

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 – CREATION OF NEW TRANSITION TO
NET ZERO STRATEGY**

1 Executive Summary

1.1 This report outlines the necessity to launch a new Transition to Net Zero Strategy (TTNZS)

2 Recommendations

2.1 The TTNZS be approved and released for public consultation.

3.0 Explanation

3.1 We declared a climate emergency in 2019 and the TTNZS supports this declaration.

3.2 We have new corporate priorities which specifies 'Action on Climate'. The TTNZ supports these priorities, clearly setting out our vision for the borough and outlines the various ways we will take 'action on climate'.

3.3 We have targets to be net zero as an organisation by 2030 and as a borough by 2050. The TTNZS demonstrates our pathway to net zero and explains the role we all must play in achieving these targets.

3.4 Please note that hyperlinks will be added to underlined words once the document has been approved, that will take the reader to relevant resources online.

Implications

4. Legal Implications

4.1 There will be no legal implications associated with publishing the TTNZS.

5. Financial Implication(s)

- 5.1 There will be no immediate financial implications as a result of publishing the TTNZS. 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 TTNZS. However, there will be risks if we do not reduce emissions, and the TTNZS 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 new TTNZ would be promoted internally via CORE news and would be made available on the main website and the Climate Hub on the One Welwyn Hatfield page. We would also promote it at events and via social media platforms and a press release. This would involve a small increase in work for the Communications team.

There is ongoing work between the communications team and the climate change officer to ensure the webpages are up to date and initiatives/events/schemes are promoted.

8. Security & Terrorism Implication(s)

- 8.1 There are likely to be no security and terrorism implications associated with the launch of the new TTNZS.

9. Procurement Implication(s)

- 9.1 There are likely to be no procurement implications associated with the launch of the new TTNZS.

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 new TTNZS.

12. Health and Wellbeing Implication(s)

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

13. Link to Corporate Priorities

13.1 The launch of the new TTNZS 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 TTNZS 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 new TTNZS.

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Appendix A - New Transition to Net Zero Strategy