but are expected to contribute. It is important to note that climate emergency campaigners and many climate scientists argue that these targets are not enough, and that we should be aiming for net zero emissions as soon as 2030 in order to avoid the worst impacts of climate change.

14. The council recognises that the Isle of Wight is only a small area and as such can only have so much impact on the wider global issues associated with climate change. However, as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve it is particularly important to reduce the impacts of climate change and preserve the natural environment in any way possible.
15. This strategy sets out separate the net zero target dates for the council's operations and the wider island area. The council should commit to net zero by 2030 in the council's own operations with a maximum of 15% of the baseline emissions offset. A target of no later than 2040 should be set to meet net zero across the entire Island, and ideally sooner than 2040, with no more than 15% of baseline emissions offset by this date. Both target dates must primarily focus on reducing emissions to minimise the amount of offsetting required.
16. The Climate and Environment Strategy sets out the key target dates for achieving net carbon zero and actions that the council will undertake in its own operations and to enable the business and residential community to adapt to a changing climate and meet net carbon zero.
 - (a) The council will aim to meet net zero in its own operations by 2030, with no more than 15% offset taking place through planting schemes on council-owned land;
 - (b) Schools across the Isle of Wight are expected to aim to meet net zero in their operations by 2035 with no more than 15% offset taking place through planting schemes on school- and council-owned land;
 - (c) The whole of the Isle of Wight will aim to meet net zero in emissions across the area by 2040, with no more than 15% offset taking place on privately-owned land and in the marine environment.
17. Achieving net carbon zero within these time frames will require significant adaptation and change within the council and across the whole community. The pathway to net zero must focus primarily on emissions reductions, with only a small amount of offsetting taking place where strictly necessary.
18. While the council can control its own operations and is very likely to be able to meet net zero by 2030, this accounts for a tiny fraction (less than 1%) of the Island's overall emissions. Widespread behaviour change will be necessary across the Isle of Wight, with major changes to energy use and production, housing, and transport and its supporting infrastructure, for the entire area to meet a net zero emissions target. The council must focus on meeting its net zero target to lead the way for the rest of the Island to achieve net carbon zero.

STRATEGIC CONTEXT

19. The Corporate Plan 2019-22 sets out 12 overarching outcomes that support the corporate priorities of Growth, Regeneration, Opportunity, Wellbeing. The Climate and Environment Strategy support the outcomes of:
- (a) **The environment and unique island characteristics are** celebrated – though supporting and enhancing our natural environments and developing carbon offset through a combination of biodiversity net gain, planting schemes, rewilding and supporting enhanced marine biodiversity.
 - (b) **The community feels safe and resilient** – through energy and water resilience and supporting residents to ensure their homes are well insulated, energy efficient and adapted to protect from colder winters and warmer wetter summers
 - (c) **The island is a leading UK visitor attraction** – through supporting low carbon growth, reducing range anxiety for electronic vehicle owners and enhancing the island as an outdoor destination
20. The Climate and Environment also aligns with the following plans and strategies of the council

<p><u>Isle of Wight Planning Strategy</u></p>	<p>The Strategy will set out how, in spatial planning terms, the Island will develop up to 2027. In principle, the Island Plan Core Strategy is about “place shaping” and delivery.</p> <p>The revised IPCS is currently out to consultation. Once it has been adopted the Island Planning Strategy will play an integral role in contributing to realising the vision the council has for the Island and facilitating growth.</p>
<p><u>Health and Wellbeing Strategy</u></p>	<p>This strategy aims to improve the health and wellbeing of everyone on the Island. It focuses on making faster improvements for those who are most vulnerable and experience a poorer quality of life.</p>
<p><u>Draft Housing Strategy</u></p>	<p>The strategy focuses on providing the housing to meet the needs of our current population of around 140,000 and those that are projected to come over the next 5 years.</p>
<p><u>Island Transport Plan</u></p>	<p>A new Transport Plan is currently being developed.</p> <p>This plan sets out the long-term transport vision for the Island. It ties in to our 25-year PFI program.</p>
<p><u>Regeneration Strategy</u></p>	<p>This 2019-2030 Regeneration Strategy for the Isle of Wight aims to set out how the council is leading the agenda to ensure the economic future of the Island</p>

	and create the Island that is a great place to grow up, live, work and visit. The strategy sets out where we are today and the actions and activities we believe will enable the vision for the future to be realised.
<u>Strategic Risk Register</u>	The purpose of this report is to give the committee an opportunity to review the current position with regard to the council's strategic risks. The committee's terms of reference include the provision for consideration of "the effectiveness of the council's risk management arrangements".
<u>Island Biodiversity Plan</u>	The Biodiversity Action Plan is made up of a series of documents produced from 2000 to 2005. <u>Habitat Action Plans</u> have been produced to provide a framework for action to conserve and enhance the Island's biodiversity.
<u>Isle of Wight Climate Adaptation Report</u>	Outlines the key risks to the Isle of Wight posed by climate change and proposes a variety of adaptation measures to work around or live with these impacts
<u>Island Shoreline Management Plan</u>	The <u>Shoreline Management Plan</u> is the means by which the council and the Environment Agency determine the best way to look after the coast in a sustainable way for the next 100 years. It is prepared using guidelines set down by Defra, the Government Department with responsibility for setting national policy for defence of the coastline.

MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE

21. The Climate and Environment Strategy has been developed by staff of the council working with the Climate Change Task and Finish group appointed by the Cabinet Member for Environment, Heritage and Waste following the Climate Motion to Full Council in July 2019, and reporting to the Policy and Scrutiny Committee for Regeneration and Neighbourhoods.
22. There will be a requirement to change the management approach of the council should the recommendations in this report be approved, from development of the strategy to the delivery of actions Delivering the actions such as carbon savings, energy savings and the other benefits of the Action Plan will require a small team to project manage the council response and monitor the progress of actions.
23. The programme of activities to deliver the Strategy will need to be managed as a strategic corporate programme with an associated Programme Board.
24. The Climate and Environment team, within the Neighbourhoods Directorate, will be required to manage the following functions:
 - Policy and strategy development and delivery;

- Mobilisation and setting up of systems, protocols and procedures, including document management systems and data analysis;
- Develop a Island Climate Action Zone – for Mission Zero, managed in partnership with organisations, community action groups and town and parish councils
- Performance monitoring, including the reviewing of baseline data, customer surveys and on-going delivery monitoring.
- Delivering Internal advice and support to service managers and staff on reducing emissions over time and achieving this without reducing service outcomes. (e.g enabling growing fleet requirement in a sustainable pathway);
- Change management, including supporting council and community changes arising from the adopting of the strategy and implementation of future national policy changes;
- Supporting Town and parish Councils to develop local Climate Actions Plans;
- Customer interface through supporting community action and the Environment and Sustainability Forum;
- Governance, monitoring and reporting, including annual reviews and reporting on stewardship of the Action Plans;
- Budget management, including grant applications;
- Risk management and mitigation of those risks retained or shared by the council;
- Stakeholder management, including publicity, internal training and communications, external communications and Freedom of Information Act responses;
- Other commercial activities and opportunities including, benchmarking and market-testing of services and energy and developing options for energy generation, heat networks and water resilience; and
- IWC estate energy management in collaboration with the Property Management Team and seeking the reduction in cost to the council of energy use and part of delivery the council Carbon Management Plan 2021 – 2030.
- Any other actions and activities as determined by the Action Plan.

25. Delivering and co-ordinating the workstreams will require a dedicated project team who will guide and support the council actions through:

- (a) Supporting the Programme Board and expanding the officers working group to ensure representation across all Directorates
- (b) Providing in-house climate change training modules online in the digital learning hub (in development)
- (c) Rolling out Carbon Literacy Training to Service Managers identified through the officers working group, to become carbon ambassadors
- (d) Supporting the introduction to carbon and climate management in the development of Service Delivery Plans

Currently the Climate and Environment team (lead by the Strategic Manager for Contracts, Waste and Environment) consists of a Climate Change Project Officer who is currently employed on a fixed term basis until to October 2022 at a Grade 9.

26. In order to successfully facilitate and deliver the outcomes of the strategy the current team will need to be augmented and in place to drive delivery from the 1 April 2022, to incorporate the following:

- (a) A Climate Change and Environment Programme Manager (Full time - Grade 11 £53,455, including on-costs). This replaces the current fixed term post at a higher grade to reflect the additional responsibilities of delivery and budget management.
- (b) A Climate Change Co-ordinator (Full time – Grade 9 - £40,869, including on-costs) – This role will focus on stakeholder engagement, and co-ordination of council and community activities, grant and funding applications, co-ordinating the Climate Action Zone and communications.

*Note - Some of these costs could in future be offset by income generation activities and grant funding.

- 27. Further staff resources (subject to an updated transformation business case) will also include an Energy Manager – to manage the council’s carbon management plan, utilities and energy projects (such as the Salix Low carbon public sector grants). The future costs of this post would be met from the savings achieved in energy cost reductions.
- 28. In conjunction with the internal council arrangements, the team will be developing the Climate Action Zone – Mission Zero (CAZMZ) as an information and resource hub and governing steering group that will take ownership of the island wide actions working in partnership with businesses, third sector, organisations and community action groups, town and parish councils and through the Environment and Sustainability Forum.

CONSULTATION

- 29. Consultation has taken place both internally and externally with a range of stakeholders. Externally the Environment and Sustainability Forum which consists of interested members of the public and councillors. The group meetings have been held approximately monthly (paused through most of 2020 owing to Covid) and have been used as the conduit for community participation councillors in the development of the strategy. The group consists largely of Town & Parish Councillors and local residents, as well as some members of community groups and non-profit organisations and council staff members and councillors. This group has provided feedback on earlier drafts of the Strategy on several occasions over the last 18 months.

SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

- 30. The Strategy was most recently submitted to Neighbourhoods and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee in January 2021 following a member led Task and Finish Group. It was considered and approved with the net zero target dates as listed in the Recommendation.

FINANCIAL / BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

- 31. The financial scale of the strategy to achieve the targets is such that it is currently unaffordable to the council acting alone and will require a national government and private sector response. In that context, the best that the council can achieve is a

fully defined strategy where there is clarity on dependence on external funding (government grant or private sector investment) in order for it to be delivered.

32. The council could reasonably be expected to make interventions proportionate to the financial circumstances and set aside funds as match funding to lever in additional grant funding. Accordingly, the council should seek to prioritise revenue and capital funding to the Climate Change and Environment Strategy through its annual budget planning process but being mindful of the full range of statutory responsibilities of the council and its inevitable competing priorities.
33. The Action Plan has been developed taking a fully corporate approach in the developing achievable outcomes and associated costs. This exercise involved staff from across the council, through the climate change officers group and one to one meetings with service managers and nominated service leads. Further information has been obtained through: papers from central government, similar works by other Local Authorities and details of available grant funding
34. The Action Plan provides for costs that will arise from:
 - a) The council's existing activities and associated budgets
 - b) Any new activities required additional funding

Costs are separated into capital expenditure and operational expenditure where possible and estimates are provided of known financial savings that will result through specific activities.

35. The Action Plan has been developed into a draft budget plan with the relevant directorate Business Partner. The Action Plan costs are caveated as they are based on estimates from existing national schemes and take the upper end of pricing where there is a range. (**Appendix 3 - Climate Change Actions requiring additional grant or other funding**).
36. The current Action Plan contains **160** actions of which **118** are already built within respective council Service Delivery Plans and budgets (for example the £2.6m grant from Salix, delivering the Local Authority Low Carbon heating systems project).
37. **33** proposed council actions in the Action Plan will require an estimated additional funding of £56,261,649 of capital and £268,032 of revenue, to be sourced from grants and other funding sources or decisions by the council to fund at a future date in order to meet the targets set out in the strategy.
38. A further, **9** actions have estimates of significant costs required by the business community and residents of the Island (privately or grant funded) to meet the aim of Island wide net carbon zero by 2040. This includes for example changes to energy use and transport.

Costs that are NOT attributed to the council.		
TOTAL ESTIMATED ISLANDWIDE COSTS to 2040	£11,952,493.00	£2,158,494,155.00

39. In respect of the 33 proposed council actions requiring additional grant or other funding, the actions have been risk rated on deliverability as follows:

- Green – revenue or grant funding is available, or the grant has already been awarded subject to delivery (e.g. Active Travel Schemes) – we have assumed that these are committed council costs;
- Amber- grants are available at the moment but will require a successful application including the relevant resources to deliver the required outcomes (e.g. Tree planting and stewardship grants) - we have assumed these will be a non-committed council costs;
- Red- these grants are not available currently but could be in future - we have assumed for now these will be a non-committed council costs e.g. a further round of Salix grant funding for energy efficiency schemes).

40. The five year potential budget plan (subject to achieving these additional grants and funding bids) which combines the three groups of risk rating assumes that any grant values are based on high end estimates as follows:

COST OF CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY ACTIONS REQUIRING GRANT OR OTHER FUNDING SOURCE *these actions will only occur if funding is successful	2022			2023			2024			2025			2026		
	Revenue	Capital	Potential Savings	Revenue	Capital	Potential Savings	Revenue	Capital	Potential Savings	Revenue	Capital	Potential Savings	Revenue	Capital	Potential Savings
TOTAL ESTIMATED COST	272,547	6,843,915		274,639	9,908,360		254,482	15,223,660		264,324	12,147,757		274,167	12,137,957	
POTENTIAL FUNDED BY GOVT GRANTS	74,545.22	6,495,989.85		93,645.44	9,560,435.35		68,745.67	14,865,935.35		73,845.89	11,790,031.51		78,946.11	11,790,031.51	
POTENTIAL FUNDED BY IOWC THROUGH CAPITAL, TRANSFORMATION OR GROWTH BIDS	198,001	347,925		180,994	347,925		185,736	357,725		190,479	357,725		195,221	347,925	
POTENTIAL SAVINGS			- 16,507.00			-125,542.00			-137,542			-147,542			-143,542

*NOTE – the above figures per financial year do not include the income nor savings that may off set the annual revenue costs.

41. As per above additional costs for staff are required to support the plan to provide for a permanent Climate Change and Environment Project Manager (Full time - grade 11 - £53,455), and in addition a Climate Change Co-ordinator (Full time – grade 9 - £40,869 including on-costs). Some of these costs could in future be offset by income generation activities and grant funding. The funding for these posts will be subject to a bid as part of the 2021/22 Budget process.
42. Further resources (subject to an updated business case) would include an Energy Manager – to manage the council’s carbon management plan, utilities, and energy projects (such as the Salix Low carbon public sector grants).

CARBON EMISSIONS

43. The Climate and Environment Strategy is targeting to reduce all council emissions to net-carbon zero by 2030, with carbon offsetting taking place strictly where required. This accords with the Council’s Carbon Management Plan.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

44. Legal obligations relating to climate change in the UK are set at a national level and are based on the Paris Agreement. There is currently no obligation under the Climate Change Act (2008) for local authorities to have a climate strategy or action plan in place. Nationally the country has signed up to the Paris Agreement, which has led to the setting of legally binding ‘carbon budgets’; however, these are not binding at a local authority level.

EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY

45. The council as a public body is required to meet its statutory obligations under the Equality Act 2010 to have due regard to eliminate unlawful discrimination, promote equal opportunities between people from different groups and to foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it. The protected characteristics are: age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.
46. Under the Equality Act 2010 we are required to have due regard to our equality duties when making decisions, reviewing services, undertaking projects, developing and reviewing policies. This must be done at the formative stage of your proposal, not retrospectively as justification for the recommendation.
47. The term ‘climate justice’ frames climate change as an ethical issue instead of an issue that is purely environmental. It examines concepts such as human rights and gender equality and aims to relate the causes and effects of climate change to justice.
48. Typically, the communities most affected by climate change are:
 1. Those in developing nations
 2. People of colour
 3. Indigenous communities

4. Women and girls.

49. These groups are some of the individuals who have historically contributed the least to causing climate change yet are likely to face some of the most severe consequences and impacts of climate change. They may also be further disadvantaged by the response to climate change, for example, if high carbon jobs in certain geographic areas are likely to be lost.
50. Climate justice is a term often used interchangeably, so its definition may be contested. However, the council will view climate justice on the Isle of Wight as:
- “Ensuring equitable outcomes for different people and places associated with vulnerability to climate impacts and the fairness of policy and practice responses to address climate change and its consequences.”^{3,4}*
51. In other words, the council will endeavour to ensure that no one group is affected unfairly by any of the actions proposed as part of this Action Plan, and that the benefits are accessible equally to all across the Island.
52. An equality impact assessment has been completed and can be viewed at Appendix 4.

PROPERTY IMPLICATIONS

53. There are significant changes needed to energy and, in particular, heating systems in property throughout the council’s and schools’ estate in order to meet net zero. Work has already begun on a programme of decarbonisation at 12 council sites under the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme, but this will need to be rolled out across the full estate to meet net zero by the stated target dates. An updated version of the Carbon Management Plan is in progress to provide more detail around the required changes in each building individually. Actions have been included in the Action Plan to ensure that current and future buildings that make up the council’s estate are able to meet net zero.

OPTIONS

54. **Option 1: Agree to adopt and support the Climate Change and Environment Strategy and Action Plan with the following commitments:**
- (a) The aim to meet the target dates, as set out in the Strategy, to be net-carbon zero:
- as a council by 2030,
 - across the school estate by 2035 and
 - as an Island by 2040;

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³ [Climate Justice – United Nations Sustainable Development](#)

⁴ [What is climate justice? | Climate Just](#)

- (b) To provide for the required staff resources to manage the co-ordination and the delivery of the Action Plan, of £94,314 (through the 2021/22 budget process).
- (c) The resources already committed within existing council service plans and budgets.
- (d) The development of business cases, applications for grants and other external funding for future projects to fulfil other council and community led actions.
- (e) A full Strategy review and update, for publication every two years.
- (f) The Action Plan is reviewed as and when required and in the first instance within the first nine months.
- (g) The delegation to commence the projects within the Action Plan, subject to available resources, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Environment, Heritage and Waste.

55. Option 2: As per option 1 but with the agreement to adopt the Climate Change and Environment Strategy with all targets for the council, schools' estate and wider Island at 2030:

The financial scale of the strategy to achieve the schools and island targets by 2030 are such that it is currently unaffordable to pursue as the council acting alone and will require a national government and private sector response.

This affordability gap is significantly increased by an island wide target of 2030 and national policy does not support the delivery of net zero carbon by this date.

56. Option 3: Do not approve the Strategy

The UK has pledged to meet net zero by 2050. It is highly likely national policy will be updated in the future to reflect this target and mandate councils to take appropriate actions. The council could wait for national policy to make changes to service delivery and decide not to adopt a specific Climate Change Policy or Action Plan and not take advantage of the opportunities arising out of providing a leadership role for the Island.

RISK MANAGEMENT

57. Risk 1: Programme – financial.

The most likely risk to the Climate and Environment Strategy and Action Plan is the lack of available funding for the existing and proposed projects and the lack of management and coordination of the Action Plan.

Many of the projects that are likely to have the most impact on Carbon reduction are expected to have significant costs attached which are outside of the control of the council (for example, decarbonising heating systems in buildings or Island self-sufficiency on local renewable energy generation).

To mitigate this risk the council will need to show its support to all projects during the grant application process and ensure any grant funding received is given appropriate resource to ensure grant funded projects can be delivered in full and on time.

The council may wish to prioritise to achieve the Climate Change and Environment Strategy outcomes through its annual budget planning process but would need to be mindful of the full range of statutory responsibilities and any competing priorities.

58. **Risk 2: Strategic – sociological**

This risk relates to corporate and community ownership of the Strategy and Action Plan. As the council directly controls less than 1% of the Isle of Wight's overall carbon footprint, it recognises that a large portion of the actions that make up the Island Action Plan will need to take place through engagement.

There is also a risk that internal engagement may be difficult as meeting net zero will require significant changes to processes and practices in some service areas.

To mitigate this risk the creation of a new role of 'Climate Change Engagement Officer' has been proposed.

Internally training will be provided to staff. Process documents and reports will be updated to include climate and environment considerations in all decision-making.

59. **Risk 3: programme – political/ national policy/legislation**

There may be sudden shifts in national policy and legislation relating to climate change and the environment over the next decade. Within the last two months (July to August 2021) alone, we have seen two new key pieces of research published, which warn of the significant impacts of climate change that have both already arrived and are likely to arise in the future.

We have also seen a number of extreme weather events take place around the world over the same timeframe, including wildfires in North America and Europe and flooding across Europe and India, including flooding in the UK.

As a result of both new research and these weather events, it is likely that national policy may introduce new targets for climate change and the environment over the next 10 years as climate action, both nationally and globally, is expected to speed up to meet these challenges.

While we cannot say at this stage exactly what changes may arise, the policy and legislation landscape in the UK will be monitored carefully. The Climate and Environment Strategy and Action Plan is to be reviewed internally every year, with a review and update published externally every other year, to ensure that the Action Plan remains fit for purpose and is able to meet any new national targets and/or other policy and legislation that may arise.

The Climate Change Project Officer will also continue to monitor new research and policy and will notify any relevant service areas immediately should any new policy or legislation be proposed that may affect them.

60. As the Council's net zero target date is currently 20 years earlier than the UK's target, and the Island's proposed net zero target date is 10 years earlier than the UK's target, this is currently a relatively low risk, but the situation will need to be monitored closely.
61. A risk register for the programme will be maintained throughout delivery of the Action Plan.
62. As the Action Plan progresses, specific risks are likely to arise from individual projects as the proposed outputs are more closely investigated and assessed. These risks will be reported on separately for each of the outputs, where relevant, as project plans are produced.
63. The risks to the delivery net-carbon zero agenda under all three options sit broadly across resourcing, finance and corporate and community ownership of actions to meet these targets. There may also be some risk associated with sudden changes in national policy and/or legislation related to climate change and/or the environment.
64. As identified above, the internal resources to programme manage the net carbon zero agenda are currently fixed and minimal. It is proposed that the staffing budget is increased from a corporate level to fund two permanent posts who will deliver this programme and the required engagement.

EVALUATION

65. This report has outlined three options, with the recommendation being the adoption of the Climate and Environment Strategy and Action Plan as proposed, to meet the net zero target dates of 2030 (council) and 2040 (Island-wide), with a suggested target date of 2035 for schools (although this is TBC as part of the schools-specific action plan). The recommended option has been suggested for several reasons:
 - (a) It sets realistic target dates for net zero carbon that exceed national targets
 - (b) These targets are likely to support grant bids to support many aspects of the plan
 - (c) It is realistic about the level of funding required to deliver the outcomes of the Strategy and the requirement to source additional funding
 - (d) As new research emerges and extreme weather events worse around the world, declining to adopt the Strategy is likely to lead to significant backlash locally
 - (e) Seeking a target date of 2030 for Island-wide emissions is in theory achievable, but given the scale of financial support and infrastructure change required to meet this it is unlikely to be a realistic target date

APPENDICES

- Appendix 1: Mission Zero – Climate and Environment Strategy
- Appendix 2: Detailed Action Plan
- Appendix 3: Climate Change Actions requiring additional grant or other funding
- Appendix 4 EIA for Climate Strategy

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Cabinet Member for Environment, Heritage
and Waste Management