



Report to: Strategy, Performance and Finance; Climate Change; and Housing Portfolios

Decision Date: 21 December 2023

Portfolio Holders: Cllrs. Paul Peacock; Keith Melton; and Lee Brazier

Director Lead: Matthew Finch, Director - Communities & Environment

Lead Officer: Briony Ashton, Environmental Policy & Projects Officer

Report Summary	
Type of Report	Open / Non-Key Decision Exempt Appendix
Report Title	Climate Emergency Action Plan– Further Scoping
Purpose of Report	Due to the recent changes in the cabinet and subsequent increase in focus on our Climate Emergency Strategy, a request has been received for the council to advance their current Climate Emergency Action Plan to 2030. This report illustrates the cost and actions required to properly scope the feasibility of such and requires approval on the recommendations listed below.
Recommendation to Exclude Press & Public	The Appendix to this report contains information relating to the financial or business affairs of a particular person (including the authority holding that information) which is a category of exempt information under Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, Paragraph 3.
Reason for Exemption	It is considered that the need to treat the information in the Appendix as exempt outweighs the public interest in disclosure because it contains information which is commercially sensitive financial details including business model information.

Recommendations	<p>(a) to approve the budgeting of a one off payment to finance a further review by the Carbon Trust which will look at the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. the feasibility of advancing the Council’s Carbon pledge by 5 years to 2030 (2.1) or 2. maintaining our current pledge, however with the addition of social housing considerations (2.2) cost details are within the Exempt Appendices. <p>(b) to agree that should either of these recommendations be feasible a further one off payment should be ring fenced to support the resulting action plan. Cost details are within the Financial Implications section of this report.</p>
Alternative Options Considered	To maintain the actions agreed on the current Climate Emergency Action Plan that followed the Carbon Trust’s report in 2020.
Reason for Recommendation	This work aligns with the Council’s Community Plan objective to “enhance and protect the district’s natural environment”. There is a specific activity under this objective to reduce the Council's carbon emissions by implementing an environmental strategy and carbon reduction action plan to achieve carbon neutrality. There is also a specific action in the new Community Plan to investigate the two scenarios set out in this report – ie, bring the current scope forward to 2030, or maintain the target date at 2035, but include the Council’s housing stock.
Decision Taken	Approved as per the recommendations.

1.0 Background

1.1 Newark & Sherwood District Council (NSDC) worked with the Carbon Trust in 2020 to establish a Climate Emergency Action Plan which included the development of an emissions baseline, a 2035 carbon neutrality target and a pipeline of carbon reduction interventions. The work also included an assessment of the emissions associated with NSDC social housing stock and a high-level review of the potential retrofit strategies/costs that would be required to achieve carbon neutrality of housing emissions under various pathways (e.g., 2030, 2035, 2040). The decision was taken not to include NSDC social housing stock in the initial target given the relative scale of emissions (>80% of total measured emissions) and associated costs and challenges involved. Since 2020, a number of carbon reduction measures have been progressed towards implementation such as Solar PV installations at NSDC corporate and leisure buildings and EV charging infrastructure.

1.2 Additionally, NSDC’s portfolio of assets has changed, most significantly with the integration of further leisure assets, now under direct Council control (meaning an overall increase in Council emissions).

2.0 Proposal

To employ the Carbon Trust to support with the following objectives:

- 2.1 Conduct analysis to understand the feasibility of bringing the 2035 carbon neutral forward to 2030 (with the existing boundary of emissions: gas, electricity, water, waste, fleet).
- 2.2 Conduct analysis to understand the feasibility of integrating the social housing stock into the existing 2035 target. Full details of the proposed actions can be found in the Exempt Appendix.

3.0 Implications

In writing this report and in putting forward recommendations, officers have considered the following implications; Data Protection, Digital and Cyber Security, Equality and Diversity, Financial, Human Resources, Human Rights, Legal, Safeguarding and Sustainability, and where appropriate they have made reference to these implications and added suitable expert comment where appropriate.

Financial Implications (FIN23-24/8810)

- 3.1 If the recommendations are approved there will need to be a revenue budget for the one off £60,000 payment and the one off £40,000 payment as per the report recommendations. This expenditure can be funded from Capital Project Feasibility Reserve.
- 3.2 Once these payments are committed, the remaining balance of the reserve will be £31,320.

Background Papers and Published Documents

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

None