

## **REPORT AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE**

Date of Meeting: 27 July 2022

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?**

No

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

1.1 To introduce the City Council's Net Zero Risk Register and assess the risks to deliver Net Zero within the City Council by 2030.

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 City Council's Net Zero Risk Assessment is noted and approved and the risk assessment is reported to Strategic Scrutiny on a regular basis.

### **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, which is detailed in a report to Executive July 2022. Further work will be developed on resources required, which will be discussed later this year in a report to Strategic Scrutiny, Executive and Council.

4.2 Further work will be undertaken to complete a detailed risk assessment related to each service area and scope, to identify financial and non-financial resources needed for the City Council to achieve net zero by 2030.

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 None identified

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

7.1 This report raises no issues for the Monitoring Officer.

## **8. City Council Net Zero Risk Register**

8.1 Spring 2022 the Net Zero team commissioned a carbon footprint baseline report by the Net Zero team, which was undertaken and completed by the Centre for Energy. From the carbon baseline report, an action plan is in the process of being produced, to work towards reducing carbon emissions within the City Council through the services we deliver. The City Council's carbon baseline report will be reported to Strategic Scrutiny in September 2022 along with the associated Net Zero Action Plan.

8.2 A risk register has been developed (Appendix 1) to provide an initial high level assessment of the risks associated with reducing carbon emissions within the City Council. As a result of commissioning the City Council's Carbon Baseline report, and developing a City Council carbon reduction action plan, the attached risk register will be expanded so it covers all aspects of net zero within the City Council.

8.3 The updated risk register will be presented to Strategic Scrutiny in September and subsequently Executive and Council in November. This will provide a risk register associated with measures required to reduce carbon emissions within City Council services.

8.4 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 and subsequent team budget spend.

8.5 The updated net zero risk register will be developed using the National Audit Office Good Practice Guide – Climate Change Risk: A Good Practice Guide for Audit and Risk Assurance Committees.

## **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	Delivering Net Zero Exeter 2030	Net Zero team focuses on reducing City Council carbon emissions to deliver Net Zero by 2030.
	Providing value for money services	Carbon reducing actions will be commercially viable and will reduce service delivery costs
	Building Great Neighbourhoods	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
	Promoting active & healthy lifestyles	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, this is attached for information.

## **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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