

CABINET

DATE OF MEETING: 6 OCTOBER 2022

TITLE OF REPORT: ENDORSEMENT OF HARTS CARBON PATHWAY REPORTS

Report of: Head of Environment and Technical Services

Cabinet Portfolio: Environment

Key Decision: No

Confidentiality: Non Exempt

PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. To seek Cabinet endorsement of the 2035 Net Zero Operational Road Map and Net Zero Carbon Action Plan which make recommendations on the actions that the council may wish to take to achieve the targets set in its Climate Emergency declaration.

RECOMMENDATION

2. That Cabinet endorse:
 - a. The 2035 Net Zero Operational Road Map attached at appendix 1.
 - b. The Net Zero Carbon Action Plan attached at appendix 2.

BACKGROUND

3. The Council adopted the following motion in April 2021:

Following the successful adoption of Hart's Climate Change Action Plan, this Council now wishes to declare a climate emergency, which commits us to putting the reduction of CO2 in the atmosphere at the front and centre of all policies and formal decision making, particularly Planning, and will:

- *Pledge to make Hart District carbon neutral by 2040 whilst bringing forward the current 2040 target to 2035 for areas under direct control of Hart District Council.*
 - *Report to full Council every six months setting out the current actions the Council is taking to address this emergency and the plan to measure annual District wide progress towards meeting the 2040 target.*
 - *Meaningfully engage with the local community and to work with partners across the District and County to deliver these new goals through all relevant strategies and plans drawing on local, national, and global best practice. Page 71 CL.72*
 - *Actively work with Hampshire County Council and the Government to provide the additional powers and resources needed to meet the 2040 target.*
 - *Actively encourage and push for Hampshire County Council to reduce its target for net zero Carbon to 2040, acknowledging that 2050 is too far away for such an emergency."*
4. At its November 2021 meeting Cabinet approved funding to commission consultants to review the council's climate change action plan and produce a

Carbon Pathway Report setting out the pathway that the council will need to follow to achieve the targets set in its Climate Emergency declaration.

5. Following a competitive tender process Eunomia were commissioned to undertake this work.
6. In April 2022 the draft recommendations from the Carbon Pathway report were the subject of a presentation to full Council.
7. The Carbon Pathway Report has been presented in two parts:
 - The 2035 Net Zero Operational Road Map (attached at appendix 1) – This document provided an overarching Net Zero Pathway with the key interventions required to achieve HDC’s operational Net Zero 2035 target.
 - The Net Zero Carbon Action plan (attached at appendix 2) – This document provides a roadmap for achieving HDC’s district-wide Net Zero 2040 target.

MAIN ISSUES

8. The Net Zero Operational Road Map and Carbon Action Plan make recommendations on the actions that the Council may wish to take to achieve their carbon net zero targets. The proposal is that these recommendations should be endorsed. By endorsing both reports Cabinet is not necessarily agreeing to implement the recommendations, but it is committing itself to give them full consideration when updating the council’s future climate change action plan.
9. Subject to Cabinet endorsing of the attached reports, officers will look to incorporate the respective recommendations into an updated climate change action plan. This updated plan will be the subject of a separate report to Cabinet later in the year.

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE COMMENTS/RECOMMENDATIONS

9. This report was considered by Overview and Scrutiny Committee at its September meeting. The extract of the draft minutes for this item are provided below:

The report was introduced as a document that laid out a pathway for the Council to achieve the Carbon emission targets agreed by Council in April 2021. The meeting was told that the report highlighted where most emissions came from and the actions that the council needed to take to reduce these.

Discussion took place around the definitions used within the report for Carbon Neutrality and Net Zero carbon emissions. It was felt that these should be made clearer.

Discussion took place around the reports baseline carbon footprint. It was queried as to whether calculation of the council’s carbon footprint included scope 3 emissions. Concern was expressed that unless these emissions were included then the Council would not be able to achieve its agreed targets. The meeting was told that the report did recommend that the operational footprint was extended to include scope 3 emissions.

The meeting felt that the report would be more meaningful if it contained more costings and cost benefits.

DECISION

It was unanimously decided that the report should be sent to Cabinet, but that before endorsing the report they should consider the comments made by this Committee.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

10. The option of not producing a carbon pathway report was considered but rejected as without a plan the Council would have little chance of achieving its carbon emission targets.

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE CONSIDERATIONS

Relevance to the Corporate Plan and/or The Hart Vision 2040

11. Agreement of a carbon pathway for both the council's operations and the districts emissions will assist the council in achieving its:
 - climate emergency targets.
 - agreed 2040 vision of "Reducing the impact of climate change by building in sustainability to any new developments, encouraging re-wilding and using new technologies to mitigate the impact of climate change".
 - strategic priority of "A Clean, Green and Safe Environment"

Service Plan

- Is the proposal identified in the Service Plan? Yes
- Is the proposal being funded from current budgets? Yes
- Have staffing resources already been identified and set aside for this proposal? Yes

Legal and Constitutional Issues

12. The report raises no particular legal or constitutional issues.

Financial and Resource Implications

13. There are no financial implications directly associated with the acceptance of the recommendations in this report. However, the recommendations, if implemented in their entirety, will have a significant impact on the council's future budgets and this will need to be assessed in the annual budget proposals over the next few years,

Risk Management

14. No risks arising from implementation of the proposed recommendations have been identified.

EQUALITIES

15. No equality implications associated with implementation of the proposed recommendations have been identified.

CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS

16. Approval of proposed recommendations will help the Council achieve its climate emergency targets.

ACTION

17. Subject to approval of this report's recommendations, work will commence on updating the Council's Climate Change Action Plan.

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Appendices

Appendix 1 - The 2035 Net Zero Operational Road Map

Appendix 1a – Operational Funding Opportunities

Appendix 2 - The Net Zero Carbon Action Plan

Appendix 2a – District Funding Opportunities

Appendix 2b – Draft District and Operational Action Plans

Background Papers: None