

Part I

Item No.

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Executive Member: Cllr Max Holloway

All Wards

WELWYN HATFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL
CLIMATE BIODIVERSITY CABINET PANEL – 6 NOVEMBER 2024
REPORT OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (RESIDENT SERVICES AND CLIMATE
CHANGE)

**WELWYN HATFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL – TRANSITION TO NET ZERO
STRATEGY CONSULTATION ANALYSIS**

1 Executive Summary

1.1 On 10 July 2024, the Climate Biodiversity Cabinet Panel approved the Transition To Net Zero Strategy (TTNZS) for public consultation. A total of 88 responses were received by the deadline and this report outlines feedback from the Transition To Net Zero Strategy consultation.

2 Recommendations

2.1 That the Panel notes the consultation responses as set out in Appendix B

2.2 That the Panel considers the consultation responses and recommend the Transition To Net Zero Strategy (TTNZS) as set out in Appendix C to Cabinet for approval.

3.0 Explanation

3.1 The Transition to Net Zero strategy was written, as Members of the Climate Biodiversity Cabinet Panel had previously asked for a robust standalone climate change strategy document to be created. This strategy replaced the old one and was more aligned with a new corporate priority, 'Action on Climate'. It supports all four objectives within that priority and sets out an overall vision for the borough"

3.2 It is important to acknowledge feedback regarding our strategy to become a net zero borough as we all have a part to play and we must all be onboard with the vision.

3.3 Overall, the consultation responses support that the TTNZS will have a positive impact on the Borough as a whole and that the aims and targets listed in the Strategy are appropriate and achievable. The Strategy itself sets the direction of travel on how we aim to tackle climate change and there are no significant issues arising from the consultation. Therefore, it is recommended that the draft TTNZS as approved in July (Appendix B), will be going forward to Cabinet for formal adoption.

Implications

4. Legal Implications

- 4.1 “The public sector equality duty, which is contained in section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, requires the council, when exercising its functions, to have due regard to the need to: (a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Equality Act; (b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it; and (c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it. An Equality Impact Assessment has been completed and a copy is attached to this report as Appendix D.
- 4.2 When making their decision on the question of approval of the Strategy, Members must, conscientiously, take into account the views expressed by those who have taken part in the consultation. The responses to the consultation and the key findings from the responses are set out in the ‘Transition to Net Zero Strategy – Public Consultation’ which is attached to this report as Appendix B.

5. Financial Implication(s)

- 2.3 There are no direct financial implications arising from adoption of the strategy. It should be noted that as part of the development of the action plan to deliver the strategy, there may be actions identified which will have financial implications. Where this occurs, approval will be sought before adding these actions to the action plan, and will be considered as part of the annual budget setting process.
- 2.4 Where possible, the council will apply for grant funding to assist in the delivery of the action plan, where there are financial implications associated with the delivery of actions

6. Risk Management Implications

- 6.1 There are no immediate risk management implications associated with analysing and reviewing feedback, and no implications with the adoption of the TTNZS as the draft was already approved by members in September 2024.

7. Communication implications

- 7.1 There are no direct communication implications arising from adoption of the strategy. It should be noted that as part of the development of the action plan to deliver the strategy, there may be actions identified which will have communication implications. Where this occurs, approval will be sought before adding these actions to the action plan and will be considered internally in terms of officer capacity.

8. Security & Terrorism Implication(s)

8.1 There are likely to be no security and terrorism implications associated with analysing and reviewing feedback, and no implications with the adoption of the TTNZS as the draft was already approved by members in September 2024.

9. Procurement Implication(s)

9.1 There are likely to be no procurement implications associated with analysing and reviewing feedback, and no implications with the adoption of the TTNZS as the draft was already approved by members in September 2024.

10 Climate Change Implication(s)

10.1 As per above in section 3.

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

10.3 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'.

10.4 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.

10.5 The public consultation ensures we take on board public opinion and helps ensure we all have a say in our future.

11. Human Resources Implication(s)

11.1 There are likely to be no HR implications associated with providing this climate update report.

12. Health and Wellbeing Implication(s)

12.1 There are likely to be no health and wellbeing implications associated with providing this climate update report.

13. Link to Corporate Priorities

13.1 Outlining progress in relation to projects/action from the climate action plan 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 TTNZ outlines our visions of a net zero borough and fully aligns with the corporate priority of Action on Climate Change and all its objectives.

14. Equalities and Diversity

14.1 An EqIA has been completed and a number of positive and some negative implications have been identified, see in appendix D

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