

Part I  
Item No.  
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Executive Member: Cllr Max Holloway  
All Wards

WELWYN HATFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL  
REPORT FOR CLIMATE BIODIVERSITY CABINET PANEL – 10 JULY 2024  
REPORT OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (RESIDENT SERVICES AND CLIMATE  
CHANGE)

**WELWYN HATFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL – UPDATED CLIMATE ACTION PLAN**

**1 Executive Summary**

1.1 This report outlines the necessity to publish the updated Climate Action Plan as it has changed a fair bit since 2023 and a number of new actions should be added.

**2 Recommendations**

- 2.1 The updated Climate Action Plan be published on our website to replace the outdated one.
- 2.2 As the Climate Action plan (CAP) is a live document, it is vital that we introduce new actions as and when required. It is recommended that the following actions be added to the CAP;

Theme/impact area	Action	Justification
Transport	Transition owned and operated fleet vehicles to electric by 2030 where financially viable	This is an action with HCCSP Transport action plan  Whilst there is an upfront cost, we should be transitioning to electric vehicles to ensure we lead the way in good practise.  We have already confirmed this in the updated staff travel plan.
Biodiversity	Where possible, increase existing tree canopy cover in wards with lower levels of canopy cover (below 15%)	Canopy cover can alleviate the heat island affect in times of extreme weather.  We aim to plant more trees in our trees and woodland strategy and this action is in support of that.

Waste	Install adequate bins to facilitate the separation of all waste streams (dry mix, food, residual) in commercial portfolio.	This is mandated by central government for 1.4.25, so better to be proactive about implementing this early on.
Energy domestic	Work with private landlords to implement Minimum Energy Standards (MEES)	The Domestic Minimum Energy Efficiency Standard (MEES) Regulations sets a minimum energy efficiency level for domestic private rented properties at EPC rating E at the least, so we should be helping to enforce it.
Governance	Ensure climate change risks identified in the CCRA are monitored within current risk management process and develop mechanism to ensure actions designed to build climate resilience can progress	Climate adaptation is a statutory obligation under the Climate Change Act (2008).  It is part of our corporate priorities  It is far better to be proactive about adapting to the impacts of climate change rather than being reactive.

### 3.0 **Explanation**

- 3.1 We declared a climate emergency in 2019 and have set targets to be net zero as an organisation by 2030 and as a borough by 2050. The Climate Action Plan (along with the TTNZS), is a key mechanism in monitoring our pathway to net zero and ensuring we reach our targets.
- 3.2 The updated CAP is more robust, includes a number of new actions and outlines co benefits of each action (not just carbon reduction).
- 3.3 It is important to be transparent in 'action on climate change' and ensure up to date information is available.
- 3.4 It is vital we remain agile in our approach to addressing climate change, and therefore new actions will be required as we progress on our journey to net zero.

### **Implications**

#### 4. **Legal Implications**

- 4.1 There will be no legal implications associated with publishing the updated CAP.

#### 5. **Financial Implication(s)**

- 5.1 There will be no immediate financial implications as a result of publishing the updated CAP. However, there is a cost to becoming net zero, and not all projects in the Climate Action Plan have been fully budgeted for.

As ever, officers will continuously search for funding opportunities and work with partners in order to deliver projects and make cost savings wherever possible.

## **6. Risk Management Implications**

6.1 There are no immediate risks as a result of publishing the updated CAP. However, there will be risks if we do not reduce emissions, and the CAP sets out ways we can do this. If we do not reduce emissions, we have increased financial risk of having to pay to offset unabated emissions and we have an increased reputational risk if we do not reach net zero and support our residents and businesses around the borough in doing so also.

Risks associated with the impacts of climate change will increase if emissions continue unabated. These risk include, financial, reputational, environmental, health and wellbeing and our ability to provide services.

## **7. Communication**

7.1 The updated CAP would be made available on the main website and the Climate Hub on the One Welwyn Hatfield page. There is ongoing work for the climate change officer to liaise with the Comms team to ensure any updates are reflected on the websites.

## **8. Security & Terrorism Implication(s)**

8.1 There are likely to be no security and terrorism implications associated with the launch of the updated CAP.

## **9. Procurement Implication(s)**

9.1 There are likely to be no procurement implications associated with the launch of the updated CAP.

## **10 Climate Change Implication(s)**

10.1 As per above in section 3.

## **11. Human Resources Implication(s)**

11.1 There are likely to be no implications to HR associated with the launch of the updated CAP.

## **12. Health and Wellbeing Implication(s)**

12.1 There are likely to be no implications to health and wellbeing with the launch of the updated CAP.

## **13. Link to Corporate Priorities**

13.1 The launch of the updated CAP relates to the corporate priorities in the following ways;

- Action on climate change

- Renew our commitments to be a net zero Council by 2030 (and as a borough by 2050)
- Step up climate change adaptation and mitigation measures
- Lead by Example and encourage others to make positive change
- Increase and promote biodiversity

The CAP supports all these things.

**14. Equalities and Diversity**

- 14.1 There are likely to be no implications to equalities and diversity with the launch of the updated CAP.

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**Date: 4.6.24**

Appendix A – Updated Climate Action Plan