

## REPORT TO EXECUTIVE

Date of Meeting: 8 July 2025

Report of: Strategic Director of Place

Title: Exeter City Council's Costed Organisational Carbon Footprint Projections Study to 2030

### Is this a Key Decision?

No

### 1. What is the report about?

- 1.1. The report presents a summary of the “Costed Organisational Carbon Footprint Projections to 2030” study, produced for the City Council by the Centre for Energy and Environment (CEE) at the University of Exeter. For the first time, it includes estimates of the capital and operational costs associated with decarbonisation over the period 2023/24 to 2030/31.
- 1.2. The assessment of potential measures uses a theoretical model based on three different scenarios, (Business as Usual, Mid-Term and Max Net Zero) across five sectors of the City Council’s operation, to reduce our corporate Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions.
- 1.3. The study includes GHG emissions from Scope 1 (direct use of fossil fuels) and Scope 2 activities (indirect emissions from purchased electricity), plus the additional Scope 3 emissions associated with these activities.
- 1.4. The report provides scenarios that allow the City Council to prioritise measures which services can undertake for GHG emission reduction but does not commit the City Council to achieving them. The scenarios outlined in the study are both ambitious and challenging. The focus on costs will enable the City Council to prepare investment bids and to plan budgets accordingly. Further details of emissions included in each scope is included in section 6.3. The ability of the City Council to successfully deliver measures under the different scenarios is largely dependent on securing external funding.
- 1.5. Further work is required to explore how additional BAU measures can be incorporated into Service Plans, beyond those measures which have already been fully costed and committed. This will be in the form of a revised Carbon Reduction Plan, which Members can consider.

## **2. Recommendations:**

- 2.1. The Carbon Footprint Projections, study including associated challenges and cost to the City Council, are noted and this information will be reported to Strategic Scrutiny Committee in September 2025.
- 2.2. Members note progress to date and further carbon reduction potential under the assessment of Scope 1 and 2 carbon reduction scenarios available to achieve net zero.
- 2.3. A further report is considered by Executive, which identifies options for how Business as Usual (BAU) carbon reduction measures can be incorporated into annual Service Plans, to enable prioritisation of service led GHG emission reduction measures.
- 2.4. The Net Zero team works in collaboration with relevant Services to plan future funding bids to secure additional resources, prioritising social housing, buildings and transport services to support emission reductions.

## **3. Reasons for the recommendation:**

- 3.1. To understand measures as set out in the Costed Organisational Carbon Footprint Projections 2030 Study which includes three costed scenarios to achieve net zero (Study included as Appendix A).
- 3.2. The Mid and Max scenarios provide reduction of carbon emissions of 73% and 99% by 2030/31. To enable wider discussion, the study is given due consideration and scrutiny by Strategic Scrutiny Committee.
- 3.3. Highlight positive outcomes already in fruition, classified as the Business as Usual (BAU) scenario in the study, that will decrease scope 1 and 2 GHG emissions by 29% by 2030/31.
- 3.4. Continue engagement from all City Council services, especially in housing, buildings (property owned by the City Council) and transport (fleet), so that measures can be integrated into Service Plans and enable the Council to be better prepared to access grant funding to implement measures.
- 3.5. The carbon reduction measures provide associated social value and wider benefits. The study allows the City Council to assess its priorities for Net Zero activity, in line with the strategic priorities set out in the draft Corporate Plan.

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

- 4.1. Exeter City Council declared a Climate Emergency in 2019 and as part of this commitment, aims to achieve net zero GHG emissions for its own activities by 2030. The definition of 'net zero' in this context includes all GHG emissions arising from the City Council's direct activities (termed Scope 1 and 2) and from other indirect activities (Scope 3).

4.2. The study includes three costed scenarios to achieve net zero, both operational and capital costs and across all services. The estimated capital and operational costs will allow for better financial planning of resources and inform annual service plans across the organisation. These costs and the evidence which supports them can also be used in any subsequent bids for government funding.

## **5. Section 151 Officer comments:**

5.1 The report sets out the significant financial challenge associated with continuing the path to net zero. It will be essential to attract additional funding, but even then, where there are match funding obligations, this may cause significant challenges to both the General Fund and HRA.

## **6. What are the legal aspects?**

6.1 Section 1 of the Climate Change Act 2008 states that it 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.

## **7. Monitoring Officer's comments:**

7.1 Members will note the statutory obligations set out in the legal aspects above. The Monitoring Officer has no additional comments.

## **8. Costed Organisational Carbon Footprint Projection to 2030 Study**

8.1 The Centre for Energy and the Environment (CEE) at the University of Exeter has produced the City Council's GHG inventory for the previous 6 years. The inventory was updated for the 2023/24 and included in the Costed Organisational Carbon Footprint Projections Study.

8.2 In 2022, CEE assessed the potential to achieve net zero by reducing emissions across five sectors: council-owned housing, non-domestic buildings, transport, renewable energy and land use change/afforestation. The Study updates and extends that analysis to include, for the first time cost estimates and considers three scenarios:

- **Business as Usual (BAU):** The level of activity that is already planned for and/or committed to by the City Council. Activity will require additional funding from government, or other external sources.
- **Mid Case (Mid):** An escalation of activity beyond the BAU scenario i.e., a 'stretch target' which would also require additional government grant funding and operational costs.
- **Net Zero (Max):** A theoretical maximum level of uptake of measures, which would have considerable impact on cost, skills, supply chain and capacity.

8.3. The focus of the study is on Scope 1 and 2 activities only. It does not include the costs of decarbonising the City Council's supply chain (Scope 3). Assessment of Scope 3 emissions is currently data poor and there is no published methodology or data to extend this study to costed Scope 3 GHG emissions reduction projections.

**Scope 1** (direct emissions from owned sources), including combustion of fuel in boilers in council owned buildings for heating and hot water, refrigerant leaks from council equipment and fuel in council vehicles.

**Scope 2** (indirect emissions from generation of purchased electricity) which covers all electricity use across the council's services

**Scope 3** (other indirect) including GHG emissions embodied in all material and services bought by the council, business travel, grey fleet use and commuting, waste disposal, and Well to Tank (WTT).

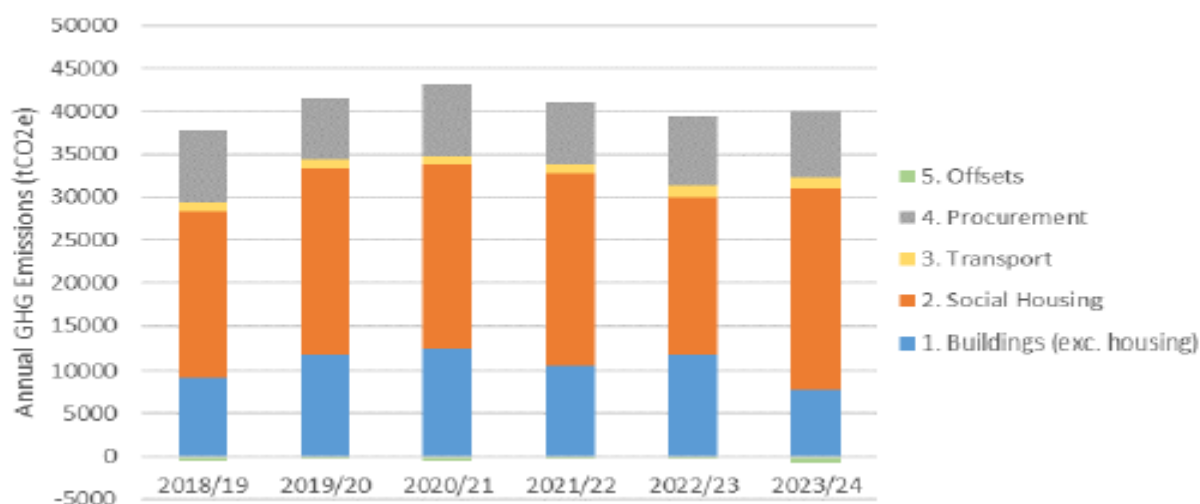
- 8.4 The assessment of Scope 1 and 2 GHG emissions includes the appraisal of central government policy, input and consultation with City Council Heads of Service and officers in relevant departments, a review of relevant City Council documents, as well as internal and external data sources. Source based estimates of capital (CAPEX) and operational (OPEX) costs associated with measures are estimated for the period 2023/24 to 2030/31. OPEX was calculated differently for each section. For Council Social housing, non-domestic buildings and renewables, this was using energy consumption data. Transport OPEX was calculated through lease and maintenance costs, and Land Use Change calculated based on maintenance costs.
- 8.5 Each sector assessment provides several potential measures to reduce GHG emissions ranging from straightforward energy efficiency to far more challenging solutions. There are no pre-determined trajectories, but a range of scenarios for reducing emissions for demonstration purposes.
- 8.6 The study also includes the City Council's most up to date organisational GHG emissions inventory for 2023/24 (highlighted below). Trends in GHG emissions have not changed significantly since 2018/19, but it is recognised emission reductions modelled in the BAU scenario will see a decline in the trajectory.

#### **GHG Inventory 2023/24**

- 8.7 The table below is a breakdown of the most up to date GHG inventory results at 39,340 tCO<sub>2</sub>e which is for the period of 2023/24, and is split into each sector. As in previous GHG inventories, Scope 1 and 2 and Scope 3 emissions are included. Categories shown in red, are ones that fall outside the projections in the study.
- 8.8 Emissions have not changed significantly over the period. The reduction of over 7,000 tCO<sub>2</sub>e reduction from last year's published inventory is due to more accurate data on leased assets provided by the City Council which have been applied across the restated timeseries in the figures below.

Category	Scope 1	Scope 2	Scope 3	Offset	Total
1. Buildings (exc. housing)	1,049	1,146	5,551		7,746
1.1 Corporate Estate	366	307	159		832
1.2 Leisure Centres	684	405	244		1,333
1.3 Other Non-Domestic		434	142		576
1.4 Waste from Buildings			3		3
1.5 Homeworking Energy			173		173
1.6 Construction and Maintenance			897		897
1.7 Leased Out			3,933		3,933
2. Social Housing	11,467	2,946	8,816		23,229
2.1 Operational emissions	11,467	2,946	2,858		17,270
2.2 Construction and Maintenance			5,958		5,958
3. Transport	688		612		1,300
3.1 Own Vehicles	688		168		856
3.2 Grey Fleet			16		16
3.3 Business Travel			10		10
3.4 Commuting			417		417
4. Procurement			7,839		7,839
4.1 Goods			3,444		3,444
4.2 Services			4,394		4,394
5. Offsets	-155			-619	-774
5.1 Exported Renewable Energy				-619	-619
5.2 Land Use Change	-155				-155
Total (entire footprint)	13,050	4,092	22,817	-619	39,340

Graph 1 below illustrates Exeter City Council's GHG emissions footprint each sector from 2018/19 to 2023/24.



## Social Housing

8.9 The Social Housing sector accounts for the largest amount of the City Council's GHG emission footprint. Under the BAU scenario, social housing emissions will decrease by 26% by 2030/31 which is modelled on stock disposal, construction of new homes and continuation of the existing retrofit programme. The Mid scenario sees accelerated insulation and solar PV rollout and an increase in heat replacement, electrification and the removal of gas from homes. The Max scenario is a full expansion of the heat replacement (electrification) and increased solar PV installation, with GHG emissions reducing by 87% in total.

8.10 The greatest challenge associated with implementing measures under the three scenarios for Social Housing is the significant capital investment required and is dependent on significant government grants. However, there is a clear pathway to achieving a significant reduction in GHG emissions presented by an extensive decarbonisation of heat. This requires the current retrofit programme and fabric first

approach to ensure homes are sufficiently insulated and energy efficient, so that electric heating can operate effectively without leading to high electricity bills for tenants. Officer capacity within the City Council and grant funding will be an enabling factor.

8.11 The delivery of the City Council's social housing retrofit programme continues at pace, with available funding and measuring factors other than just carbon, particularly in measuring regulated energy, has delivered the following to date:

- 3,135 tonnes of CO2 saved per annum
- 776 properties retrofitted to the fabric first approach
- 378 (49%) of completed upgrades achieved the maximum EPC Band 'A'
- 321 (41%) of completed upgrades achieved EPC status 'B'
- Average fuel consumption for tenants reduced by 40-50%
- £11.5m invested with £3.1m of Government grant funding obtained

To continue the delivery of the retrofit programme, a bid for £4.34m of Warm Homes Social Housing Fund Wave 3 has been submitted, supported by £5.6m of co-funding. If successful, will deliver 140 property retrofit completions per year for the next 3 years, including 184 solid wall (non-traditional) properties.

8.12 For social homes that are retrofitted, there are wider benefits including: improved insulation makes for warmer homes therefore reduced energy consumption, reduced carbon emissions, reduced energy bills for tenants, as well as improved physical and mental wellbeing for tenants. Retrofit works support the development of green skills and the development of local jobs within the city.

### **Buildings (excluding housing)**

8.13 The City Council's non-domestic building stock includes leased assets (such as The Senate and the Guildhall Shopping Centre), Leisure Centres, and corporate buildings including MRF, RAMM, Exeter Corn Exchange, The Matford Centre, The Custom House, Civic Centre and our Car Park estate.

8.14 The City Council's Non-Domestic Building Stock is the second highest emitter of GHG emissions. The BAU scenario will reduce emissions by 57% by 2030/31. The Mid scenario, which includes insulation works, installation of air source heat pumps at three of the City Council's leisure centres, PV installed at the ISCA centre and RAMM, would result in a total emissions decrease of 68%. Installing air source heat pumps throughout the City Council's corporate estate and leisure centres would result in a Max case reductions in emissions estimated at 78% in 2030/31.

8.15 All three scenarios are faced with the challenge of a financial capital commitment each year, alongside operational energy costs. A breakdown of GHG emission reduction and measures for each scenario are detailed in the study. The large spending shown in the 2029 Max scenario is due to the installation of a £5.3 million Air Source Heat Pump at RAMM, however this cost would be greatly reduced if RAMM connects to the proposed City Centre District Heat Network.

8.16 Meeting the requirements of each scenario for the City Council's non-domestic stock will face challenges like those for Social Housing. Energy efficiency improvements, such as the installation of solar PV, decarbonisation of heat and installation of

insulation is technically feasible but would need to be supported by a business case, as well as successful government grant funding applications.

- 8.17 The City Council does not purchase the energy for leased buildings and due to current lease structures, are unable to control energy use and how each leased out building is heated.
- 8.18 The development and the rollout of the proposed District Heat Network across the city centre would enable some buildings owned and leased out by the City Council to decarbonise. Connection and retrofit costs could be funded by a successful application to the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS) fund. During 2025, the Net Zero team will be assessing which buildings to connect along the route of the proposed District Heat Network, considering both energy and GHG emission savings.
- 8.19 Delivery of schemes to reduce carbon emissions include the recent successful bid for £3.548million PSDS funding to decarbonise the Riverside Leisure Centre by 2028. In addition, to a new Multi Reclamation Facility at Marsh Barton.
- 8.20 Wider benefits of the above include supporting services by reducing energy consumption and repair costs, as well as reducing operational costs. In addition, the schemes demonstrate best practice and sharing the benefits of successful decarbonisation projects serves to influence and lead businesses in the city.
- 8.21 Energy consumption associated with Data Centres at Oakwood House and The Civic Centre is captured in Scope 2 emissions. The move to cloud-based data storage by the Council's IT provider, will reflect a decrease in energy consumption at both sites.
- 8.22 In the Council's recent Budget Consultation (January 2025), high levels of agreement were reported in relation to the City Council investing in securing affordable, clean and secure energy, with 81% of residents agreeing.

## **Transport**

- 8.23 The majority of the City Council's transport emissions stem from the City Council's own vehicles, with diesel Refuse Collection Vehicles (RVCs) accounting for 61% of overall emissions. Enabling the decarbonisation of these vehicles will strongly influence the trajectory of reduction pathways.
- 8.24 Under the BAU scenario, Scope 1 & 2 transport emissions fall slightly, but the Mid scenario, with the introduction of biofuel (HVO) and/or the electrification of fleet, GHG emissions fall steadily. Under the Max scenario, GHG emissions quickly fall due to the full electrification of the refuse and our general vehicle fleet. The predominance of vehicle leasing means that most costs are classified as OPEX.
- 8.25 As mentioned above, the largest proportion of the City Council's transport emissions stem from RCVs and are therefore the highest priority for reducing transport emissions. Whilst the study assumes that the electricity to charge these vehicles comes at no extra cost (renewable energy supply), refuse collection vehicles come with the highest lease cost uplift, with electric alternatives costing an additional £4,500 per month to lease. The study includes a range of emissions reduction pathways; including an affordable but effective route to decarbonise the City Council's transport fleet. Additional funding is required for the procurement of leasing alternatives for

diesel replacement, to accelerate decarbonisation and efforts can result in a 92% reduction in transport emissions by 2030/31.

- 8.26 There may be additional challenges in securing suitable electric vehicles for more specialist activities in Parks & Open Spaces, as well as the transition from diesel hand-held machinery to electric.
- 8.27 The full range of assumptions made for each combination of measures and scenarios, including the use of alternative fuels, are detailed in the study. The City Council has its own dedicated renewable charging supply for electric refuse vehicles (eRCVs), and it is therefore a priority to investigate ways in which vehicle lease costs can be made affordable when supported by reduced fuel costs, so allowing the electrification of the refuse fleet to be accelerated.
- 8.28 There are considerable added wider benefits realised by replacing diesel fuel, reducing the environmental impact of air pollution in the city, and cleaner environment for refuse crews working behind the vehicles. Operating considerably quieter vehicles also provides for safer working conditions as crews can hear each other more easily. The Water Lane Solar Farm and the renewable supply to the EV charging infrastructure at the City Council's Depot is a flagship project which has received national interest and many visits from neighbouring organisations.

### **Offsets using Renewable Electricity Generation**

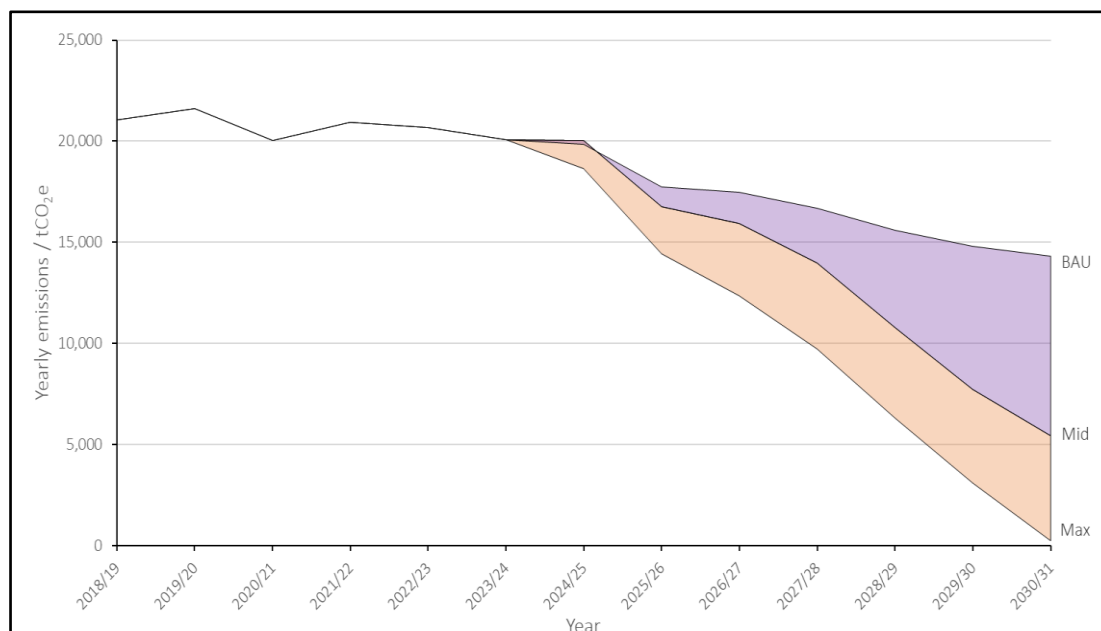
- 8.29 The installation of solar photovoltaic (PV) arrays delivers carbon savings as their output replaces alternative fossil fuel energy sources, and exporting renewable energy (electricity that is not directly used on site by services) simultaneously offsets the City Council's gross GHG emissions footprint, it also generates a financial revenue. In 2023/24, the City Council's solar PV portfolio exported 2,989 MWh of the total 4,576 MWh generated, with the balance being self-consumed, offsetting -619 tCO<sub>2</sub>e.
- 8.30 Additional solar PV deployment on our social homes, non-domestic buildings and utilising ground mounted arrays increase PV exports in 2030/31 to 4,298 MWh, 4,965 MWh and 10,475 MWh in the BAU, Mid and Max scenarios, respectively. The increases in offset emissions illustrated in the study reflect the development of new renewable energy projects, particularly in 2026/27 when 3.2MWp of additional PV could be installed. However, uncertainties apply, such as land use, building structure, condition of roof spaces and electricity grid connection agreements required for solar PV installations will be very challenging.
- 8.31 The council's non-domestic estate of over 3.4 MW, represents a sizable portfolio regionally, with wider benefits including long term income streams and financial savings on reduced energy imports for the City Council. The rollout of renewable electricity generation continues to be financially attractive. A strong business case, supporting local energy resilience and hedges against rising energy prices, and in some cases can overcome national grid constraints.
- 8.32 Falling national grid electricity GHG emissions mean that despite increasing renewable generation by 2030, its role in offsetting carbon emissions in other sectors will reduce over time. The decarbonisation of the electricity grid reduces the grid electricity factor, diminishing the potential of offsets from exporting renewable energy.

## Offsets using Land Use Change

- 8.33 Afforestation of unforested land delivers valuable carbon sequestration, as trees capture carbon from the atmosphere and transform it into biomass, a process that has the potential to offset carbon emissions on the pathway to net zero. The City Council owns 409 ha of parks and greenspaces, including the 162 ha of the city's Valley Parks, which are managed by the Devon Wildlife Trust.
- 8.34 The report assumes the City Council's own Parks & Green Spaces have a 24% canopy cover in line with the city, this entails ~98 ha of canopy cover, sequestering -155 tCO<sub>2</sub>e annually. Additional tree planting scenarios to further offset the City Council's GHG emissions were modelled using data from the Sixth Carbon Budget, which provides GHG emission savings from planting different types of biomasses of different yield classes.
- 8.35 Under the BAU scenario, annual offsets in 2030/31 will increase to -161 tCO<sub>2</sub>e, costing a total of £1m in OPEX to 2030/31. Increasing canopy cover to 30% in a Mid scenario increases annual offsets in 2030/31 to -309 tCO<sub>2</sub>e, with £0.3m of additional costs of which £0.2m is CAPEX. Increasing canopy cover to 100% in a Max scenario would offset -2,032 tCO<sub>2</sub>e in 2030/31, costing a further £4m on top of the Mid scenario of which £2.3m is CAPEX.
- 8.36 While the Mid scenario represents valuable progress towards net zero, the Max scenario of 100% canopy cover and potential to increase potential offset emissions eight-fold. 100% canopy cover is not advisable, as land owned by the City Council has various uses, such as biodiversity and recreation, which supports a healthy resident population. Opportunities to expand current planned efforts and increase canopy cover to 30% on a whole City basis is a strategy being targeted for 30 years from 2024/25 by Parks and Green Spaces Team.
- 8.37 Successful tree planting efforts by the City Council have increased the tree stock by 748 trees (107 standard trees, 50 heritage variety fruit trees, and 591 broadleaf whips). Assuming a planting density of 1,600 trees ha<sup>-1</sup> and a broadleaf yield class, these will account for 0.35 tCO<sub>2</sub>e emissions in 2023/24. Additionally, the challenges associated with this scenario include the availability of suitable land, the additional capital and revenue costs, capacity internally to maintain the additional tree canopy cover, are considerations outlined in the assumptions made for each combination of measure and scenario in the study.
- 8.38 Additional benefits of tree planting include reduced surface water runoff, improved air quality, improved biodiversity and habitat, and cooling to address warmer summers.

## Overall Results

- 8.39 The overall reduction of the City Council's projected Scope 1 and 2 organisational GHG emissions footprint to 2030/31 is illustrated below. The graph models the cumulative emissions over the seven modelled years and highlights rigorous decarbonisation efforts in all three scenarios (BAU, Mid and Max). Individual sector projections are detailed in the study, of which the Social Housing operational GHG emission projection exhibits a similar shape graph because the sector accounts for a considerable proportion of the organisational GHG footprint (86% in 2023/24).



Graph 2. Projected ECC Scope 1 and 2 organisational emissions under the BAU, Mid and Max decarbonisation scenarios.

8.40 The estimated overall costs associated with delivering each scenario is summarised in the table below. Over the period 2023/24 to 2030/31, meeting the BAU Scenario costs £55.5m. The Mid scenario is estimated to cost an additional £19.2m (£74.7m in total), whilst reducing emissions by 73%. The Max Scenario is an estimated additional £73.5m (£129m in total) and represents a theoretical maximum level with far more challenging and potentially contentious solutions.

Scenario	2023/24	2030/31	Change % or from BAU
<b>BAU</b>			
Emissions tCO2e	20,094	14,322	-29%
Total CAPEX £m		£25.1m	
Total OPEX £m		£30.4m	
Total cost £m		£55.5m	
<b>Mid</b>			
Emissions tCO2e	20,094	5,424	-73%
Total CAPEX £m		£42.9m	£17.8m
Total OPEX £m		£31.8m	£1.4m
Total cost £m		£74.7m	£19.2m
<b>Max</b>			
Emissions tCO2e	20,094	266	-99%
Total CAPEX £m		£93.7m	£68.6m
Total OPEX £m		£35.5m	£5.1m
Total cost £m		£129m	£73.5m

Table 2: Comparison of emissions and costs across BAU, Mid and Max scenarios in 2023/24 and 2030/31

## Conclusion

8.41 The study allows the City Council to assess its priorities for Net Zero activity, in line with the strategic priorities set out in the draft Corporate Plan. The carbon reduction

measures set out in the scenarios will provide services (sectors) with the knowledge needed to prepare for investment bids and to plan annual Service Plans and budgets.

- 8.42 It is important to note that these are not pre-determined trajectories, but a range of different scenarios for reducing GHG emissions for demonstration purposes. The assessment of forecasted measures, projects, and policy applicable at the time of the study. The challenges to reduce corporate GHG emissions are extensive, and measures set out in this study are desk based, as there was no scope for detailed site visits or audits. Therefore, potential measures to reduce emissions range from straightforward energy efficiency to far more challenging and, in some cases unfeasible solutions. The range of different scenarios for reducing GHG emissions are dependent on funding streams, capacity of both staff but also the capacity of businesses, skills and new technologies. Financial forecasts will become outdated and be subject to inflation and shifts in market supply and demand. In addition, changes in government and local based GHG emission reduction targets could extend or shorten the requirement for net zero.
- 8.43 The BAU scenario enables the City Council to assess opportunities to reduce GHG emissions, with some of the work already underway or planned for. The continuation of decarbonisation work, whilst dependent on securing external funding to deliver projects, will enable each service to consider BAU measures in Service Plans.
- 8.44 The Mid Case scenario sees much more progress towards net zero for the City Council. It illustrates the potential to achieve a significant reduction in GHG emissions at a practical pace, the electrification of heat in our social housing is a significant contributor to reducing GHG emissions in this scenario. The Net Zero team will work in collaboration with Heads of Service to plan future funding bids to secure additional resources needed to deliver the BAU and Mid Case Scenarios.
- 8.45 The impact of offsets is highlighted in the Max scenario, but reducing the City Council's own GHG emissions is prioritised over offsetting, as direct mitigation addresses the root generation of GHG and ensures long term sustainability for the City Council's services and assets.
- 8.46 Delivering the measures set out in the study will require the engagement of each service throughout the City Council, particularly those involved with social housing, buildings and transport. To embrace the measures set out in the Costed Organisational Carbon Footprint Projection Study, further work in collaboration with services will be taken forward using annual Service Plans and cross department working, accelerating projects that can be financially supported.
- 8.47 This study is also being presented to Strategic Scrutiny Committee in September, for further consideration.
- 8.48 Extensive additional benefits are detailed under each sector in this report. The advantages listed below are not expanded on in the study, its focus being an analysis of costs borne by the City Council in decarbonising its direct Scope 1 and 2 activities. Benefits of GHG emission reduction include:
- reduced use of fossil fuel lowers pollution levels
  - healthier more comfortable homes and buildings

- energy efficient, cheaper to run social homes and buildings
- biodiversity enhancement
- improved health for our workers and residents
- reduced operational costs supporting sustainable City Council services
- improved budget security from a self-supply of renewable energy generation
- local leadership and dissemination for replication of decarbonisation measures
- Decarbonisation works provide for 'green' jobs and skills training
- Collaboration and innovation benefit the city and region

## 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 draft Corporate Plan 2025-28. Once the new plan is adopted, all activity to reduce our GHG emissions will link to key priorities set out in the new Corporate Plan in collaboration with City Council services, including using specific and measurable metrics to track progress against priorities and intended outcomes.

Exeter Vision	Innovative & Analytical City	The team has developed a range of data sets to monitor City Council carbon emissions
	Heathy & Inclusive	Ensure City Council owned homes and buildings are energy efficient and healthier. Use of EV and renewable energy sources to provided services and reduce pollution.
	The Most active city in the UK	Projects to be developed to support active travel for employees.
	Accessible world-class education	Studies and projects undertaken in collaboration with experts.
	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.
	City of Culture	Decarbonisation of City Council owned cultural and heritage facilities to support sustainable services.
Corporate Plan	Local Economy	Working with Building Greater Exeter to support green skills and training and local employment opportunity, as part of new development.
	Sustainable Environment	Net Zero team focuses on reducing City Council carbon emissions to deliver Net Zero. Decarbonisation reduces energy consumption and energy bills, reducing service delivery costs and supporting sustainable council services.
	Homes	The housing retrofit programme delivers warmer homes reduced energy consumption, reduced carbon emissions, energy bills and improved physical and mental wellbeing for tenants. Through Liveable Exeter, working collaboratively with developers in developing sustainable and accessible neighbourhoods and new homes, using sustainable construction methods.
	People	Working in partnership with Live & Move in developing sustainable travel options and sustainable travel options.

		Supporting leisure services through better energy management and procurement, to maintain affordable facilities. Tree planting provides for reduced surface water runoff, improved air quality, improved biodiversity and habitat, and cooling to address warmer summers.
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## **10. What risks are there and how can they be reduced?**

- 10.1 The City Council's GHG inventory and the Net Zero Risk Register has informed the work programme of the Net Zero team and that of other services and is presented to Strategic Scrutiny every six months.
- 10.2 The City Council's Service Plan template has been amended and now includes a section for each Head of Service to complete on net zero, which will link back to the Study. It also includes measurements and metrics to highlight progress for each service in reducing GHG.
- 10.3 Ownership and understanding of the measures needed to reduce GHG emissions is constantly reviewed by the Net Zero Team. The team aim to increase understanding within the organisation of change required, with initiatives undertaken such as Net Zero Ambassadors and Carbon Literacy Training.
- 10.4 The financial cost to deliver net zero is significant, this report is the first costed Carbon Footprint Projection for corporate GHG emissions. If the City Council is not successful in obtaining significant funding, the measures required to reduce GHG emissions will not be delivered.

## **11. Equality Act 2010 (The Act):**

- 11.1 In delivering Net Zero, the 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. A separate EQIA is developed for each project.

## **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 Costed Organisational Carbon Footprint Projections Study provides a clear roadmap to reduce City Council GHG emissions.
- 12.2 Strategic decisions made, either have a positive or negative effect on City Council GHG emissions. Additional work needs to be undertaken prior to decisions being made to determine the impact on City Council GHG emissions.

12.3 The Net Zero Risk Register considers the GHG reduction measures required to achieve net zero, and measures needed to address the impact of extreme weather events to reduce financial risk and to protect City Council services. This is reported to Audit & Governance every six months.

### **13. Are there any other options?**

13.1 There is the option of not continuing existing or committing additional financial and non-financial resources in working towards net zero within the City Council. This would result in a lack of co-ordination, strategic direction and delivery in reducing our GHG emissions.

13.2 A further report will be brought to Executive alongside a revised Carbon Reduction Plan for further consideration to draw out options from all scenarios.

13.3 On a regular basis, the Net Zero team are sourcing and applying for external funding to support the delivery of the City Council's Corporate Carbon Reduction Plan, working with services to identify capacity and match funding within the City Council. However, without aligning the report to Service Plans and accelerating measures where possible, the reduction in emissions forecast in the report will not be achieved.

### **Strategic Director Place**

**Author: Net Zero Project Manager**

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

Background papers used in compiling this report:-

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