

Title: Climate Change Action Programme
Lead Officer: Dave Barber
Portfolio Holder: Councillor Ian Davison
Wards of the District directly affected: All

Approvals required	Date	Name
Portfolio Holder	14/11	Ian Davison
Finance	10/11	Andrew Rollins
Legal Services		
Chief Executive	10/11	Chris Elliott
Director of Climate Change	N/A	Dave Barber
Head of Service(s)	N/A	
Section 151 Officer	10/11	Andrew Rollins
Monitoring Officer	10/11	Graham Leach
Leadership Co-ordination Group	20/11	
Final decision by this Committee or rec to another Cttee / Council?	Yes Recommendation to: Cabinet	
Contrary to Policy / Budget framework?	No	
Does this report contain exempt info/Confidential? If so, which paragraph(s)?	No	
Does this report relate to a key decision (referred to in the Cabinet Forward Plan)?	Yes, Forward Plan item 1398 scheduled for 6-12-23	
Accessibility Checked?	Yes	

Summary

This report sets out the proposed revisions to the Climate Change Action Programme (CCAP) and how it will change to align with the new Corporate Strategy agreed by the Council in November 2023.

Recommendation(s)

- (1) That the Climate Change Action Programme comprising the Action Plan (Appendix 1), climate adaptation strategy and action plan (Appendix 2), the Communications and Engagement Strategy (Appendix 3), and the Funding Strategy (Appendix 4) are agreed.
- (2) That the Council agrees to deliver and monitor the climate adaptation strategy and action plan (Appendix 2) through joint working with Stratford District Council, subject to Stratford District agreeing a similar approach.
- (3) That the actions listed in Appendix 5 from the 2021-2023 Climate Change Action Programme are no longer pursued.
- (4) That the proposals for utilising the already established Climate Action Fund budget for 2023/24 and 2024/25 as set out in the table at para 1.5, are agreed.
- (5) That authority is delegated to the Programme Director for Climate Change (PDCC), in consultation with the Climate Change Portfolio Holder and Leader of the Council to spend from the Climate Action Fund in line with the proposals set out in para 1.7, including variances of up to 10% from the amounts shown. In addition, authority is delegated to the PDCC, in consultation with the Climate Change Portfolio Holder and Leader of the Council to authorise sums up to £20,000 for spending that is outside the proposals within paragraph 1.7 as long as the PDCC, Climate Change Portfolio Holder and Leader of the Council are satisfied that the spending aligns with the CCAP priorities and that this will not compromise the delivery of the proposals at 1.7.
- (6) That a range of funding sources are explored and utilised for the unfunded actions set out on the CCAP, including future Council budget setting processes.
- (7) That the elements of Climate Change Action Programme relating to Strategic Priority 2 of the Corporate Strategy are removed from the programme

1 Reasons for the Recommendation

- 1.1 Success measures for the new Corporate Strategy have not yet been agreed. Therefore, this current Climate Change Action Programme is structured to deliver progress against the Council's three pre-existing climate change ambitions.

Ambition 1 – Net Zero Carbon Council 2025: to be a net zero carbon organisation by 2025 and that services provided through contractors include carbon reduction targets to deliver net zero by 2030.

Ambition 2 – Low Carbon South Warwickshire 2030: to reduce net carbon emissions from across the district by a minimum of 55% by 2030 and alongside this, plan how to further reduce carbon emissions to net zero by 2050.

Ambition 3 - Adaptation 2050: by 2050 to enable our environment and communities to have adapted to the potential of at least 3 degrees rise in global temperatures by 2100.

- 1.1 This report (along with its appendices) sets out proposals for progressing towards the achievement of those ambitions. The core proposals for climate change mitigation are set out in Appendix 1 and for adaptation in Appendix 2. This Action Programme incorporates high-level commitments and specific actions which will provide the focus for the next three to four years. The Programme draws on a range of sources including the organizational carbon baseline (last updated at Overview and Scrutiny Committee in Oct 2023); the 2021 Warwick People's Inquiry recommendations (see Appendix 6); the 2021 Anthesis report (see Appendix 7); national and local data on change to the climate, including Met Office data and the National Climate Change Risk Assessments prepared by the UK's Climate Change Committee. The CCAP has also been influenced by the cross-party members Climate Change Working Party which has met twice to advise on the contents of the Plan. In line with the Service Area Plans (SAP) report (also on this agenda) it is proposed that the Working Party continues to provide advice on the shape of key projects within CCAP as these are in the early development stages.
- 1.2 The CCAP incorporates a Communications and Engagement Strategy (Appendix 3) and a Funding Strategy (Appendix 4). The Communications and Engagement Strategy draws on the Warwick People's Inquiry which was reported in early 2021 and sets out the principles for ensuring effective communications and dialogue with residents and other stakeholders. This includes a three-month rolling communications plan. The Funding Strategy (Appendix 4) recognizes that the level of spending required to deliver the entire CCAP cannot be accommodated within the Council's direct budgets. It will therefore be necessary to draw on other sources of funding to deliver significant parts of the CCAP. The funding strategy sets out the funding options that will be utilized. It should be noted that accessing many of these funding streams will require significant work themselves. For instance, applying for grants; developing business cases; establishing a local carbon offsetting fund; and providing evidence to justify Section 106 contributions.
- 1.3 At its meeting in October 2023, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee agreed a set of measures that will be reported on a six-monthly basis to the Committee to monitor progress on the CCAP. These measures are also integrated into the Climate Change (and other) Service Area Plans so that they form part of the Council's routine performance management arrangements. It is intended that a climate change dashboard is developed to present these measures in an accessible way for members and also for publication on the website.
- 1.4 To deliver the CCAP, the already-available funding supports a core climate change team to drive forward the Council's work including monitoring and reporting on progress; developing funding streams; supporting services in integrating the CCAP into service plans and projects; addressing areas where there are barriers to progress; delivering cross cutting projects and ensuring the programme is kept up to date. The Climate Adaptation Project Officer also leads the extensive work planned to deliver the adaptation plan set out in Appendix 2. These posts provide the capacity to coordinate and deliver work in this area, particularly working with a range of partners to refine the data, understand specific climate impacts and develop targeted actions and interventions.

- 1.5 The Adaptation Plan (Appendix 2) has been prepared collaboratively with colleagues at Warwickshire County Council and Stratford-on-Avon District Council (SDC). SDC will be considering a similar adaptation plan and, given the nature of the work involved, it is intended to work closely with SDC in delivering and monitoring progress around climate change adaptation.
- 1.6 WDC Climate Change Budget: WDC has previously agreed a budget of £500,000 per annum for Climate Change, to be drawn annually from the Climate Change reserve. Whilst recognizing that further funding will be required for specific initiatives, this report does not seek additional funding over and above that already agreed.
- 1.7 Including underspends accrued from earlier years, the Climate Change reserve had a balance of approximately £1.05m on 1st April 2023. Taking account of staff costs, spending and current commitments, there remains a balance of £450,000 and, assuming the 2024/25 budget setting process continues existing commitments, an additional £500,000 will be made available in 2024/25. This gives a total available spending of approx. £950,000 until the end of March 2025. The table below sets out the key areas of spending planned for this. The table also looks ahead to the remaining period of the current administration, and if the commitment to £500,000 per annum is maintained, sets out how the £1m available for 2025/26 and 2026/27 could be used in line with the Corporate Strategy.

	Warwick Climate Action Fund 2023/24 and 2024/25
Total Available	£950,000
Ambition 1	
WDC Asset Decarbonisation and Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Generation	615,000
HVO Trial for RCVs	20,000*
Ambition 2:	
Existing Act on Energy Able to Pay and Complex Case Worker Contracts	85,000
Extend Able to Pay scheme	100,000
Green Travel Incentives – e.g. Better Points (November 2024 to March 2025)	20,000
Ambition 3	
Other	
Community Engagement and Communications	10,000
Carbon Literacy Training and Adaptation Training	25,000
Community Rail Partnership	5,000
Contingency (e.g. e-Car Clubs; EV charging; HVO for RCVs; additional funding for renewable energy generation; etc)	70,000
Total	950,000

* Potential to fund or part fund through the reallocation of UKSPF being explored,

- 1.8 Referencing the funds available for Ambition 1, there are several grant options available that are worth noting: -

WDC Asset Decarbonisation: In November 2023, grant submission was made to the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS) Phase 3c, totalling £480,732.00 for Althorpe Energy Hub and Royal Spa Centre for Solar PV and air source heat pumps. If successful WDC contribution will be £65,555. In addition, an application for grant funding was made in October 2023 to the Swimming Pool Support Fund Phase 2 for £526,600. This was for solar PV for St Nicholas Park and Newbold Comyn Leisure Centres. This would require no match funding from WDC if successful.

HVO Trail for RCV's: there is the potential to reallocate UKSPF funding which for 2023/24 has a maximum value of £30k

- 1.9 Inevitably there are significant proposals in the CCAP that remain unfunded. Whilst the contingency budget set out above could be used to contribute to these initiatives, the costs are currently unknown, and it will be necessary to bring forward costed proposals as and when the feasibility work is progressed. Examples include:
- Full cost of retrofitting WDC Assets and supplying renewable and low carbon energy
 - Supporting e-Car Clubs
 - EV charging infrastructure for WDC car parks and other off-street locations such as village halls
 - WDC share of delivering Abbey Fields Cycle Route
 - Cost of using HVO for RCVs if the trial proves successful.
 - Last mile delivery project
 - Cycle parking
- 1.10 It is proposed that a "mid-term" review of the CCAP is conducted in early 2025 to consider updated spending priorities from the Climate Change Fund for 2025/26 and 2026/27.
- 1.11 A range of funding sources will be explored for unfunded CCAP actions as set out in the Funding Strategy (Appendix 4). This will include funding within the Councils' control (such as CIL); applying for grant funding; and other sources that the Council may be able to leverage through working in partnership with other organizations. The level of resources currently committed to Climate Change are unlikely to be sufficient, even if alternative sources are utilized. However, it must be recognized that the Council is currently facing some difficult financial challenges. Any decision to increase spending on climate change must therefore be made in the context of a full understanding of these financial challenges. It is therefore intended that:
- a) Where possible, existing service budgets are also utilized in a way that supports climate change and that the service planning processes give this consideration.
 - b) Future budget setting processes include consideration of the potential to increase the direct climate change budgets where the financial pressures allow.
 - c) Maximum use is made of external funding as set out in the CCAP Funding Strategy
- 1.12 It should be noted that WDC has already utilized funding from within existing service budgets to deliver climate change initiatives. Examples include:

- planning policy budgets for background evidence to support draft low carbon buildings policies.
 - Funding from the Housing Investment Programme to support carbon reduction upgrades for WDC Section 106 housing schemes.
 - Match funding from the Housing Investment Programme to put alongside government grants schemes for retrofitting WDC housing stock.
 - CIL funding to deliver new and improved natural assets and multi modal transport improvements.
- 1.13 The Council has already had considerable success in attracting external funding and grants including:
- Green Homes Grants totaling around £10m
 - AQ Section 106 money, used to support low emission transport solutions
 - Social value contributions from procurement processes
 - Applications have also been made to the Swimming Pool Fund and PSDS which are currently being considered.
- 1.14 In addition to the above items, the Councils may wish to fund significant capital projects to deliver renewable or low carbon energy where this may give rise to a source of income that can help with the financial pressures. For instance, the CCAP includes proposals to explore the potential for investing in solar energy and measures that reduce energy costs. Whilst these could involve significant capital costs these schemes also have the potential to deliver income and/or savings. Each of these schemes will therefore be subject to a feasibility study and business case, including the potential to use green fiancé and other methods of attracting external funding.
- 1.15 Strategic Priority 2 of the Corporate Strategy is focused on reducing energy consumption and bills in Council civic buildings, Council housing, and helping others to do the same. Therefore, these elements of the Climate Change Action Programme will be moved to strategic priority 2 where success measures will be developed. Success measures for the elements that remain within the CCAP will be reviewed and developed by April 2024.
- 1.16 The CCAP has a close relationship with the emerging Biodiversity Action Programme (BAP), not least in relation to climate change adaptation. Following the declaration of the Climate Emergency in 2022, the development of BAP is progressing well, and it is intended to report the BAP to Cabinet for consideration in March 2024. Once adopted, the BAP will provide complementary actions which will also support the CCAP, particularly Ambition 3 which will require review once the BAP is adopted. However, the BAP will require its own funding, both from within WDC's budgets and externally. The CCAP budget set out above is not intended to cover the costs of delivering the BAP.
- 1.17 In addition to the amount in the Climate Change Fund the Council is also assessing the creation of an investment fund for energy conservation and energy generation projects as set out in 2.1.2 of the corporate strategy. This investment fund would only be for projects that can generate a financial return for the Council at least sufficient to cover borrowing costs during the Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS). This is likely to include solar panel and LED lighting. It may include insulation of Council assets once baseline and energy saving projections are completed. The investment fund would be unlikely to include projects like heat pumps that deliver carbon savings, but not financial

savings. Projects like these would need to be funded from the Climate Change Fund or other sources. If assessments showing the investment fund is viable it will be brought forward as part of the budget process. The fund would likely be planned over an initial 4-year period

2 Alternative Options

- 2.1 The Cabinet could consider whether to include of any alternative commitments/actions in to the CCAP and/or the exclusion of any commitments/actions that are currently proposed.
- 2.2 The Cabinet could consider whether they would recommend any changes to the communications and community engagement strategy or the proposed funding strategy.
- 2.3 The Cabinet could consider whether the spending proposals set out at para 1.7 are appropriate or whether any changes should be made. The Cabinet could consider whether any of the other proposals set out in the CCAP should be included as alternatives.

3 Legal Implications

- 3.1 There are no legal or human rights implications of the proposals.

4 Financial Services

- 4.1 There is no additional funding required to directly support this report. Unfunded elements of the CCAP will be subject to separate funding reports as and when the costs and business cases have been established.
- 4.2 The high-level financial implications are set out within the CCAP (Appendices 1 and 2) and the associated funding strategy (Appendix 4). The proposals set out at para 1.7 can be funded from the Council's climate change reserve.

5 Corporate Strategy

- 5.1 Warwick District Council has adopted a Corporate Strategy which sets three strategic aims for the organisation.
- 5.2 Delivering valued, sustainable services – the CCAP continues to ensure that the Council delivers valued and sustainable services by recognising that residents expect our services to minimise impact on climate change. It has been developed to make use of external investment.
- 5.3 Low cost, low carbon energy across the district - the CCAP has a significant focus on initiatives that seek to deliver low-cost, low carbon energy both for the Council's own activities and for our residents and businesses. In particular, the CCAP includes a commitment to accelerate activity in this area by developing more ambitious proposal for low carbon energy in the District and by exploring ways to draw more funding in to this area of work. (Low cost, low carbon energy across the district.
- 5.4 Creating vibrant, safe and healthy communities of the future – the CCAP include a climate adaptation strategy and action plan which seeks to minimise the impact of changing weather patterns on our District's residents, businesses and environment. Further the CCAP includes initiatives which will enhance active travel and healthy lifestyles.

6 Environmental/Climate Change Implications

6.1 The CCAP has been prepared to directly respond to the Councils' Climate Change ambitions.

7 Analysis of the effects on Equality

7.1 An Equality Impact Assessment was prepared in 2021 alongside the development of CCAP proposals. This review of the CCAP continues to pay particular attention to the potential impacts of decarbonisation proposals (energy, travel etc) on low-income households who may be at risk of fuel poverty.

8 Data Protection

8.1 There are no data protection of the proposals.

9 Health and Wellbeing

9.1 The proposals to respond to Ambition 3 reflect the predicted climate changes and weather patterns across south Warwickshire. This includes warmer, wetter winters and hotter, drier summers. Both these shifts in weather patterns could have significant impacts on human health and it is therefore vital that the proposals ensure we support adaptation to climate change as a way of minimising negative impacts on health and wellbeing. It is anticipated that we will work closely with health partners on this.

10 Risk Assessment

10.1 Two climate change risks have been incorporated into the Significant Business Risk Register (SBRR). The SBRR is due to be reviewed to align with the new Corporate Strategy, but it worth noting the nature of these risks and the mitigation measures that have been put in place as follows:

	Possible Triggers	Possible Consequences	Risk Mitigation
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<p>16. Failure to meet District's ambition to be carbon neutral within specified timeframes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of expertise. • Lack of finance. • Failure to reduce carbon footprint. • Lack of support from partners / community / Government. • Conflict between current govt. legislation guidance ambition. • Loss of political unity / support. • Lack of staff resource / capacity. • Competing priorities e.g. addressing Coronavirus. • Major shock to the organisation due to a significant adverse national or international event. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Budgetary impacts. • Service changes required if long recovery phase. • Loss of reputation and external censure. • Disruption to services. • Public health issues. • Failure to adapt to 'New Normal' caused by climate change. • Political consequences. • Organisation ill-prepared to deal with impact on finances, service delivery and staff. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivery of Business Strategy 2019-2023 and delivery of Climate Change Action Plan allowing members to determine extent of measures/projects to mitigate climate change and other environmental challenges that are to be included. (SLT) • Climate Change Director in post. • The Council's 2030 climate change ambitions have been more closely defined – agreed by Cabinet in July 2021. • The Climate Change Action Programme incorporates a more detailed risk register to manage specific risks associated with delivering the programme. • A Climate Change Action Programme has been adopted and delivery is underway. However, progress is balanced against the ever-reducing time horizon's which means the likelihood is unchanged for this risk. • Climate Change Action Fund agreed. • Implementing a Change Programme. (SLT)
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<p>17. Failure to adequately prepare for the impacts of climate changes arising from higher global temperatures, colder changes and increased rain fall/flooding .</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of expertise. • Lack of hard data about potential impacts • Scale of the challenge • Not entirely within Council’s control (major reliance on partners) • Lack of finance. • partners / community / Government. • Conflict between current govt. legislation guidance ambition. • Loss of political unity / support. • Lack of staff resource / capacity. • Competing priorities • Major shock to the organisation due to a significant adverse national or international event. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impacts on quality of life of our residence and particularly the most vulnerable • Impacts on the local economy • Impacts on the local environment and ecology • Loss of reputation and external censure. • Disruption to services. • Public health issues. • Failure to adapt to ‘New Normal’ caused by climate change. • Political consequences. • Organisation ill-prepared to deal with impact on finances, service delivery and staff. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate Change Director in post and Climate Adaptation Officer in post • Active dialogue with the Met Office to consider implications of climatic changes for the District. • Membership of West Midlands Adaptation Steering Group and alignment with West Midlands Adaptation Plan. • More detailed adaptation plan to be developed proposed in this report • A Climate Change Action Programme has been adopted and delivery is underway. • Climate Action Fund agreed. • The Climate Change Service Area Plan incorporates a more detailed risk register to manage specific risks associated with delivering the programme. • Implementing a Change Programme. (SLT) • Working with partners to address local risks – e.g. Severn Trent Water on water quality issues caused by storm overflows. (SLT) • Emergency planning arrangement and community engagement programmes. (SLT)
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10.2 In addition to the SBRR, a CCAP risk register has been developed and has been regularly reviewed with the most recent report to Overview and Scrutiny in July 2023. The most up to date risk register is now incorporated in the Climate Change Service Area Plan, which is part of the SAP report, also on this agenda. Incorporating the risk register into the SAP will ensure it is managed through the corporate risk management processes that applies for all services.

11 Consultation

11.1 The Council held a “People’s Inquiry” into climate change in 2021 to inform the Climate Change Action Programme adopted in November that year. A summary of the Inquiry’s 15 highest priority recommendations is shown at Appendix 6. However, it should be noted that in total the Inquiry made 33 recommendations. The Council provided a response to all the recommendations (see supporting papers below) and incorporated actions to address the vast majority of the of the recommendations. Feedback was provided to the Inquiry members in 2022. The recommendations remain relevant now in informing the updated CCAP.

11.2 The Climate Change Working Party has met twice to review the CCAP. These

meetings have provided advice on several of the actions – both in terms of which to continue and which to delete. In addition, the Working Party members have been able to review and comment on the whole of CCAP through a Teams Channel. The comments of the Working Party have been incorporated into the review documents.

Background papers:

Appendix 1: Climate Change Action Programme 2023

Appendix 2: Climate Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan 2023

Appendix 3: Climate Change Communications and Engagement Strategy

Appendix 4: Climate Change Funding Strategy

Appendix 5: List of actions from 2021-2023 Climate Change Action Programme which have not been carried forward.

Appendix 6: Summary of highest priority recommendations from the Warwick District People's Inquiry into Climate Change 2021

Appendix 7: Executive Summary Anthesis Report 2021 – South Warwickshire Climate Action Support and Carbon Reduction Pathways Report

Supporting documents:

Report to Overview and Scrutiny 31-10-23 – Carbon Emissions Data and Climate Change Measures: [Document.ashx \(warwickdc.gov.uk\)](#)

Warwick District People's Inquiry into Climate Change 2021 Full Report:

[The district of Warwick People's Inquiry on climate Change 2020 21.pdf](#)

Warwick District Council Response to People's Inquiry Recommendations 2021:

[Document.ashx \(warwickdc.gov.uk\)](#)

Anthesis Report 2021 (Full Report): [Warwick & Stratford-on-Avon District Councils – South Warwickshire Climate Action Support, Anthesis, June 2021 - Download - Warwick District Council \(warwickdc.gov.uk\)](#)