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| <b>REPORT TO:</b>        | CABINET                              |
| <b>DATE:</b>             | 30 <sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2022          |
| <b>SUBJECT:</b>          | NET ZERO ACTION PLAN                 |
| <b>PURPOSE:</b>          | TO ADOPT THE NET ZERO ACTION PLAN    |
| <b>KEY DECISION:</b>     | YES                                  |
| <b>PORTFOLIO HOLDER:</b> | CLLR PAUL SKINNER                    |
| <b>REPORT OF:</b>        | CLIMATE CHANGE & ENVIRONMENT OFFICER |
| <b>REPORT AUTHOR:</b>    | HEATHER PRESCOTT                     |
| <b>WARD(S) AFFECTED:</b> | N/A                                  |
| <b>EXEMPT REPORT?</b>    | NO                                   |

## **SUMMARY**

In 2021, a Carbon Footprinting exercise was undertaken by the Carbon Trust for the Council's own operations and a Carbon Reduction Plan was developed and agreed by Cabinet in January 2022.

Cabinet agreed to amend the previous net zero target to a more quantifiable and ambitious target to reduce carbon emissions to net zero by 2040 with a minimum reduction of 45% by 2027, providing this can be achieved without the reduction or change in quality of services or adversely impacting on the revenues budget.

A Net Zero Action Plan has now been produced to outline the programme of work needed to deliver the necessary reductions based on the Carbon Trust's reports, with a view to providing a roadmap for carbon reduction measures and projects in the coming years to assist us in meeting our net zero ambition.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **The Cabinet are recommended to:**

1. Agree the Net Zero Action Plan in line with the Council's commitment to reduce its carbon emissions by 45% by 2027 and to achieve net zero by 2040 in the line with the strategic aim of the Corporate Strategy.

## **REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

To set out a delivery pathway to achieve the Councils net zero Carbon emissions target via a pipeline of projects and actions as set out in the Net Zero Action Plan.

## **OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

Cabinet could decide not to adopt the Net Zero Action Plan, however Local authorities have a legal obligation to produce plans and policies to adapt to and mitigate climate change in line with the provisions of the Climate Change Act 2008.

The Council has also made a commitment to reduce its carbon emissions to net zero by 2040 with a minimum emissions reduction of 45% by 2027 and this plan provides a roadmap to achieving these targets.

## **1. BACKGROUND**

- 1.1 Climate Change is one of the greatest global challenges of our time and local authorities have a crucial role to play in driving forward change, leading by example to enable us to adapt to and mitigate Climate Change effectively and achieve a more sustainable future. Monitoring of our carbon emissions via an annual Carbon Footprint and producing plans such as the Carbon Reduction Plan and Net Zero Action Plan will guide us on our pathway to meet our target of becoming net zero by 2040.
- 1.2 Following on from the recommendations put forward by the Carbon Trust in the adopted Carbon Reduction Plan, a Net Zero Action Plan has now been developed to set out the projects required to investigate the feasibility of these recommendations further and provide clear delivery timescales for the proposed actions. The Action Plan also encompasses other environmental initiatives identified by the Climate Change and Environment Team and lays out a more detailed pathway to net zero via the development of our current position in relation to carbon emissions. This will ensure that the most effective and viable pathways forward are taken in relation to our operations.
- 1.3 The Carbon Footprint takes account of Scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions falling under categories for gas, electrical, fleet, waste and business and commuter travel and these categories have therefore been used as a framework for the Net Zero Action Plan. Investigative and feasibility actions have been highlighted in grey with actions dependant on the outcome of these investigations highlighted in light grey for ease of visualisation.
- 1.4 It is not currently possible, at this time, to provide costs or projected carbon savings for some of the projects identified in the Net Zero Action Plan. These details will be identified during the progression of the projects and where significant financial decisions will be required these proposals will be brought to Members for approval as appropriate.

## **2. REPORT**

### Fleet

- 2.1 A free Government-funded fleet review is due to be undertaken by the Energy Saving Trust towards the end of the financial year. This will provide very valuable insights which will inform our future actions in relation to fleet and identify sites with the best potential for accommodating EV charging infrastructure. The actions currently identified in the Net Zero Action Plan will be subject to change dependant on the outcome of this review.
- 2.2 In relation to Fleet, the Carbon Reduction Plan recommends an initial trial and later rollout of Compressed Natural Gas vehicles followed by a trial and roll out of electric Refuse Collection Vehicles once supply chains have become more established, technology is more reliable and capital costs reduce.
- 2.3 The outcome of the EST Fleet Review will inform whether the currently proposed recommendations are taken forward or other alternatives are deemed more suitable for our consideration. Technological advancements are being made all the time and it is therefore crucial that we are at the forefront of identifying and assessing the viability of new ways of working.

### Travel

- 2.4 Achieving our net zero targets will not only be dependant on the recommended actions in this Action Plan but also on harnessing and maintaining reductions in carbon emissions caused by the impact of COVID19, this is particularly the case in relation to business and commuter travel.
- 2.5 Training and Communications actions listed in the Action Plan will seek to encourage staff to reduce travel and to car share as much as possible in line with this approach. This will also assist us in maintaining reductions as working patterns begin to be re-established.

### Operational Buildings

- 2.6 We are looking to develop Decarbonisation Strategies for all the main operational buildings identified in the Net Zero Action Plan and these strategies will inform the future actions we take forward in relation to those premises. Funding and support options in relation to the development of these plans are currently being investigated and will be sought to finance this work.

### Municipal Buildings

- 2.7 Opportunities have been identified at the Municipal Buildings to upgrade fabric, HVAC and heating systems and install renewable energy measures in the short term, however there are challenges associated with these proposed upgrades. In the medium term, Building Management System upgrades and development of a solar car port are recommended. The payback timescales will be an important consideration at this site due to the long term recommendation to relocate to a more energy efficient building, which would allow for a more significant reduction to emissions.

### Crematorium

- 2.8 Potential fabric, glazing upgrades and solar opportunities at the Crematorium site have been identified in the short term. In the medium term it is recommended that a biogas

blend be considered to fuel the furnace and a move away from gas entirely to be considered in the longer term. It is important to note that as the electrical grid decarbonises, resultant emissions from electricity consumption will decrease whereas emissions from gas consumption are expected to remain constant.

#### Geoff Moulder Leisure Centre

- 2.9 As a result of funding via the Towns Fund there are plans for the redevelopment of Geoff Moulder Leisure Centre. The Climate Change and Environment Team will liaise with the lead officers working on this proposal to ensure that the implementation of carbon reduction opportunities and green technologies are fully explored during the development of the plans to mitigate future financial retrofit challenges. Potential for a decarbonisation strategy to be developed for this site will be investigated at our earliest opportunity.

### **3. CONCLUSION**

- 3.1 The Carbon Footprint for FY 2020/21 has shown significant strides towards our targets for reducing carbon emissions, however, it will continue to be extremely important that we harness the impact of COVID-19. It will be particularly important that newly established ways of working are maintained, particularly in relation to travel. It will also be vital that we embrace new green technologies as they become available and viable and identify new ways to reduce our emissions further over the coming years.
- 3.2 The Net Zero Action Plan will guide us our pathway to net zero via a rollout of projects particularly focused over the next five years as we work towards the interim target of 2027, however, it is important to note that the Action Plan is based on the best options currently available to us and may be subject to change dependant on the outcomes of further feasibility assessment and technological advancements.
- 3.3 Decarbonisation strategies will be developed for all operational Council buildings which will inform the actions we take forward in relation to those premises and will potentially lead to some amendments in the Action Plan.
- 3.4 Funding will be sought for the development of these strategy documents and any resulting amendments to the Action Plan proposed will be brought to Members for approval as appropriate.

### **4. EXPECTED BENEFITS TO THE PARTNERSHIP**

- 4.1 This plan provides a baseline and models a target pathway of recommendations and actions to enable achievement of our net zero aspirations.

### **5. IMPLICATIONS**

### **6. SOUTH AND EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL'S PARTNERSHIP**

- 6.1 Our ambition seeks to align activity and action across the three sovereign councils to deliver financial benefits and shared learning for the benefit of the Partnership.

### **7. CORPORATE PRIORITIES**

- 7.1 The Net Zero Action Plan will support us in achieving Priority 3 of the Corporate Strategy.

## **8. STAFFING**

8.1 None.

## **9. CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

9.1 Local authorities have a legal obligation to produce plans and policies to adapt to and mitigate climate change in line with the provisions of the Climate Change Act 2008 and failure to do so could result in a legal challenge being made.

## **10. DATA PROTECTION**

10.1 None.

## **11. FINANCIAL**

11.1 Recommendations identified in the Net Zero Action Plan will require funding. External funding opportunities will be sought whilst ensuring that future expenditure within existing Council budgets seeks to include carbon savings as part of the procurement and delivery of services.

11.2 The Council may seek to implement an invest to save fund for Carbon Reduction which can be used to support initiatives as well as provide match funding for external bids.

## **12. RISK MANAGEMENT**

12.1 None.

## **13. STAKEHOLDER / CONSULTATION / TIMESCALES**

13.1 Consultation with Key Officers and portfolio holder have been undertaken.

## **14. REPUTATION**

14.1 Having an effective Net Zero Action Plan highlighting a pathway of actions to reduce our carbon emissions shows our commitment to meeting our net zero targets and enhances our reputation as a community leader, setting a positive example for others to follow.

## **15. CONTRACTS**

15.1 None.

## **16. CRIME AND DISORDER**

16.1 None.

## **17. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY/ HUMAN RIGHTS/ SAFEGUARDING**

17.1 None.

## **18. HEALTH AND WELL BEING**

18.1 The Net Zero Action Plan has the potential to not only reduce carbon emissions but also to deliver positive outcomes for the natural environment and the health and wellbeing of our communities.

## **19. CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 19.1 Commitment to achieving our net zero target will be crucial alongside the work of all other authorities, businesses and individuals in the global battle to reduce our carbon emissions and limit climate change to temperature increases of well below 2°C in line with the Paris Agreement. Failure to do so would be catastrophic to the environment with extreme weather events expected to become more frequent and severe. Rising sea levels would also potentially create the need for mass migration inland and huge losses to biodiversity could lead to water and food shortages amongst many other negative impacts on life as we know it.
- 19.2 It is a global problem of which we can only make a small contribution, but we must seek to reduce our operational footprint as far as possible.

## 20. ACRONYMS

- 20.1 None.

| <b>APPENDICES</b>   |                              |
|---|------------------------------|
| Appendices are listed below and attached to the back of the report: - |                              |
| <i>APPENDIX A</i>   | <i>Carbon Reduction Plan</i> |
| <i>APPENDIX B</i>   | <i>Net Zero Action Plan</i>  |

| <b>BACKGROUND PAPERS</b>  |   |
|---|---|
| Background papers used in the production of this report are listed below: - |   |
| <b>Document title</b>   | <b>Where the document can be viewed</b>   |
| <i>Corporate Strategy</i>   | <a href="#">Our Plan for Your Future   Boston Borough Council (mybostonuk.com)</a>  |
| <i>Environment Policy</i>   | <a href="https://www.mybostonuk.com/environmental-protection-and-services/climate/">https://www.mybostonuk.com/environmental-protection-and-services/climate/</a> |

| <b>CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY OF THIS REPORT</b>    |                                   |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| <b>Name of body</b>                            | <b>Date</b>                       |
| <i>Environment &amp; Performance Committee</i> | <i>22<sup>nd</sup> March 2022</i> |

| <b>REPORT APPROVAL</b>    |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| Report author:            | Heather Prescott<br>Climate Change and Environment Officer |
| Signed off by:            | Christian Allen<br>Assistant Director Regulatory           |
| Approved for publication: | Cllr Paul Skinner  |

**FINANCE PROFORMA**

PROFORMA FOR APPROVAL OF THE RELEASE OF RESOURCES

(CAPITAL AND REVENUE BUDGETS)

FROM:

THIS PROFORMA PROVIDES THE FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS  
IN RESPECT OF THE ATTACHED

REPORT:

REPORT DATE:

| <b>OPTION 1</b> | £ Year 1<br>2020/21 | £ Year 2<br>2021/22 | £ Year 3<br>2022/23 | £ Year 4<br>2023/24 | £ Year 5<br>2024/25 |
|-----------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
|-----------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|

**Revenue**

**Total Revenue Cost**

**Funding required:**

Total capital cost      £

Revenue cost              £

**Considered by:**

Enter committee here

Enter Council or  
Cabinet/Executive here

**Date:**

**Financial Services Comments**

**Risk**

**Procurement**

**Value for Money Efficiency**

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| This FP is valid for 3 months from FP date | If this FP is no longer required please advise Finance | If there are changes to the original report it may invalidate this document, it must be reviewed by Finance. |
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