 Executive 12th February 2020		Agenda Item No. 6
Title	Warwick District Climate Emergency Action Programme	
For further information about this report please contact	Marianne Rolfe/Chris Elliott Marianne.rolfe@warwickdc.gov.uk Chris.elliott@warwickdc.gov.uk Tel. No: 01926 456003	
Wards of the District directly affected	All	
Is the report private and confidential and not for publication by virtue of a paragraph of schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, following the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006?	No	
Date and meeting when issue was last considered and relevant minute number	Full Council 28 June 2019 16 Minute Number Executive 13 November 2019 72 Minute Number	
Background Papers	Report to Executive in November 2019.	

Contrary to the policy framework:	No
Contrary to the budgetary framework:	No
Key Decision?	Yes
Included within the Forward Plan? (If yes include reference number)	Yes 1092
Equality Impact Assessment Undertaken	No
Once the action plan is agreed then assessments may be needed for individual actions as part of their implementation.	
Officer/Councillor Approval	
Officer Approval	Date Name
Chief Executive	13/01/20 Chris Elliott
Head of Service	13/01/20 Marianne Rolfe
CMT	20/01/20 Chris Elliott, Andrew Jones, Bill Hunt
Section 151 Officer	13/01/20 Mike Snow
Monitoring Officer	13/01/20 Andrew Jones
Finance	13/01/20 Mike Snow
Portfolio Holder(s)	20/01/20 Alan Rhead
Consultation & Community Engagement	
The report is the outcome of work initiated and overseen by the Climate Emergency Working Party (CEWP).	
Final Decision?	No
Suggested next steps (if not final decision please set out below)	
The Climate Emergency Action Programme (CEAP) is dependent on agreement to proposals within the proposed Budget for 20/21 and so will need Full Council's approval. A further report will be needed if the funding proposals are not agreed to assess how the CEAP may be otherwise be implemented; and, if the funding proposals are approved, a report making allocations for the year ahead will be required. Other reports on various aspects will also be required.	

Glossary of Acronyms

CEAP – Climate Emergency Action Programme

CEWP – Climate Emergency Working Party

CEPB – Climate Emergency Programme Board

CAF – Climate Action Fund

WP1 – Work Package 1

WP2 – Work Package 2

WP3 – Work Package 3

HRA – Housing Revenue Account

EPC – Energy Performance Certificate

1. Summary

- 1.1 The report notes the reports of ATI Projects Ltd (ATI) which provide the background to the Council's work and seeks agreement to the proposed Climate Emergency Action Programme (CEAP) parts 1, 2, and 3 attached:
 - 1.1.1 Part 1 – outstanding actions from the November 2019 report - Appendix 1;
 - 1.1.2 Part 2 – proposed carbon management plan for the Council's operations to become carbon neutral by 2025 within scope 1 and 2 - Work Packages 1 and 2 within Appendix 2;
 - 1.1.3 Part 3 – proposed roadmap for facilitating the District towards zero net emissions by 2030 – Work Package 3 within Appendix 2 and illustrative proposals as set out in Appendix 3.
- 1.2 The report also seeks agreement on a number of other actions including developing Part 3 with greater community, business and partner involvement. All of the steps are proposed in order to comply with the Council's commitments in a motion unanimously agreed in June 2019 declaring a Climate Emergency and stating the aim of the Council becoming a net-zero carbon organisation by 2025 and facilitating the District reducing to net zero emissions by 2030.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 The Executive asks Council to reiterate its conviction that there are real and present dangers for the residents, communities, businesses, and the environment of the District arising from Climate Change. The declared emergency requires clear, direct and prompt action in response. The Council therefore reiterates its commitment to achieve the Council's stated aim in summary of becoming a net zero carbon organisation by 2025 and to facilitate reducing the District's carbon emissions as close to zero by 2030.
- 2.2 The Executive informs Council that the proposed Climate Emergency Action Programme (CEAP) will also help to deliver other important improvements to the quality of life in the District by:
 - i) Helping to reduce household energy bills and fuel poverty by improving the energy efficiency of houses;
 - ii) Helping to reduce congestion and improve air quality by working formally with Warwickshire County Council to agree a resourced Sustainable Transport Strategy;
 - iii) Helping to improve health and well-being through better housing standards and encouraging more active lifestyles;
 - iv) Helping to improve the natural 'green' environment by improving the area's biodiversity through tree planting and creating new habitat areas;
 - v) Helping to improve the local economy and create more jobs and businesses by helping companies to reduce energy costs and encouraging a cluster of "environmental enhancing industries and companies" in the District.
- 2.3 The Executive recommends to Council that it recognises the significant organisational and financial task that implementing the CEAP represents; and as a consequence, it creates a Climate Action Fund (CAF) as a ring-fenced account using the revenue generated by the proposed additional Council Tax charge set out in the report on the Budget for 2020/21, elsewhere on this Executive agenda.

- 2.4 The Executive recommends to Council in the light of recommendation 2.3 above, if agreed, that each year within the Council's accounts and other annual reporting that a full account is given of the CAF as a ring fenced fund setting out its income and expenditure, actions and outcomes so they can be reported to the public in an open and transparent way.
- 2.5 The Executive notes the progress regarding the status of the recommendations agreed in the 13th November 2019 Executive report as set out at Appendix 1 and agrees that the outstanding actions be taken forward and considered as Part 1 of the CEAP.
- 2.6 The Executive notes the report by ATI attached as Appendix 2 forming the background to the Council's work and recommendations for it to implement.
- 2.7 That, the Executive recommends to Council that:
- (i) subject to the proposals relating to the financing of the CEAP being agreed by Full Council and the subsequent public Referendum, the Work Packages 1 and 2 (WP1 and WP2) of Appendix 2, relating to the establishment of the Programme and to the Council's own carbon management plan, be agreed as Part 2 of the CEAP, to be funded from the CAF;
 - (ii) if the funding proposal is not agreed, another report be brought to the Executive and Council exploring the feasibility of how/if Part 2 may be implemented;
 - (iii) that the revenue savings generated through this part of the Action Plan be recycled into the Climate Action Fund (CAF) every year.
- 2.8 That the Executive recommends to Council that:
- (i) subject to the proposals relating to the financing of the CEAP being agreed by Full Council and subsequent Public Referendum, it adopts Work Package 3 of Appendix 2 as Part 3 of the CEAP which sets out the planned next steps needed to formulate a district wide action plan and agrees some interim steps, with Appendix 3 containing examples of the projects and actions to be considered; and
 - (ii) If the funding proposal is not agreed, then another report be brought to the Executive and Council exploring how/if Part 3 may be implemented.
- 2.9 The Executive agrees:
- (1) that the Climate Emergency Working Party (CEWP) continues but as the Climate Emergency Programme Board (CEPB) with the remit of:
 - (i) recommending the steps to, and overseeing the process of, partner, community and business engagement in developing and implementing Part 3 of the CEAP;
 - (ii) recommending to Executive and Council an annual action plan and the allocation of funding to particular actions;
 - (iii) monitoring and reporting progress on implementing the whole CEAP on at least a quarterly basis to Executive and Scrutiny Committees and annually to Council, with the public reports being made available on an agreed periodic basis to inform the residents, communities and businesses in the District of progress towards the CEAP objectives.
 - (2) that the proposed CEPB is supported by an officer Programme Director and Programme Team operating according to the Council's usual governance arrangements.

- (3) that Formal Terms of Reference and Structure of the above governance arrangements to be presented to the Executive for consideration by the end of March 2020.
- (4) that the wider Governance Structure illustrated in Diagram 1 at paragraph 3.12 be considered by the proposed CEPB and that it brings forward proposals for consideration by the Executive by the end of March 2020.
- (5) the proposed CEPB be asked to report in recognition of 2.9, (1), (i) above, before the end of March 2020 on the proposals for the engagement of the community, business and partners.
- (6) the proposed CEPB be asked upon the proposals relating to the financing of the CEAP being agreed by Full Council and subsequent Public Referendum, to bring forward a report for consideration by the Executive setting out the proposed financial allocations to deliver year one of the CEAP including proposals relating to the additional officer resource and associated required budget need to deliver the CEAP.
- (7) the proposed CEPB be asked to undertake a review of all external funding opportunities to supplement the Council's own funding proposals to tackle the Climate Emergency and to implement the agreed CEAP be undertaken and support via the proposed CEPB be offered to proposals to bid for such identified funding.
- (8) the proposed CEPB be asked to undertake a systematic review of the totality of the Council's policies and services over the next 5 years to ensure they are consistent with the intention of the Council being a net-zero carbon organisation by 2025 and to facilitate the District towards being net-zero in carbon emissions by 2030.

2.10 The Executive agrees that the content of the CEAP be communicated to the community at large, businesses and to partner organisations as a matter of urgency.

2.11 The Executive agrees that the Housing Revenue Account Business Plan be reviewed and brought to the Executive for approval in March 2020 to include provision of circa £18m over the period up to 2030 to ensure all the Council's housing stock has a minimum energy Performance Certificate (EPC) rating of C and for any properties that cannot be brought up to EPC C rating, for either technical reasons or at an acceptable cost, to be subject to an options appraisal through the Council's Asset Management Strategy.

2.12 The Executive formally asks Warwickshire County Council to work with this Council to develop a Sustainable Transport Strategy urgently and to resource it appropriately; and in parallel, that this Council instigates a Local Plan Review putting the mitigation/prevention of the effects of climate change at its heart.

3 Reasons for the Recommendations

Recommendations 2.1 and 2.2

3.1 Since the Council declared its Climate Change Emergency in June 2019 and began its work in response, the impact of climate change is being regularly reported. In addition to extensive media coverage of the extreme weather in the southern hemisphere, causing events such as the extensive and continuing bush fires and dust storms and flooding in Australia, reports on severe flooding in eastern African countries, violent typhoons affecting Asian counties and the declaration of a state of emergency in Newfoundland after continuous snowfall for a month have also been

prominent. In the last few weeks renewed attention has been given to the loss of ice in Antarctica and the threat posed by the potential catastrophic collapse of glaciers and ice sheets in the west of the continent. Prominent experts and campaigners continue to highlight the dangers of climate change and the risks of not implementing the Paris Accord and the discussions that will be held at the United Nation's Climate Change Conference (COP26) in Glasgow in November of this year are increasingly seen as being crucial to minimising those risks.

- 3.2 As the Council approaches a major milestone in being able to map how it will make itself carbon neutral by 2025 and how it may start work on enabling and influencing the District to become as close as possible to carbon neutral by 2030, it is important to remember the reasons for the Council's unanimous declaration of a Climate Emergency and the purposes of the proposed actions in response to that. It is therefore suggested that a public reiteration by the Council of its continuing commitment will be important.
- 3.3 Alongside tackling the Climate Emergency it is important to recognise that the proposed steps also offer important additional benefits to the residents, communities, businesses and partner agencies in Warwick District. These benefits include:
1. Improving the energy efficiency of houses in the District to get as many as possible up to at least EPC level C by 2030. This will not only reduce carbon emissions but will enable many households to reduce their energy bills saving them money which is especially important for low income households and to reduce fuel poverty. The evidence shows that very significant savings could be made by households.
 2. Adopting a Sustainable Transport Strategy will help address both the frequent congestion on the roads of the District and the significantly poor air quality. In particular parts of the District, especially Leamington, Warwick and Kenilworth town centres. Such pollution impacts harmfully on the health of many people and can also have a negative impact on the visitor economy.
 3. Improving housing standards, making them warm and dry; and, encouraging more active lifestyles like walking and cycling to undertake particular journeys will also help to improve the physical and mental health and well-being of local residents.
 4. Undertaking offsetting works such as planting trees and creating new wildlife habitats, will as well as enhancing the local recreational experience also increase biodiversity, help the District's "green" natural environment and enhance its resilience.
 5. Encouraging companies to improve their energy efficiency to reduce carbon emissions will also help them to minimise business costs and enhance profitability; promotion of the District as a cluster for "green" low carbon companies will enable the creation of more jobs as well as stimulating innovation to tackle the Climate Emergency.

Recommendations 2.3 and 2.4

- 3.4 The CEAP will enable significant and widespread benefits for the District. However, it needs to be recognised that implementing this Action Programme represents a very significant organisational and financial task for the Council. Without additional resources both financial and staffing wise it will not be possible. The Budget report elsewhere on this agenda

sets out a proposal to levy an additional level of Council Tax which on a Band D property amounts to an extra £1 per household per week. Overall this should generate an additional £3 million a year. It is proposed that this additional revenue be put into a ring-fenced account only to be used for tackling the Climate Emergency and be known as the Climate Action Fund (CAF).

- 3.5 It is important that this additional revenue and expenditure is reported openly and transparently so that residents can see the clear linkage between the money raised, upon what and where it is used; and to what effect. This should be done within the context of the Council's annual accounts and annual report which can then be properly audited and publicised.

Recommendations 2.5 and 2.6

- 3.6 The Executive considered and agreed a series of recommendations on 13th November 2019 relating to the Climate Emergency. Those recommendations and updates on progress are set out at Appendix 1. It is suggested that the outstanding actions (noted with an asterisk) be continued and form a Part 1 of the overall CEAP.
- 3.7 The ATI report commissioned as part of the November Executive recommendations is attached at Appendix 2 and it should be formally noted that it forms the background to the Council's work.

Recommendation 2.7

- 3.8 Contained within the ATI report at Appendix 2 is WP1 and WP2 which set out what the Council needs to do to set up its Programme (WP1) and to achieve a carbon neutral position for the Council's own carbon footprint by 2025 at WP2. These form part 2 of the CEAP and is costed on a basis agreed by the CEWP. In order to implement its contents, the funding proposal set out in the Annual Budget report elsewhere on the Executive agenda also needs to be agreed. If it is not agreed, then another report will need to be brought forward to consider the viability of implementing the proposals in the CEAP.
- 3.9 It is proposed that if the CAF is established following a referendum then it be used in order to fund the works set out in WP2. This will have the benefit of ensuring that the Council can achieve its stated aim of carbon neutrality by 2025 but given that it also generates significant revenue savings it would enable those savings to be kept ring fenced into the CAF so expanding its financial capability for enabling and influencing the District to become carbon neutral. Such a step would add almost £0.5m more to the Fund annually from 2025 from energy and fuel savings made.

Recommendation 2.8

- 3.10 WP3 within the ATI report at Appendix 2 starts to address how the Council can undertake its community leadership role in order to facilitate the District's carbon footprint reduction programme. More time is needed to develop a fully-fledged action plan for the District as it requires more the engagement, co-operation and support from the community at large, and with the business community and partner organisations. However, the key themes and some interim steps are suggested in Appendix 3. It is suggested that WP3 and Appendix 3 form part 3 of the CEAP. However, to

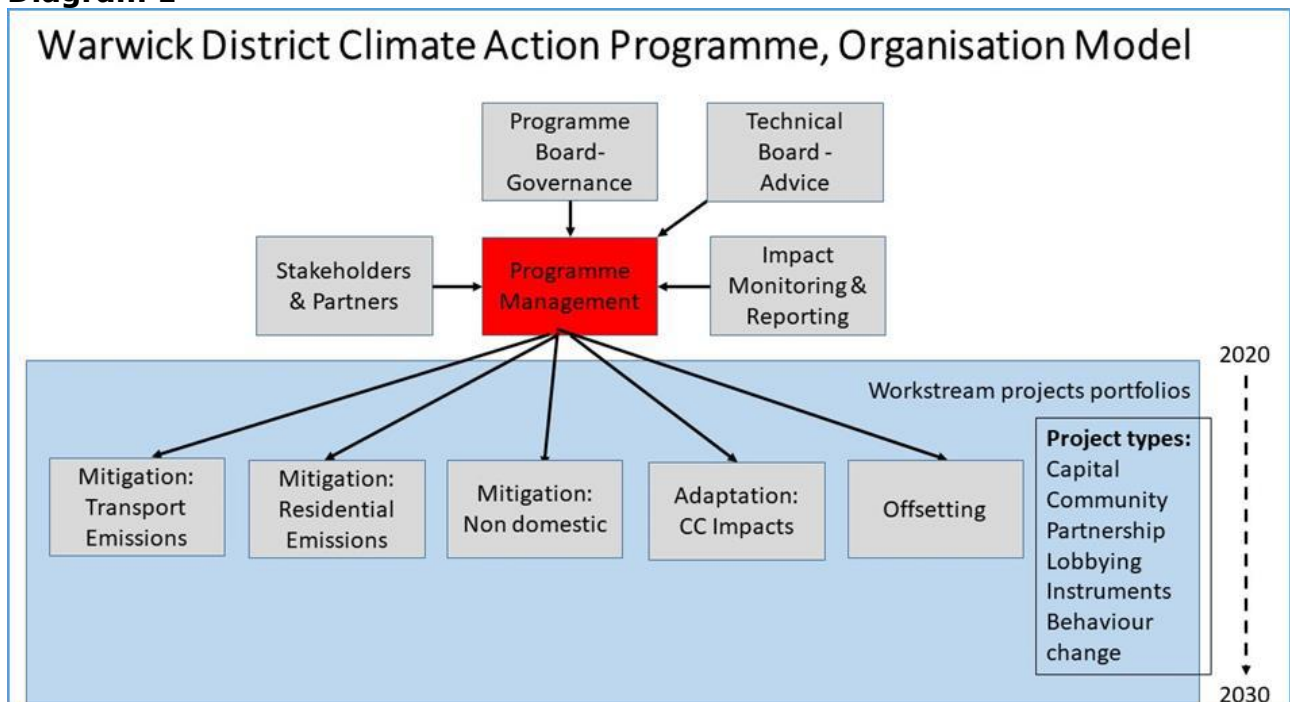
be able to implement its contents the funding proposal set out in the Annual Budget report elsewhere on the Executive agenda also needs to be agreed. If it is not agreed, then another report will need to be brought forward on the viability of implementing the CEAP's proposals.

Recommendation 2.9

3.11 The CEWP so far has taken the lead member role in ensuring that work has been undertaken to meet the Council's declaration of June 2019. It is suggested that the Working Party continue its work but as the Climate Emergency Programme Board (CEPB) especially on working up the proposals for tackling the District's carbon footprint; agreeing the proposals for partner, community and business engagement; agreeing the annual action plan and the proposed allocation of funding for it; and reporting on progress to the Executive, Scrutiny and Council. This Member activity it is proposed will be supported by an officer support structure led by the proposed Programme Director and a Programme Team operating on the usual basis for the Council running projects and programmes.

3.12 Alongside such steps it is proposed that formal Terms of Reference and structure of the above governance arrangements be presented to the Executive for consideration by the end of March 2020. And similarly that the wider Governance Structure illustrated in Diagram 1 below be considered by the proposed CEPB and that it brings forward proposals for consideration by the Executive also by the end of March 2020.

Diagram 1



3.13 The Working Party has an outstanding work item on partner, community and business engagement to report back upon and it is suggested that this be concluded soon and reported to the March Executive for approval. Such engagement will be important if a net carbon neutral position for the District is to be achieved by 2030.

- 3.14 Given that funding for the CAF will only be certain if the precept is approved by the public referendum, it is not yet possible to precisely allocate funds to particular actions. However, once confirmed it is suggested that the proposed CEPB present a report to the Executive for its agreement with its recommendations for the funding of Year One of the CEAP.
- 3.15 In addition, the Council's ability to undertake any part of the action plan is severely limited by the constraint on staffing capacity. In order to gear up to deliver District wide initiatives then Year One of a ten-year plan to enable the District to be carbon neutral by 2030 needs to allow for the build-up of staffing capacity. The report referred to in paragraph 3.14 above should also detail how this issue will be addressed including the cost.
- 3.16 The actions proposed within the CEAP are a mixture of capital and revenue financial items. The Council in the Annual Budget report elsewhere on this Executive agenda sets out a significant proposal that if agreed would generate circa £3 million a year. The proposal elsewhere within this report is that this sum be ring fenced for Climate Emergency work within the CEAP and be known as the Climate Action Fund. If the proposal to ring fence savings made as a result of energy and fuel efficiency savings across the Council's estate (excluding council homes) i.e. from the part 2 (WP2) of the CEAP, is agreed, then over a 10-year period the Council will have access to a Council controlled funding pot of circa £33m. However, even this will not be sufficient to fund all aspects of the CEAP. Therefore, the opportunity should be taken to undertake a review of external funding opportunities and to submit bids as and when appropriate referencing to the proposed Climate Emergency Programme Board for member approval. As an ambition and to reflect the realities of match funding bids, the Council should be seeking to triple its own investment and so achieve an overall funding supply of at least circa £100m over 10 years.
- 3.17 In addition to reviewing the other funding opportunities, the Council should review its policies and services to ensure that across all of its activities it should be consistent with its revised central plank of achieving carbon neutrality for the Council by 2025 and for the District by 2030. The proposed CEPB should lead this work supported by the Programme Director and team and be carried out over the next 5 years as it is a significant task in itself

Recommendation 2.10

- 3.18 A key part of engagement will be to foster an understanding of what the Council has agreed as an CEAP both for its own carbon footprint and for that relating to the District. Therefore, it is suggested that the contents of this report and of the November 2019 report be disseminated to the wider partner, community and business community as soon as possible.

Recommendation 2.11

- 3.19 One of the proposed steps is that the Council invest heavily in its own Council housing stock in order to improve its energy efficiency up to at least EPC level C; thereby saving carbon and of course significant energy costs to tenants. However, significant sums are involved and will be needed to be funded from the Housing Revenue Account (HRA). It is proposed that this be incorporated

within the proposed HRA Business Plan which is proposed to be updated and presented for approval in March 2020 by the Executive. The proposed improvements will represent an investment of circa £18m over the next 10 years. This proposal also enables the Council to comply with the requirements of the Fuel Poverty Act. The Council's housing stock represents approximately 1/12th of the whole District housing stock so undertaking this action is a significant step for the District as well as for the Council.

Recommendation 2.12

- 3.20 The report from ATI indicates that in terms of tackling the District's carbon emissions that the most significant source is transport. While the District Council has various roles to play in relation to transport it needs the County Council as the Highway Authority and other relevant transport bodies e.g. Transport for West Midlands, to commit to developing a Sustainable Transport Strategy and to implement it as a priority. It is proposed that the District Council make a formal request to this end.
- 3.21 The other key policy element in relation to transport and wider environmental implications that land use policy for which the District Council is the strategic planning authority. The Local Plan for Warwick District contains a commitment within it to commence a review by 2021. It is proposed therefore that work be started in 2020 on the review to run in parallel, if possible, with the Sustainable Transport Strategy.

4. Policy Framework

National framework

- 4.1 There is a national commitment enshrined in legislation to enable the country as a whole to be carbon neutral by 2050. The delivery mechanisms for this to be achieved have yet to be set out in full. At the time of finalizing this report the Government has just published an Environment Bill. The contents as currently set out do not conflict with anything that is proposed within this report but this will be kept under review as the legislative details emerge.

Fit for the Future (FFF)

- 4.2 It is proposed elsewhere on this Executive agenda that the Council agree and recommend to Council a Strategic Business Strategy which represents an update in effect of the Fit for the Future Strategy. The Council's vision has been amended to of making it a Great Place to Live, Work and Visit – carbon neutral by 2030.
- 4.3 In order to achieve the aims of the FFF Business Strategy contains several Key projects and proposals. This report shows the way forward for implementing the central plank of the Business Strategy.

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 revised FFF Business Strategy.

FFF Strands		
People	Services	Money
External		
Health, Homes, Communities	Green, Clean, Safe	Infrastructure, Enterprise, Employment
<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> Becoming a net-zero carbon organisation by 2025 Total carbon emissions within Warwick District are as close to zero as possible by 2030 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
Impacts of Proposal		
The report provides an update to the direction regarding the Council's climate emergency declaration actions. The actions taken will impact upon the health of residents of the district, the homes in the District and its communities.	The report provides an update to the direction regarding the Council's climate emergency declaration actions. The actions taken will also impact positively on air quality and open spaces.	The report provides an update to the direction regarding the Council's climate emergency declaration actions. The actions taken represent an opportunity to decarbonise the local economy and to create a cluster of such companies and so create more jobs.
Internal		
Effective Staff	Maintain or Improve Services	Firm Financial Footing over the Longer Term
<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
Impacts of Proposal		
The report provides an update to the direction regarding the Council's climate emergency	The report provides an update to the direction regarding the Council's climate emergency	The report provides an update to the direction regarding the Council's climate emergency

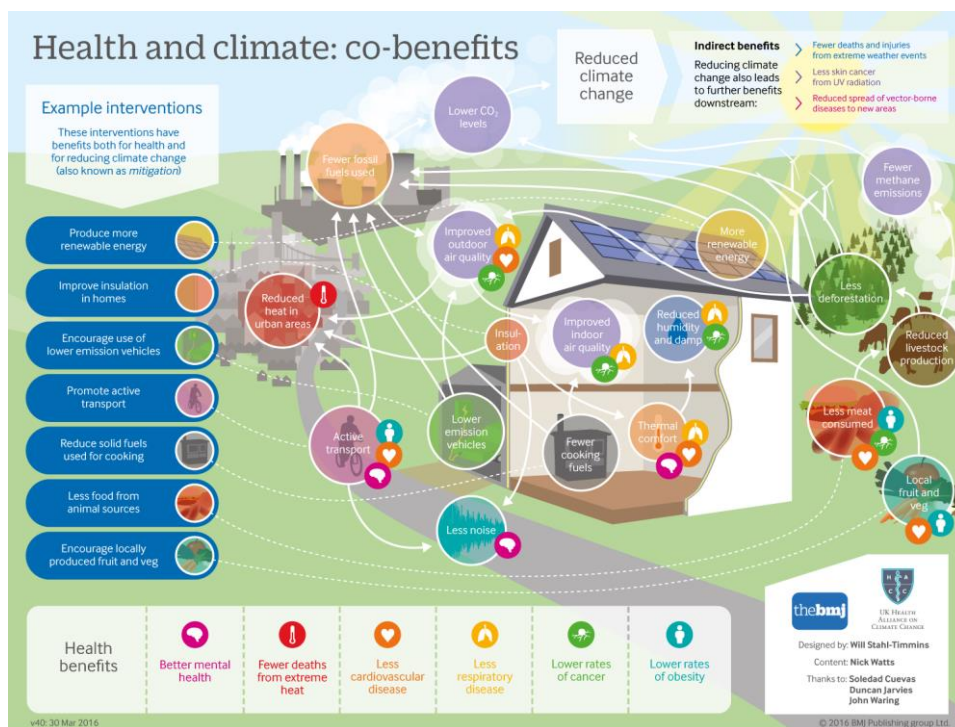
declaration actions. The actions taken will aim to engage and empower staff to make a difference.

declaration actions. The digital transformation of the Council running alongside the CEAP will help to deliver more carbon effective services.

declaration actions. However the actions proposed would enable its assets to be more effective and efficient energy wise and would deliver a significant level of savings and maximise funding investment into the District.

4.4 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 other strategies and policies.

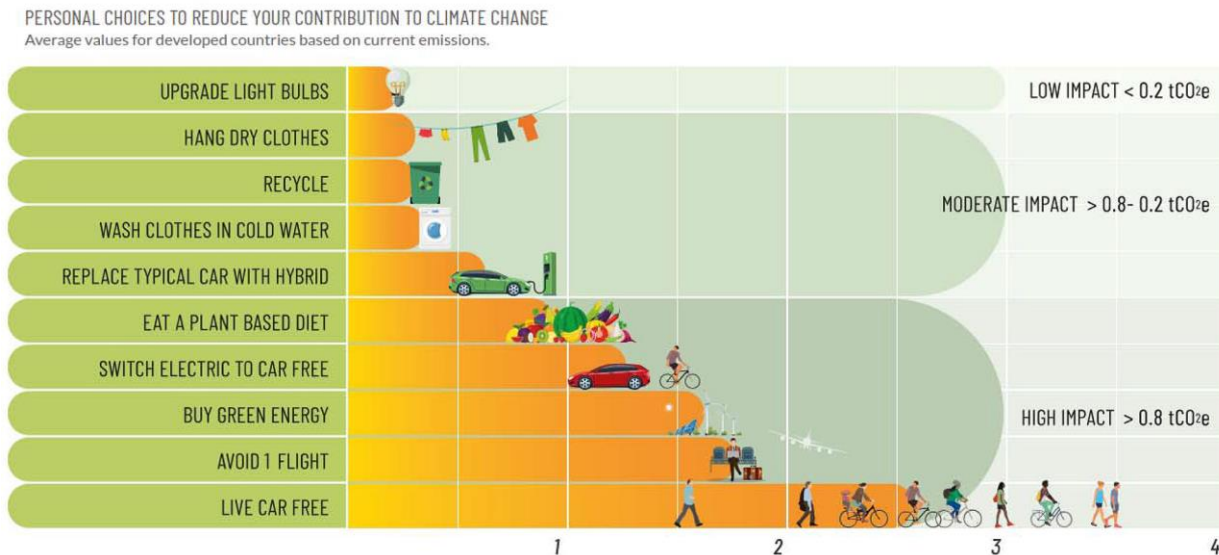
Health and Well Being - The infographic below illustrates how tackling Climate Change may also benefit the health of the local community. Recognising this important linkage, a bid to the Local Government Association has been made in which local authorities and the various health bodies will aim to improve the health of the local community by tackling many of the environmental issues that cause ill health. This will also enable the Council to engage with the health bodies themselves to tackle their own carbon footprint.



Economy – the Council has no overall agreed economic strategy but is developing one. There is however the Coventry and Warwickshire Local Enterprise Partnership's Strategy and a Local Industrial Strategy that is of relevance. The area is already attracting and, with the CEAP, could become a recognised cluster for companies delivering products and services to deliver carbon reductions, helping to create a thriving green economy. The Council's economic strategy when developed should therefore recognise and seek to maximise this opportunity. It will also be the case that many companies may need advice on how to reduce their carbon footprint in an economic and

efficient way. This is a responsibility the Council may have to address, working with other partners, going forward as part of the WP3 - Part 3 CEAP.

Community Engagement – In addition to organisations taking steps to reduce carbon footprint, individuals, families and communities also have a responsibility. The infographic below illustrates the range of steps that could be taken and which can reduce carbon footprints to varying degrees. The Council will need to engage with the local community to assist people in taking such steps. WP3 - Part 3 of the CEAP will require significant behavioural and cultural change from residents and communities.



A Fuel Poverty Strategy is scheduled to report to the Executive for consideration in March 2020. The Fuel Poverty Act requires housing to be brought up to at least EPC level C by 2030. This is proposed for the Council's own housing stock and as WP3 - Part 3 of the CEAP enabling all houses in the District to attain at least this same level of energy efficiency will be important.

The Councils' Leisure Strategy encourages residents to pursue a more active lifestyle. The Council can do this in a number of ways but in relation to carbon reduction encouraging more residents to walk or cycle for some of their journeys represents a significant opportunity. This could be achieved by making parks and open spaces more pedestrian and cycling friendly and by securing such provision within new developments.

Housing and Homelessness Strategy and HRA Business Plan – will be updated to reflect the proposed recommendations of this report.

- 4.5 **Changes to Existing Policies** - If the Climate 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. This root and branch review is a task that should be part of the proposed CEPB's work. The Board would then bring reports back for wider member consideration and approval.

4.6 **Impact Assessments** – There are no specific impacts from this report which require assessment at this time. However, the individual actions may require individual impact assessments at the appropriate time.

5. Budgetary Framework

5.1 Part 1 of the CEAP has no additional cost as it involves staff time which is already provided for.

5.2 Part 2 of the CEAP is fully costed and is set out in WP2 in Appendix 2 to this report. Overall it is anticipated it will cost over £3m over 5 years but could by that time generate energy and fuel savings of circa £0.5m.

5.3 Part 3 of the CEAP as set out in WP3 in Appendix 2 and as illustrated by examples in Appendix 3, needs further development but given that the size of the District's carbon footprint (at around 1million tonnes CO₂e – Scatter phase 1 analysis 2019) compared with the Council's own carbon footprint as an organisation (3,000 tonnes CO₂e) then it has to be recognised that additional financial resources will be required to support the ambition for net zero carbon emissions by 2030. The proposal considered as part of the Annual Budget report elsewhere on the Executive agenda proposes that a Council Tax levy outside of the guidelines set by the government and it is proposed within this report that the revenue so generated be ring-fenced for development and delivery of the CEAP and known as the Climate Action Fund. It is also proposed that the ongoing savings generated by WP2 forming part 2 of the CEAP be added to the CAF. These steps should generate circa £33m over 10 years and if successful in achieving match funding, it could be expected that this sum is at least tripled to circa £100m over 10 years.

5.4 In order to deliver the CEAP additional staffing and/or consulting assistance will be required and the costing for this will need to be factored into the Programme delivery costs.

5.5 The cost implications of improving the energy efficiency of the Council housing stock are to be taken into account in the Housing Revenue Account Business Plan when it is considered by the Executive in March 2020. Likewise, the other housing related proposals in WP3 especially will require further evaluation as to affordability and timing of delivery.

6. Risks

6.1 The report seeks to outline the Council's action programme for ensuring the carbon neutrality of the Council as an organisation by 2025 and outline the approach to be taken in order to facilitate the District becoming net carbon zero by 2030.

6.2 Following the agreement of the CEAP and of the referendum, a risk register will be completed to sit alongside the plan in order to ensure that the risks associated with such a complex programme are properly managed.

6.3 As outlined in the November 2019 Executive report, 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 It needs also to be recognised that the Town, District and County Councils will be required to work in effective, collaborative and mutually supportive partnerships with various other agencies, businesses and the communities in order to achieve the declaration.
- 6.5 The CEAP will require additional financial and staff resources to deliver it. Lack of provision of either or both, will as indicated in the recommendations mean a review of the plan and how/if the actions within it can be achieved including the timescale currently envisaged.
- 6.6 The proposed method of financing the CEAP is exceptional and carries significant risks. These are principally a failure to gain public support through effective engagement, possible failure of the proposal to be put to referendum, and the consequential financial, reputational, and service impacts for the Council. The opportunity is that success would bring considerable resources to bear upon a vitally important issue. Funding the CEAP in other ways, given the scale of the task, could have equal risks in terms of public acceptability, reputation, and on the Council's financial position and service capability as seeking additional funding from a new precept.
- 6.7 It is also true that there is a significant risk in failing to act. This can be financial in terms of greater risk of floods, damage to properties and cost of repair, cost of adaptation and so on, aside from the more direct issue of the impact of Climate Change upon how our local community leads its life.
- 6.8 The Council as a housing landlord is also under the obligation to improve the energy efficiency of its existing council owned housing properties over the next 10 years under the Fuel Poverty Act. There are a series of risks attached to being able to achieve this aim within the timescale which will require a more detailed risk log.
- 6.9 There is the potential risk that the need to accommodate the costs of housing related activities set out in WP2 and WP3 could impact on other, existing aspirations to improve the current Council housing stock and develop new affordable housing. This risk will be mitigated through a careful and robust review of the HRA Business Plan.

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 agreed a motion in June 2019 that established expectations and this report sets out the proposals to address the Council's own emissions and to facilitate the District becoming effectively carbon neutral.
- 7.2 WP1, 2 and 3 within the ATI report at Appendix 2 provide a comprehensive programme which is designed to address the climate change emissions of the Council by 2025. It is an option for Councillors to review the climate change emergency commitments proposed, and/or the deadlines involved reflecting a difference in resource availability. However, given the contents of paragraph 7.3 this option has presently been discounted.

7.3 The CEAP as it stands cannot be delivered without either additional resources being raised or the Council diverting resources from other services and activities. Diverting £3m a year of money from other Council services and activities from a net General Fund budget of only £18m a year would have a significant harmful effect upon them which the Council has successfully avoided throughout all the time of austerity. Smaller sums could be diverted with smaller but still harmful impacts but it would make the Council's 2025 and District 2030 carbon neutral commitments probably impossible to achieve. Seeking to fund the CEAP via other revenue generating activities may be possible but certainly not within the same timescales and it would take some years for those activities to be put in place and to generate income thus having an impact on the timeliness of being able to deliver on the Council's commitments. It is likely that such income generation would be more modest than proposed by the additional precept so also having an implication on what could be delivered and by when.