

REPORT AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting: 8 March 2023

Report of: Net Zero Exeter & City Management

Title: City Council Net Zero Risk Register

Is this a Key Decision?

No

Is this an Executive or Council Function?

Council

1. What is the report about?

- 1.1 To update the City Council's Net Zero Risk Register and assess the risks to deliver Net Zero within the City Council by 2030, and adaptation required to protect Council services.
- 1.2 To identify risks in delivering net zero within the City Council, for each carbon emission scope, and for the organisation as a whole.

2. Recommendations:

- 2.1 That the Audit and Governance Committee recommend to Council that the City Council's Net Zero Risk Assessment update is noted and approved; and
- 2.2 That it is noted that the risk assessment will be updated and reported to Audit & Governance Committee every six months.

3. Reasons for the recommendation:

- 3.1 To highlight the risks associated with reducing City Council carbon emissions. To enable the Net Zero team to strategically plan resources, organisational change and budget to deliver activity and progress to support one of the main City Council's corporate priorities.
- 3.2 To enable risk associated with reducing City Council carbon emissions to be measured, monitored, reported on and incorporated into all City Council processes.

4. What are the resource implications including non-financial resources.

- 4.1 Financial and non-financial resources to reduce City Council carbon emissions are in place, detailed a July 2022 report to Executive. An update on spend is within a report to Strategic Scrutiny March 2023.
- 4.2 Further work will be undertaken to complete a detailed risk assessment related to service area and scope, to identify financial and non-financial resources needed for the City Council to achieve net zero by 2030. This activity will developed, when resources allow.

- 4.3 Achieving net zero, whether nationally, locally or organisationally, requires broad action across all emission scopes and by every service. Reducing City Council carbon emissions will be very challenging in such a tight time frame and with the resources currently available to the team.

5. Section 151 Officer Comments:

- 5.1 The report highlights the financial risks surrounding delivery on Net Zero by 2030. This is a significant risk, given the Council's limited ability to increase its resources. The Council is a hugely significant property owner with thousands of properties to address. This will be a substantial challenge in itself alongside the other areas of concern.

6. What are the legal aspects?

- 6.1 Section 1 of the Climate Change Act 2008 states that '[i]t is the duty of the Secretary of State to ensure that the net UK carbon account for the year 2050 is at least 100% lower than the 1990 baseline. The target was originally 80% and was increased to 100% by the Climate Change Act 2008 (2050 Target Amendment) Order 2019.
- 6.2 Exeter City Council has declared a climate emergency and set the target of achieving net zero by 2030.

7. Monitoring Officer's comments:

- 7.1 This report raises no issues for the Deputy Monitoring Officer.

Simon Copper – Deputy Monitoring Officer

8. City Council Net Zero Risk Register

- 8.1 The City Council's Net Zero Carbon Reduction Plan is being reported to Strategic Scrutiny March 2023, with a full review of the plan along with an update on current projects.
- 8.2 Correspondingly, the Risk Register developed in July 2022 (Appendix 1) has been updated to cover all aspects of net zero within the City Council. In addition to guidance from the National Audit Office, adaptation measures have been included.
- 8.3 The City Council's carbon baseline report, supporting action plan and risk register is an evolving document. It will continue to inform the work programme of the Net Zero team and subsequent budget required to deliver net zero.

9. How does the decision contribute to the Council's Corporate Plan?

- 9.1 This report and the work of the Net Zero team links directly to the Exeter Vision and a number of corporate priorities. Work will have to be delivered in partnership with all City Council service areas to reduce our carbon emissions.

Exeter Vision	Innovative & Analytical City	The team has developed a range of data sets to monitor City Council carbon emissions
	Healthy & Inclusive	Ensure City Council owned homes are energy efficient
	The Most active city in the UK	Projects are developed to support active travel for employees
	Accessible world class educations	N/A
	Liveable & connected	Commercial and residential properties are energy efficient and built to the best possible standard
	A leading sustainable city	The City Council is a role model for other organisations in Exeter
Corporate Plan	Net Zero Exeter 2030	Net Zero team focuses on reducing City Council carbon emissions to deliver Net Zero by 2030
	Value for money services	Carbon reducing actions will be commercially viable and will reduce service delivery costs
	Housing, Building Great Neighbourhoods and Communities	Working with Building Greater Exeter, Liveable Exeter, Exeter City Living and other developers in developing sustainable and accessible neighbourhoods and new homes, using sustainable constructions methods
	Healthy and Active City	Working in partnership with Live & Move in developing sustainable travel options and low traffic neighbourhoods for staff active travel

10. What risks are there and how can they be reduced?

- 10.1 The development of the City Council's carbon baseline report and supporting action plan and risk register will inform the work programme of the Net Zero team for the foreseeable future. These documents will be presented to Strategic Scrutiny on a regular basis for ongoing monitoring.
- 10.2 An early indication from the carbon baseline report is the need for better data to monitor progress. The Net Zero Data Support Officer is working with City Council services to gather new and additional data, so that we are able better to monitor progress.
- 10.3 The financial cost to deliver net zero within the City Council will be significant. At every opportunity, funding bids will be submitted to relevant bodies to assist in reducing our own carbon emissions.

11. Equality Act 2010 (The Act)

- 11.1 In developing the action plan, the Net Zero team will take into account the potential impact of actions in relation to age, disability, race/ethnicity (includes Gypsies and Travellers), sex and gender, gender identity, religion and belief, sexual orientation, pregnant women and new and breastfeeding mothers, marriage and civil

partnership status in coming to a decision. An EQIA will be undertaken for each action being developed.

11.2 An EQIA was undertaken in developing the new Net Zero & Business team in allocating resources.

12. Carbon Footprint (Environmental) Implications:

12.1 The City Council declared a Climate Emergency in 2019 and as part of this commitment it aims to achieve net zero emissions for its corporate activities by 2030. The Risk Register will consider the carbon reduction measures required to achieve net zero.

13. Are there any other options?

13.1 There is the option of not committing financial and non-financial resources to work towards Net Zero within the City Council. This would result in a lack of direction in reducing our carbon emissions and missing our 2030 target. On a regular basis, the Net Zero team will be sourcing and applying for external funding to enable delivery of the City Council's own carbon plan, working towards net zero within the City Council.

Director Net Zero & City Management, David Bartram

Author: Service Lead Net Zero & Business

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1972 (as amended)

Background papers used in compiling this report:-

Executive, July 2022

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