

**REPORT TO Strategic Scrutiny Committee****Date of Meeting: 16 January 2020****Report of: Liz O'Driscoll****Title: Towards Carbon Neutral Exeter - Update January 2020****Is this a Key Decision\*?**

*\* One that affects finances over £1m or significantly affects two or more wards. If this is a key decision then the item must be on the appropriate forward plan of key decisions.*

No

**Is this an Executive or Council Function?**

Executive to Council

**1. What is the report about?**

- 1.1. On 23 July 2019, Full Council agreed that Exeter City Futures would be asked to take the lead on delivering against the recommendations within the "Towards Carbon Neutral Exeter". This report outlines progress against those recommendations and provide key updates on the activities that will support Exeter to become carbon neutral by 2030.

**2. Recommendations:**

- 2.1. For Members to note progress that is being made on bringing forward the Carbon Neutral Exeter 2030 Roadmap.

**3. Reasons for the recommendation:**

- 3.1. Full Council recognises that the commitment to make a whole City carbon neutral is beyond the authority of a single Council and that urgent action needs to be taken in collaboration with organisations across the City to ensure that we can deliver on our commitment. There will be a significant level of change required and it is critical that Members are aware and fully engaged at every stage of the process.

**4. What are the equality and diversity impacts of this decision?**

- 4.1. A completed EqIA is attached as an Appendix.

**5. What are the resource implications including non-financial resources:**

- 5.1. There are no additional resource implications as a result of this report. Full Council have previously agreed to provide £30,000 to bring additional support for planning and delivery of Exeter City Futures' activities related to the roadmap. ECC will support the activities using existing resources.

**6. Section 151 Officer comments:**

- 6.1 The £30,000 has been allocated from the business rates pilot funds and therefore are built into the budget. Longer term, Council will need to address how the commitment to deliver a carbon neutral Council will be delivered financially.

**7. What are the legal aspects?**

7.1 None identified.

## **8. Monitoring Officer Comments:**

8.1 This report raises no issues for the Monitoring Officer.

## **9. Report details:**

9.1. The attached paper "Towards A Carbon Neutral Exeter - Update Dec'19" provides an overview of progress against each of the activities that Exeter City Futures was asked to undertake to develop a roadmap for a carbon neutral Exeter.

## **10. How does the decision contribute to the Council's Corporate Plan?**

10.1. The reduction of congestion within Exeter is a priority objective of the City Council's Corporate Plan which proposes that ECC will work towards our ambition of a city where transport is not a barrier to accessing education, jobs, services or social activities, and where sustainable means of travel are cheaper, quicker and more convenient than private car ownership.

10.2. Decreasing carbon-intensive transportation will play an important role in limiting future emissions. Policies that encourage compact, pedestrianised zones, zero emission vehicles and modal shifts toward walking, cycling, public transport, as well as shorter commute distances, will be key to delivering the carbon neutral target. Delivering these policies will also offer additional benefits including reduced air pollution, congestion and road fatalities, and improved health outcomes from more active travel and cleaner air.

## **11. What risks are there and how can they be reduced?**

11.1. There is the risk that the business community and residents of Exeter do not support the work of Exeter City Futures to develop the roadmap or the 12 Goal approach to delivering a carbon neutral Exeter and therefore Exeter City Futures are unable to collate and deliver a shared roadmap for the City. This will be mitigated through: comprehensive engagement of stakeholders to identify challenges and barriers from their specific perspectives; an open summit event that enables all sectors of the City to come together and review the barriers and identify practical action that will be taken; the establishment of a Mandate Group comprised of representatives from all stakeholder Groups to validate the roadmap.

11.2. Exeter City Council recognises that many other groups across the City are also working on developing responses to the climate emergency, including the recently formed Devon Zero Carbon Task Force. There is a risk that Exeter City Council is perceived as not supporting or aligning with activities at the regional level. This will be mitigated by ensuring robust linkage to the wider regional activities and by working in partnership with neighbouring authorities and with Devon County Council to ensure that the outcomes of the Exeter focussed work are an integral part of regional plans.

## **12. What is the impact of the decision on health and wellbeing; safeguarding children, young people and adults with care and support needs, economy, safety and the environment?**

12.1. In delivering the commitment for a carbon neutral Exeter there will be a positive impact on the health and wellbeing of the residents of Exeter, community safety, the environment and the economy. Achieving the target will offer benefits including reduced air pollution,

congestion and road fatalities, and improved health outcomes from more active travel and cleaner air.

12.2. Additional assessment is included in the EqIA.

**13. What other options are there, and why have they been dismissed?**

13.1. The roadmap could be produced without stakeholder consultation and engagement but would likely not succeed.

**Liz O'Driscoll**  
**Exeter City Futures Programme Director**

**Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1972 (as amended)**  
**Background papers used in compiling this report:**

None

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**Equality Impact Assessment** - To be completed using the checklist of questions at the end of the table



**Title of work being assessed: Carbon 2030 Roadmap**

### **Introduction**

This report seeks to update Members on the progress of the carbon neutral roadmap for Exeter.

**Lead officer: Liz O'Driscoll**

**Service Manager:**

**Stakeholders:**

For each of the areas below, an assessment has been made on whether the policy has a **positive, negative or neutral impact**, and brief details of why this decision was made and notes of any mitigation are included. Where the impact is negative, a **high, medium or low assessment** is given. The assessment rates the impact of the policy based on the current situation (i.e. disregarding any actions planned to be carried out in future).

**High impact** – a significant potential impact, risk of exposure, history of complaints, no mitigating measures in place etc.

**Medium impact** –some potential impact exists, some mitigating measures are in place, poor evidence

**Low impact** – almost no relevancy to the process, e.g. an area that is very much legislation led and where the Council has very little discretion

	Neutral	Positive	Negative
<b>Protected characteristic/ area of interest</b> <b>Race and ethnicity</b> (including Gypsies and Travellers; migrant workers asylum seekers etc.)		The effects of climate change have a higher impact on those with protected characteristics. The roadmap will help mitigate this impact	
<b>Disability</b> (as defined by the Equality Act - a person has a disability if they have a physical or mental impairment that has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on their ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities)	No impact		
<b>Sex/Gender</b>	No impact		
<b>Gender reassignment</b>	No impact		
<b>Religion and belief</b>	No impact		
<b>Sexual orientation</b> (including heterosexual, lesbian, gay, bisexual)	No impact		

<p><b>Age</b> (children and young people aged 0 – 24, adults aged 25 – 50, younger older people aged 51 – 75/80; older people 81+. The age categories are for illustration only as overriding consideration should be given to needs).</p>		<p>The decision will have a positive impact on young people by enabling them to be part of discussing and developing the plans.</p>	
<p><b>Community relations</b></p>		<p>The decision will enable communities to be at the heart of developing the roadmap to carbon neutral and to ensure that their concerns and opinions are taken into account.</p>	
<p><b>Human Rights</b></p>		<p>The decision will ensure that all Members of the City community (businesses and residents) are able to be involved in discussion the development of the roadmap to carbon neutral.</p>	

<b>Actions identified as a result of the impact assessment</b>			

<b>Equality Impact Assessment Report Questions checklist</b>	
<b>1.</b>	Describe the piece of work you are assessing and the reason it is being carried out. Are you: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Making a strategic budget proposal</li> <li>○ Developing a new policy, strategy or project</li> <li>○ Reviewing and revising a policy, strategy or project</li> <li>○ Reviewing a function or a service</li> <li>○ Restructuring a service.</li> </ul> Include any options appraisal and if you have a preferred option explain why.
<b>2.</b>	What are the timescales for completing the work? What committee deadlines do you have to meet?
<b>3.</b>	What are the aims and objectives of the work? How do these link to wider council or strategic objectives.
<b>4.</b>	Who will be the main beneficiaries of the piece of work and in what way? All people in Exeter? Council staff? A specific stakeholder group? A combination of these?
<b>5.</b>	What data do you have on how different groups would be affected by the work?
<b>6.</b>	What research studies or reports have been carried out in other areas of the country or nationally that provide information about the likely impact of your work on equality groups?
<b>7.</b>	What consultation has taken place or is planned with customers (individuals and groups) from equality groups?
<b>8.</b>	What does the consultation indicate about any differential positive or negative impact(s) of this piece of work?
<b>9.</b>	If there are gaps in your previous or planned consultation and research are there any experts/relevant groups that can be contacted to get further views or evidence on the issues? If so please explain who they are and how you will obtain their views.
<b>10.</b>	If you have indicated there is a negative impact on any group, is that impact Legal; Intended; of high or low impact?
<b>11.</b>	If you identified any negative impact that is of low significance, can you minimise or remove it? If so how?
<b>12.</b>	Could you improve the strategy/policy/project's positive impact and if so how?

13.	How do you intend to continue monitoring the impact of this strategy/policy/project?
14.	If there are gaps in your evidence base, do you need to carry out any further research about the likely impact of your work on equality groups?
	<b>There might be a time delay here as you will need to get the results of your consultation before you can continue working your way through the questions.</b>
15.	As a result of this assessment and available evidence collected, including consultation, what if any changes do you need to make to the strategy/policy/project?
16.	Will the changes planned ensure that the negative impact is: Legal; Intended; of low impact?
17.	What monitoring/evaluation/review process have you set up to check the successful implementation of the strategy/policy/project?
18.	How will this monitoring/evaluation further assess the impact on the equality groups/ensure the strategy/policy/project is non-discriminatory?
19.	Please provide an action plan showing any recommendations that have arisen from the assessment and how you plan to take them forward. Are your actions SMART (specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and time-based).
20.	When will you next review this work and the impact assessment?