 <b>Executive</b> <b>13 November 2019</b>		<b>Agenda Item No.</b> <b>7</b>
<b>Title</b>	Climate Change Emergency Action Plan Update	
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<b>Wards of the District directly affected</b>	All	
<b>Is the report private and confidential and not for publication by virtue of a paragraph of schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, following the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006?</b>	No	
<b>Date and meeting when issue was last considered and relevant minute number</b>	Full Council June 2019	
<b>Background Papers</b>	Agreed Motion by Full Council, June 2019	

<b>Contrary to the policy framework:</b>	No
<b>Contrary to the budgetary framework:</b>	No
<b>Key Decision?</b>	Yes
<b>Included within the Forward Plan? (If yes include reference number)</b>	No
<b>Equality Impact Assessment Undertaken</b>	No
Once the action plan is agreed then assessments may be needed as part of the implementation.	

<b>Officer/Councillor Approval</b>		
<b>Officer Approval</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Name</b>
Chief Executive	22.10.19	Chris Elliott
Head of Service	22.10.19	Marianne Rolfe
CMT	22.10.19	Chris Elliott, Andrew Jones, Bill Hunt
Section 151 Officer	22.10.19	Mike Snow
Monitoring Officer	22.10.19	Andrew Jones
Finance	22.10.19	Mike Snow
Portfolio Holder(s)	28.10.19	Alan Rhead
<b>Consultation &amp; Community Engagement</b>		
The report is the outcome of work initiated and overseen by the Climate Change Emergency Working Party		
<b>Final Decision?</b>	No	
<b>Suggested next steps (if not final decision please set out below)</b>		
There will be a report on the final and costed version of the proposed Action Plan.		

## 1. **Summary**

- 1.1 To outline the Council's progress in developing a Climate Change Action Plan to comply with its commitments in a motion agreed in June 2019 in respect of declaration of a Climate Change Emergency and moving towards the Council becoming a Net-Zero carbon organisation by 2025 and facilitating the District towards zero net emissions by 2030.

## 2. **Recommendation**

- 2.1 The Executive agrees the high level steps to develop and implement the Climate Change Action Plan as set out in Appendix 1.
- 2.2 The Executive agrees to include as an addition to the Council vision "Making Warwick District a Great place to live, work and visit" the words ", carbon neutral by 2030" when recommending the final version of Business Strategy to Council.
- 2.3 The Executive notes the identified carbon footprint of the Council and of the District area as set out in Appendices 2a, b and c and, 3 and agrees that the measures identified be used to prioritise actions and provide the baseline against which to monitor progress in reaching carbon neutrality by the intended dates on an annual basis.
- 2.4 The Executive agrees the strategic direction for addressing the Climate Change Emergency declaration as set out at Appendix 4.
- 2.5 The Executive notes the planned next steps to complete a detailed Climate Change Action Plan with specific costed and measured actions to reduce to zero, the Council's carbon footprint by 2025 and the District's carbon footprint by 2030 with the aim of reporting in February 2020 along with the Council's Business Strategy and Budget proposals. This is to be accompanied by a specific risk register for the action plan.
- 2.6 The Executive notes and supports the work that has and is currently being undertaken by the Council currently to address the impacts of Climate Change, to improve air quality and to encourage sustainable measures and behaviours.
- 2.7 The Executive tasks the Climate Change Emergency Working Party (CCEWP) to report on the most appropriate approaches to engaging the wider resident, business, public and voluntary communities and organisations in the District to support the adoption of measures that will respond to the Climate Change Emergency and lead to the District being close to net zero carbon by 2030, and to report back with its conclusions and recommendations by February 2020. This work on engagement will also relate to recommendation 2.11.
- 2.8 The Executive asks the County Council Pension Fund (and the other Council Member organisations of the Pension Fund for their support) to provide annual impact reports on the tonnes of carbon dioxide generated by its investments funds and that in addition it be requested to adopt a strategy for disinvesting from fossil fuel investments by a stated date.
- 2.9 The Executive requests that a report be commissioned and provided to it no later than March 2020, which:

a) reviews all investments held by Warwick District Council, identifying funds which invest in direct ownership of fossil fuel companies or commingled funds that include fossil fuel public equities and corporate bonds and to report its findings;

b) evaluates a potential approach for the Council's Investment Strategy for 2020/21 and beyond, of divesting from direct ownership of fossil fuels companies or commingled funds that include fossil fuel public equities and corporate bonds by no later than 2025.

2.10 The Executive asks partner agencies (e.g. the other Councils in the sub region and Warwickshire Wildlife Trust) to consider how the Coventry, Solihull and Warwickshire Bio-Diversity Action Plan may be usefully updated to reflect the Climate Change Emergency Declarations.

2.11 The Executive engages with the principal public agencies and largest employers, within the District, as listed in Paragraph 3.25 of the report, to support the Climate Change Emergency by them declaring an Emergency. The CCEWP to advise on the engagement process to be deployed as part of its work within recommendation 2.7.

### **3 Reasons for the Recommendation**

3.1 A 'Climate Emergency' motion was put to Full Council in June 2019. The motion called on the Council to provide resource to prepare a report within six months:

- To establish how Warwick District Council can become net zero carbon by 2025 including contracted services in terms of scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions; and,
- Facilitate the decarbonisation of businesses, organisations and residents so that the District's carbon emissions are close to net zero by 2030.

3.2 In order to achieve this the agreed motion requires the Council to:

- Work with local councils to lobby central government to help address the above points by changing funding and regulation.
- Engage with and listen to local stakeholders regarding approaches to tackling climate emergency;
- Ensure that it is central to the Council's strategic business strategy;
- Work with One Carbon World in order to achieve UN climate neutral status.

#### **Recommendation 2.1**

3.3 There are not that many complete examples of climate action plans already in place within other councils in response to climate change emergency motions from which WDC can learn. However, a useful document has been prepared by a national consultancy that sets out a step by step approach albeit at a high level. It is set out at Appendix 1 to this report and it is suggested that this methodology be followed.

#### **Recommendation 2.2**

3.4 Since this declaration, the Council has agreed that Climate Change be put at the heart of its emerging Business Strategy (agreed for consultation amongst Councillors in October) which aligns this work with the District

Council's vision to make Warwick District a great place live, work and visit, delivered through the Fit for the Future programme and the strategic theme priority of 'Clean, Green and Safe'. It is also now suggested in addition, that the Council's vision be amended to read "Making Warwick District a great place to live, work and visit – carbon neutral by 2030".

### Recommendation 2.3

- 3.5 Developing the actions for how Warwick District Council can work towards becoming carbon neutral depends on a sound understanding of the total carbon footprint for the District and the various sectors and the impact of each action on the remaining gap to attaining carbon neutrality.
- 3.6 The Council has been awarded a grant to take part in the UN Climate Neutral Now initiative, with One Carbon World as the delivery organisation. One Carbon World is assisting the Council in defining its own carbon baseline (2018/19) which will be verified by the University of Liverpool. The information is attached at Appendix 2a.
- 3.7 The Council emissions are currently estimated at 3000 tons CO<sub>2</sub>e per year. The table below highlights what emissions have been included and excluded from that calculation.

Scope 1,2 or 3 and type of emission	Emissions included in the 2018/19 Baseline	Comment
Scope 1 - Direct emissions. Activities that are owned or controlled by the Council and involve the release of emissions straight into the atmosphere. Examples include combustion emissions from gas boilers in our buildings and from council owned vehicles.		
Gas emissions from buildings where WDC is the bill payer.	Yes	28 buildings.
Council owned vehicles	Yes	
Gas emissions from social housing	No	Sheltered accommodation included. Other social properties included with District emissions.
Scope 2 - Energy indirect emissions. These emissions are associated with the consumption of purchased electricity, heat, and steam and cooling. These emissions arise as a consequence of the Council's activities but are not owned or controlled by the Council as they are released at power stations where the electricity is generated.		
Electric emissions from buildings where WDC is the bill payer	Yes	300 buildings and other sites.
Electric emissions from social housing	No	Sheltered accommodation included. Other social properties included within District emissions.

Scope 3 - indirect emissions. These are emissions that are a consequence of the Council's actions that occur at sources that are not directly owned or controlled. Examples include outsourced activities, business travel by staff using their own vehicles and at work air and rail travel. Optional to include emissions arising from air conditioning, waste, water use and commuter travel by staff.		
Outsourced activities (Contractors)	No	Unable to establish a baseline currently. Will address through the action plan.
Vehicle business travel	Yes	Do not have data on individual vehicle make and model only total mileage.
Rail business travel	Yes	Data not available
Air business travel	Yes	No Flights taken
Bus business travel	Yes	Data not available
Air conditioning	No	A complex area of different gas types and estimating gas use. Actions to be included within action plan.
Waste from Council owned buildings	No	Waste is unable to be weighed from Riverside House and some other council buildings. Actions to be included within action plan.
Water from Council owned buildings	No	Actions to be included within action plan.
Staff travelling to and from work in their own vehicles (commuter emissions)	No	Will encourage staff to travel by green methods. Actions to be included within action plan.

- 3.8 The wider district carbon emissions baseline has been defined using SCATTER, which is a globally recognised tool to define emissions in a given local authority area which uses a comparable formula also being used by other local authorities.
- 3.9 The full carbon footprint (2018/19) for the District has been estimated at approximately 1,060 Kt CO<sub>2</sub>e (1,060,000 tons of Carbon Dioxide equivalent gases). The District carbon footprint is described in Appendix 3.
- 3.10 Going forward the SCATTER tool will help the Council to understand which sectors to prioritise and to estimate carbon reductions from each action. In addition, it will enable carbon reduction projections to be made against a number of different carbon reduction scenarios over time.

#### **Recommendation 2.4**

- 3.11 Warwick District Council only has direct control over a small proportion of the total emissions of Warwick District (estimated at 0.3%). Therefore, consideration must be given to spheres of influence within the developed action plan.

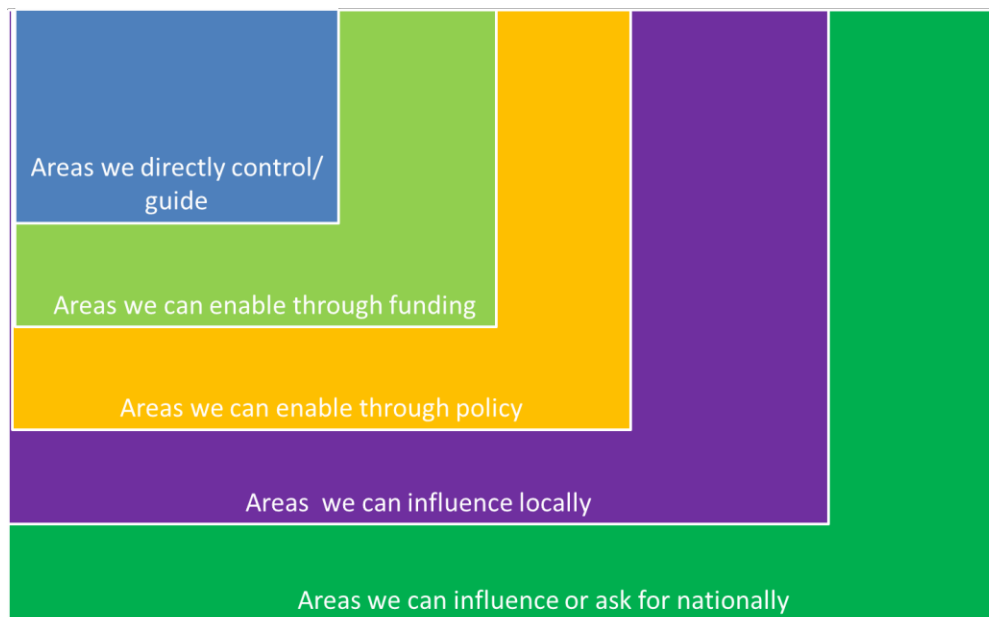


Fig.1: Warwick District Council's spheres of influence

- 3.12 Having a comprehensive understanding of the Council's baseline emissions and our spheres of influence will help support the discussions with stakeholders e.g. businesses; community organisations; schools; resident groups etc. to identify the changes that need to be made to the way of life in Warwick District to create priority programme.
- 3.13 The Climate Change Emergency Action Plan will outline and prioritise clear actions for change, highlighting the estimated outcomes in carbon reduction, the costs of actions and the likely impact. This approach requires an agreed strategic direction and the flexibility to contribute to the road map produced through agile responses to opportunities.
- 3.14 The strategic direction proposed as the high level action plan prepared in response to the Climate Change Emergency declaration is detailed in Appendix 4. This will be reinforced as part of the first phase of the action planning.
- 3.15 Given the scale, complexity and urgency of responding to climate change; it is proposed that the Action Plan is recognised as iterative in nature. This will allow emergent gaps and actions to be updated, revisited and managed. It will also enable new and emerging technologies to be introduced where appropriate.
- 3.16 The responsible organisations and individuals charged with delivery of the Action Plan will clarify proposals for introduction and timing of measures and interventions deemed to be priorities and having the most impact. They will be responsible for reporting progress against the agreed programme. Appropriate governance structures will be put in place within Warwick District Council to oversee and report on progress, although the responsibility for implementing and delivering a change programme of this scale does not reside with any one individual or organisation.

### **Recommendation 2.5**

3.17 This report sets out the scale of the challenge, and the nature and scope of our focus in the determination of the detailed action plan. In order to produce an effective plan, work needs to be undertaken to understand and engage with partners and residents. The next steps are identified as:

- Develop a communications plan which highlights the work of the Council to reduce its carbon footprint.
- Work with and consult partners, stakeholders, businesses and residents to gather their contributions and create a sense of ownership and commitment to the development and delivery of the Climate Change Emergency Action Plan.
- Align the proposals to the 2020/21 Budget process.
- Mobilise resources to deliver the priority programme.

3.18 To make this practical, the Council has commissioned external help to develop the Climate Change Emergency Action Plan relating to the Council's own carbon footprint and to that of the District, its businesses and communities, more widely. This has been done at a cost of £27,000 funded from the Service transformation Fund. This will be completed in time to report in February 2020 and will feed into the Council's Business Strategy and the Annual and subsequent Budgets.

### **Recommendation 2.6**

3.19 Warwick District has had a Sustainability and Climate Change Approach in place since 2014 and has been taking action on adapting to climate change impacts. Appendix 5 details the activities which have been undertaken in this regard.

3.20 Positive steps have been made in the right direction but like the rest of the UK have also been subject to often conflicting policies and models of growth, which have increased the extent to which fossil fuels are used locally in lifestyles, jobs and transportation and as a consequence, risk increasing greenhouse gas emissions.

3.21 In addition, alongside work on the Sustainability Action Plan, a number of other practical steps have been taken. These include:

- a) The prominence given within the Council's Business Strategy to achieving Carbon Neutrality.
- b) Giving priority to the preparation of a planning policy Development Plan Document (DPD) on Climate Change and Sustainable Buildings
- c) Submitting a bid to the LEP for the Commonwealth Games which includes proposals to help develop Leamington Station as a Transport Hub with Electric Charging points for buses, taxis, cars and a community bike scheme.
- d) Soft Market Testing for a community bike hire scheme.
- e) Launching a tree planting campaign in late November as part of a national scheme but with the intention of planting a tree for every person in the District by 2025.
- f) Submitting a bid proposing to improve air quality in Leamington – focusing on a community bike hire scheme.
- g) Preparing for another Office for Low Emission Vehicles (OLEV) bid – ultra low emissions vehicles

- h) Working up options for consideration within the procurement for the Council's new Waste Management contract, including lower emission vehicles.
- i) Making adjustments to the Council's Senior Management Structure to create additional staff capacity to give the Climate Change Emergency appropriate high level priority.
- j) Discussing the Council's renewable energy sources of origins with its energy broker to increase the level of renewable uptake.
- k) Supporting WCC in its bid for capital monies to implement the K2L cycle scheme and with Sustrans to implement the Lias Line to Rugby/Southam as well as developing a Warwick/Leamington cycleway through the riverside green parks and spaces.
- l) Staff Car Share Scheme. ICT have developed and are now ready to test an internal car share scheme for staff. A postcode mapping exercise undertaken with Liftshare.com highlighted that 38% of staff would benefit from car sharing. Liftshare.com could help set up a WDC internal scheme but this was excessively costly. So, an internal scheme is being developed to sit on WDC's own Intranet. The scheme will be supported by 15 car share bays at RSH and a guaranteed ride home policy to provide emergency 'get you home' transport in the unlikely event should staff need it.
- m) Electric Vehicles. There are now 6 electric vehicles which have been nicely branded (see latest press release). An additional two vehicles will be procured soon for Environmental Health and the new Civic car. The civic car is to be relocated to either RSH or Acorn Court. An additional dual charger to be installed at RSH with budget to do this for charging our own vehicles. Discussions involve putting in a bank of trickle / slow chargers for staff charging to encourage electric vehicle take-up. This would then help promote the wider workplace charging funding that OLEV provide. There is a need to check on capacity for the additional slow chargepoints.
- n) Electric Charge points. Heads of Terms have been drawn up by County to tender for the installer of the OLEV-funded electric chargers. WDC's has been signed off. As a reminder, there will be 8 chargers in our District with some on-street charging. It is very slow progress and very few chargers, but a step in the right direction.
- o) Development of feasibility studies and grant bids for electric taxi and electric bus projects are on-going.
- p) Solar Farm. Sharing information with Lightsource BP on the assessment of a solar farm in the District. Joining up with other smaller solar farm sites that County Council have also investigated to make these schemes collectively become more viable. They are keen to progress ASAP because some of these already have planning permission and the Western Power Distribution works assessments are only valid for so many months and are costly to undertake.
- q) Nottingham Energy Hub. Various work being supported by BEIS funded Hub, including the solar farm, District Heating project to explore HNIP funding along with energy and solar assessments for our own buildings to support the Assets Strategy work and £30,000 energy savings.
- r) Plastics Policy. There are now 50 plastic free champions in Leamington & Warwick – a combination of schools and businesses. Refill scheme is operating in over 93 locations across the District. WDC are supporting Plastic Free Leamington & Warwick on developing a short film to promote the great work undertaken. Application is going into Coastlines (Surfers Against Sewage) to achieve Plastic Free Status for the towns. Some great work is also happening in Kenilworth.



- s) WDC has had two students from the University of Warwick working during August and they undertook some great research into air quality projects including vehicle idling and proposed media campaign work, wood burning stoves information for residents, green barriers and off-street electric vehicle charging recommendations. See attached Appendices 5b to 5e.
- t) Some promotional work is also happening to support Green GB Week in November with a number of social media messages lined up around climate emergency, fuel poverty, transport and waste reduction.
- u) Have run a pilot reward scheme "betterpoints" as an incentive for those walking, cycling, etc.

### **Recommendation 2.7**

3.22 The Climate Change emergency response must engage the wider community and businesses if it is to be successful. A number of approaches can be deployed to do this especially in the context of the development of the detailed action plan. Suggestions have been made for a Citizens Assembly approach but there are other approaches and they need to be carefully considered. It is suggested therefore that the Climate Change Emergency Working Party (CCEWP) be tasked to explore the best option on how to engage the wider resident, business, public and voluntary sector communities and for this to be reported alongside the detailed action plan by February 2020. The CCEWP's work will also consider the task involved with Recommendation 2.11.

### **Recommendations 2.8 and 2.9**

3.23 The Council has been approached about the investments made by the Warwickshire Pension Fund and that some of them are not compatible with supporting a Climate Change Emergency. The Council is not in control over the Fund though it contributes to it. It is therefore suggested that the Council approaches the Pension Fund to ask if it will report annually on the carbon footprint of its investments and adopt a strategy that would disinvest from fossil fuel based investments in a sound and practical way by a stated date. Additionally the Council also holds a number of investments that do or may have a negative carbon impact and it is only right that its own investment strategy be reviewed in the context of the Council's declaration of a Climate Emergency with a view to disinvesting from any such investments by 2025. This, will however, need to be the subject of a separate detailed report so this complex matter can be considered in the round.

### **Recommendation 2.10**

3.24 The Council is party to a Biodiversity Action Plan for the Coventry, Solihull and Warwickshire Sub Region. It is important that Climate Change is taken into account in the plan as it goes forward and so it is suggested that the Council asks its sub regional partners that a review process be undertaken to update the plan.

### **Recommendation 2.11**

3.25 In terms of the carbon footprint of the Warwick District area, the Council occupies only a small component. However, the District is also home to a number of other significant public agencies – Warwickshire County Council, Warwickshire College, University of Warwick, Warwick General Hospital, South Warwickshire CCG, and Warwickshire Police. If these organisations also undertook the same step then carbon

reduction could be achieved more rapidly. The same is true for other significant sized organisations based in the District. It is proposed therefore that the Council approach these organisations to ask if they will declare their own Climate Change emergency and take similar steps to this Council. Implicitly this suggests the District Council taking the leadership role in enabling this course of action.

3.26 It is recognised that the role of smaller companies and organisations is equally important but, given the current resource level available to pursue initiatives it is felt at this point in time that a significant outcome could be achieved with a more minor effort on the Council’s part by focussing on organisations with a large carbon footprint and the likelihood that they have their own resources to declare and work upon such an emergency. The resource to work with smaller companies and organisations will need to be considered as part of the action plan – and they will be included as an important target group in the Council’s climate change emergency dissemination programme. The engagement process involved by this recommendation will be advised by the CCEWP as it will for recommendation 2.7.

#### 4. Policy Framework

##### 4.1 Fit for the Future (FFF)

The Council’s FFF Strategy is designed to deliver the Vision for the District of making it a Great Place to Live, Work and Visit. To that end amongst other things the FFF Strategy contains several Key projects. This report shows the way forward for implementing a significant part of one of the Council’s Key projects.

The FFF Strategy has 3 strands – People, Services and Money and each has an external and internal element to it. The table below illustrates the impact of this proposal if any in relation to the Council’s current FFF Strategy.

<b>FFF Strands</b>		
<b>People</b>	<b>Services</b>	<b>Money</b>
<b>External</b>		
<b>Health, Homes, Communities</b>	<b>Green, Clean, Safe</b>	<b>Infrastructure, Enterprise, Employment</b>
<u>Intended outcomes:</u> Improved health for all Housing needs for all met Impressive cultural and sports activities Cohesive and active communities	<u>Intended outcomes:</u> Area has well looked after public spaces All communities have access to decent open space Improved air quality Low levels of crime and ASB	<u>Intended outcomes:</u> Dynamic and diverse local economy Vibrant town centres Improved performance/ productivity of local economy Increased employment and income levels

<b>Impacts of Proposal</b>		
The report outlines the strategic direction of the council's response to climate emergency declaration. The actions taken will impact upon the Health of residents of the district, the homes of district and the communities.	The report outlines the strategic direction of the council's response to climate emergency declaration. The actions taken will impact on air quality and open spaces.	The report outlines the strategic direction of the council's response to climate emergency declaration.
<b>Internal</b>		
<b>Effective Staff</b>	<b>Maintain or Improve Services</b>	<b>Firm Financial Footing over the Longer Term</b>
<u>Intended outcomes:</u> All staff are properly trained All staff have the appropriate tools All staff are engaged, empowered and supported The right people are in the right job with the right skills and right behaviours	<u>Intended outcomes:</u> Focusing on our customers' needs Continuously improve our processes Increase the digital provision of services	<u>Intended outcomes:</u> Better return/use of our assets Full Cost accounting Continued cost management Maximise income earning opportunities Seek best value for money
<b>Impacts of Proposal</b>		
The report outlines the strategic direction of the council's response to climate emergency declaration. The actions taken will aim to engage and empower staff to make a difference.	The report outlines the strategic direction of the council's response to climate emergency declaration.	The report outlines the strategic direction of the council's response to climate emergency declaration.

- 4.2 **Supporting Strategies** - Each strand of the FFF Strategy has several supporting strategies and the relevant ones for this proposal are the Sustainability Approach. However, Climate Change links to, affects and is affected by, many of the Council's strategies and policies.
- 4.3 **Changes to Existing Policies** - If the Climate Change Emergency declaration is to be successful then it will require a root and branch review of all of the Council's strategies and policies to ensure that they contribute towards and do not contradict this central direction of carbon neutrality. Members should not underestimate the impact of such a review since it will range from impacting on the Local Plan Review, required by 2021; to the Council's procurement strategy. Fundamentally this will affect everything the Council does and how it does it.
- 4.4 **Impact Assessments** - There are not specific impacts from the report which require assessment at this point. However, the individual actions may require individual impact assessments.

## **5. Budgetary Framework**

- 5.1 Many of the actions within the plan will have financial implications for the Council and they are likely to be significant in scale and duration. Therefore, it is proposed that the costed action plan will be brought forward to establish the initial costs required in order to meet the commitments. As work develops and further funding is required, schemes will be subject to individual business cases and funding availability as appropriate as is required by the Authority's Budget and Capital Strategies.
- 5.2 Similar to paragraph 4.3, Members should not underestimate the financial implications of dealing effectively with Climate Change and that if they are serious then there are likely to be difficult decisions to be made about making resources available by either generating additional resources or by diverting existing resources. This is why it is important that the detailed and costed action plan needs to accompany the Council's Business Strategy and Annual Budget in February 2020. It is also important that the other significant elements of the Council's Business Strategy – Service Transformation and Business Development are appreciated since these elements have the capability to help address the Council's need to maintain and improve services and to both lower its cost base and generate additional resources.

## **6. Risks**

- 6.1 The report seeks to set the strategic direction of the Council in terms of its response to climate change. From this agreement an action plan can be established which provides actions against the action streams which would be taken to reduce the carbon emissions.
- 6.2 There is a risk that any action plan devised from the strategic streams would not meet the required reduction in carbon emissions. This is recognised as the actions contained within the action plan will provide estimate reductions in emissions however these may not be fully realised or district emissions continue to grow despite actions or influence of the Council.
- 6.3 It is recognised that the process will need to be an iterative one in order to address the gaps as they emerge to ensure that the Council can meet its 2025 and 2030 declaration.
- 6.4 Delivery of the next phase of the programme has significant resource implications and will be subject to securing the necessary revenue and capital budget. The Council will need to consider the most effective way for financing Warwick District's response to the Climate Change emergency, options will be presented alongside the budget for 2020/21.
- 6.5 The staff resource presently available to deliver any work arising from an action plan is limited so either additional staff resource will need to be made available or decisions to not do other things will need to be made. This has effects at all levels and is being addressed at a Senior Management Level by a proposal for a Programme Director of Climate Change to be created to form part of the Council's senior leadership team for a time limited period to 2025. However, this is only one staffing aspect and there will be other requirements depending on the precise

action agreed and taken.

- 6.6 All sector stakeholders will need to play a role in what is required to become carbon neutral. It will require significant changes and leadership at multiple levels. It will require decision makers to connect and consult with communities, businesses and individuals in new ways, working towards joint solutions that can create the critical mass to create the step change required. Without the leadership and community engagement it is unlikely that any action plan developed will be realised or achieve the estimated carbon reductions, or do so in time.
- 6.7 The realities of this transition will need to be addressed. Some required actions will not be popular which highlights the importance of consultation. The Council will need to continue to ensure a prosperous and sustainable society that recognises individual's needs for travel for work or leisure activities and the necessity for carbon neutrality.
- 6.8 It is important to note that in many instances, meeting climate change and social equity goals are not mutually exclusive, but care must be taken to ensure that any measure is taken to tackle climate change does not disproportionately impact on the more vulnerable members of society.
- 6.9 Alongside the proposed action plan it is suggested that it be accompanied by its own risk register in order that the risks associated with such a complex programme of work can be managed effectively.

## **7. Alternative Option(s) considered**

- 7.1 The Council motion is not a legal requirement and consequently there is no legal duty for the Council to undertake actions and activities in support of the target. However, the Council has agreed a motion that establishes expectations and this report sets out its initial response.

## **8. Background**

- 8.1 The scale of the challenge that climate change presents the Council with is unprecedented. The warming climate due to anthropogenic (originating from human activity) emissions, coupled with rapid biodiversity and ecosystem loss, is contributing to a crisis that threatens and severely impacts all life on the planet.
- 8.2 This crisis affects the whole population of the District and the impact of climate change is already being felt across the globe. While major national and intercontinental organisations can plan for how to meet the challenge head on, action is incumbent upon each individual, across communities and organisations. Therefore, Warwick District Council, in declaring a Climate Emergency has recognised its leadership approach in working with local communities to support the global response that is required.
- 8.3 Science has built a strong consensus on the need for action. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) special report on Global Warming, published in October 2018, describes the enormous harm that a 2°C rise is likely to cause compared to a 1.5°C rise. The report went on to say that limiting Global Warming to 1.5°C may still be possible with ambitious action

from national and sub-national authorities, civil society, the private sector, peoples and local communities. Additionally, the recent Intergovernmental Panel for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) stated that around 25% of the world's species are now at threat of extinction due to habitat loss and the effects of climate change.

- 8.4 The Committee on Climate Change recently reported that for the UK to reach 'carbon net zero' by 2050, there will have to be a quadrupling of low carbon electricity, major scale carbon capture and storage, and a fifth of the UK's agricultural land must shift to alternative use. All of this would need to be matched by accelerated afforestation and habitat restoration as well as a strategic overview of how the communities of Warwick District will function and enable a carbon neutral future.
- 8.5 While certain parts of the world will have more severe and imminent impacts (such as low lying areas in South East Asia), Warwick District and the wider UK are not immune to the impacts of Climate Change. There are impacts observed such as increased flooding, wind, rain and storm intensities, there are also others such as droughts, biosecurity with the risk of invasive species, and seasonal changes to the food chains for species. The summer of 2018 was the joint hottest ever recorded in England, and it is estimated that summer temperatures could increase by up to 10 degrees centigrade in parts of England if the current trajectory global warming continues (Climate change impacts and adaptation, Environment Agency, 2018).
- 8.6 The World Health Organisation (WHO) identifies climate change as the greatest threat to global health in the 21st century. The impacts for Warwick District, although less than for some other parts of the world, will still be significant. There will be an increase in heat wave days and a longer heat wave season. Increasing temperatures will cause additional heat-related mortality and ill health, including heat stress cardiovascular disease, and kidney disease. There are currently 2,000 heat related deaths per year in the UK and this is predicted to rise to 5000 by 2050 with the elderly and those with health conditions most vulnerable. Small changes in temperature and precipitation can result in large changes in the suitability for transmission of important vector-borne and water-borne diseases. Some diseases that have not previously been transmissible in the UK such as Malaria and Dengue Fever could become established as well as an increase in the prevalence of existing diseases such as Lyme disease.
- 8.7 Warwick District is susceptible to flood risk from intense rainfall. Flooding events present an immediate risk to life and a risk of water-borne infection but there are longer-term impacts on health particularly mental health. Following the Somerset floods there was a significant increase in depression, anxiety and PTSD. Stagnant weather causes poor air quality whilst thunderstorms increase the effect of allergens and which may increase respiratory disease. Unpredictable and changing weather patterns may reduce crop yields and rising temperatures will threaten marine fishing as a food source; the resulting increase in food prices puts those on low incomes at risk of under-nutrition. Drinking water supplies may also be compromised with significant associated health risks. In addition, there will also be significant social impacts, if food, resources or medicine availability becomes disrupted due to extreme weather events.

8.8 Whilst Warwick District is economically more prosperous than some other areas of the UK, the district also has some areas of economic and social deprivation and climate change could exacerbate issues of inequality, poverty and health. The actions that are taken must be sensitive to the existing situations of individuals and communities as well as those faced in the future. For example, Leamington Old Town is affected by one of the District's 3 Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) (and is amongst the 31 poorest Air Quality towns in England and Wales according to the WHO), but is also one of the more socially and economically deprived areas of the District. The air pollution in this location is caused by traffic congestion, idling, and poor air dispersal because of the preponderance of tall, older buildings. It is also an area in need of and ripe for economic and heritage regeneration.