

## **REPORT TO EXECUTIVE**

Date of Meeting: 9 April 2024

## **REPORT TO COUNCIL**

Date of Meeting: 23 April 2024

Report of: Director for Net Zero Exeter & City Management

Title: Climate Adaptation Strategy for Devon, Cornwall and Isles of Scilly

### **Is this a Key Decision?**

No

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

Council

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

1.1 Exeter City Council endorses the Climate Adaptation Strategy for Devon, Cornwall, and Isles of Scilly, produced by the Devon, Cornwall, and Isles of Scilly Climate Impacts Group.

#### **2. Recommendations:**

That Executive recommend that Council approve that: -

2.1 The City Council endorses the Climate Adaptation Strategy for Devon, Cornwall, and Isles of Scilly.

2.2 The City Council continues to attend and participate in Devon, Cornwall, and Isles of Scilly Climate Impacts Group meetings. The group coordinating regional action on climate adaptation, preparing communities and organisations for a changing climate, and improving resilience across the region.

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

3.1 Endorsement of the strategy supports delivery of the Devon Carbon Plan, as well as the Net Zero Exeter 2030 Plan.

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

4.1 Endorsing the Climate Adaptation Strategy for Devon, Cornwall and Isles of Scilly does not commit the City Council to any funding obligations.

4.2 If there are projects the City Council progresses with, that require financial resources, a report will be brought to Executive for approval.

4.3 There is ongoing officer support in attending the Climate Impacts Group, as well as coordination and a leadership role for Exeter and the City Council.

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

5.1 There are no direct financial implications for Council to consider arising from the report.

## **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 following recommendations made by the Committee on Climate Change. This means that the government has a target of net zero for UK greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2050.

6.2 Exeter City Council was one of the first local authorities to declare a climate emergency in 2019 and set a target of achieving net zero for GHG emissions by 2030. This target is not legally binding.

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

7.1 The content of this report raises no issues for the Monitoring Officer.

## **8. Report details:**

8.1 The Devon, Cornwall, and Isles of Scilly (DCIoS) Climate Impacts Group are coordinating regional action on climate adaptation, preparing communities and organisations for a changing climate, and improving resilience across the region.

8.2 The group was formed in 2019 and is currently chaired by the Environment Agency and by the DCIoS Local Resilience Forum in response to declarations of climate emergency across the region.

8.3 The role of the DCIoS Climate Impacts Group is to work collaboratively across Devon, Cornwall, and the Isles of Scilly to use its expertise to help:

- to coordinate and oversee the delivery of regional action on adaptation, aligning with action on climate mitigation wherever possible;
- prepare communities and organisations for the necessary adaptations to infrastructure, services and behaviours that will be required to respond to the effects of a changing climate;
- improve the resilience of public health, the natural environment, our economy, and infrastructure to the effects of climate change now and in the future.

8.4 The draft Strategy was produced by the Climate Impacts Group, with a public consultation held on the draft version of the DCIoS Climate Adaptation Strategy summer 2023. Following this consultation, proposed amendments were considered and added to the final version of the DCIoS Climate Adaptation Strategy before its publication late 2023.

8.5 The DCIoS Climate Adaptation Strategy details the risks the region might face in the future as climate change increasingly affects the UK and identifies how we can adapt

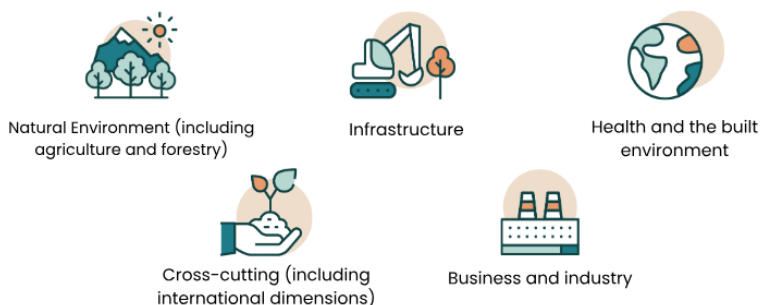
to these changes. The Climate Adaptation Strategy details the risks the region might face in the future as climate change increasingly affects the UK and identifies how we can adapt to these changes.

8.6 The DCIoS Climate Adaptation Strategy is broken down into three areas and covers five sectors:

- A **climate change risk and opportunity assessment** for Devon, Cornwall, and the Isles of Scilly;
- A **strategic adaptation plan** for the next 5 years, which sets out the conditions for everyone to act on adapting to climate change together;
- An **action plan**, which sets out the short-term actions for regional collaboration over the next 2 – 3 years.

### Five Sectors

This Strategy covers five sectors (broadly corresponding with those highlighted in the UK's national climate risk assessment):



8.7 The City Council will support the delivery of relevant strategic actions, and as a trusted partner in our area can help communities, families, individuals, and businesses prepare for the impacts of climate change.

8.8 A full copy of the Strategy can be found in Appendix 1.

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

- 9.1 Endorsing the Climate Adaptation Strategy for Devon, Cornwall and Isles of Scilly will contribute the City Council's strategic priority of a Net Zero Carbon City, in coordinating and facilitating city wide net zero.
- 9.2 It also supports 'Housing and building great neighbourhoods and communities,' in ensuring the city is adapting to the effects of climate change.

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

10.1 Representation from Exeter City Council at the Climate Impacts Group is ongoing to work in partnership with organisations and public organisations from across Devon, Cornwall & the isles of Scilly.

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

11.1 In recommending this proposal potential impact has been identified on people with protected characteristics as determined by the Act and an Equalities Impact Assessment has been included in the background papers for Member's attention.

11.2 If Exeter City Council lead on any actions within the Climate Adaptation Strategy for Devon, Cornwall, and Isles of Scilly, EQIA's will be completed on those particular projects/activities.

11.3 An EQIA has been undertaken in relation to the Climate Adaptation Strategy.

## **12. Carbon Footprint (Environmental) Implications:**

12.1 Supporting the delivery of the Climate Adaptation Strategy for Devon, Cornwall and Isles of Scilly will, overall, have a positive impact on Exeter's and the City Council's carbon footprint.

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

13.1 There is the option of not supporting the Climate Adaptation Strategy for Devon, Cornwall, and Isles of Scilly, but this may have a detrimental impact on supporting our communities in Exeter, as well as delivering net zero.

**Director Net Zero Exeter & City Management, David Bartram**

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

Background papers used in compiling this report:-

None

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