

## NET ZERO 2030 - ACTIONS 2022/23

Cabinet - 21 April 2022

**Report of:** Deputy Chief Executive and Chief Officer - Planning & Regulatory Services

**Status:** For Decision

**Also considered by:**

- Cleaner and Greener Advisory Committee - 19 April 2022

**Key Decision:** Yes

**This reports support the Key Aim of The Council's commitment to Net Zero 2030.**

**Portfolio Holder:** Cllr. Margot McArthur

**Contact Officer(s):** Helen French, Ext. 7357; Margaret Carr, Ext. 7341;

**Recommendation to Cleaner and Greener Advisory Committee:**

To recommend to Cabinet to agree the Net Zero 2030 actions for 2022-23.

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To agree the Net Zero 2030 actions for 2022-23.

### Introduction and Background

- 1 Climate change is an extensive issue, and achieving Net Zero carbon emissions is a top priority that encompasses all aspects of the Council. It incorporates energy efficiency and generation, sustainable transport and active travel, air quality, health and wellbeing, habitats and biodiversity, flooding, water supply and consumption, and more.
- 2 We have made a commitment to work towards achieving net zero carbon emissions for the Council and its assets by 2030 (Council emissions). We also have an ambition to assist the District to become net zero by working closely with local communities (District emissions) and to improve the resilience of the District to a changing climate (Climate resilience). This is collectively known as our Net Zero 2030 commitment.

### Net Zero 2022-23 Actions

- 3 In November 2019, the Council agreed a series of actions to begin the process of achieving net zero carbon emissions by 2030. These actions are revised annually to take account of new opportunities, innovations and feasibility.
- 4 The Net Zero Member Working Group and the Net Zero Officer Working Group were involved in drafting the actions to ensure they reflect the aspirations and priorities of the Council.
- 5 A number of key themes were identified for 22-23 that have been reflected in the actions:
  - **SDC Fleet** - This is the largest source of SDC emissions.
  - **Carbon Reduction Plan** - To help set out in more detail what is required to reach Net Zero by 2030.
  - **Electric Vehicle Charging** - To help support uptake of electric vehicles and improvements to infrastructure.
  - **Business and Commercial community** - Working with businesses to help reduce carbon emissions within the District.
  - **Local Community** - Continue to work with communities and schools to help reduce emissions. Encourage residents to take individual responsibility for their carbon emissions.
  - **Housing Associations and landowners** - Working with West Kent Housing, landowners and the Rural Landowners Forum to reduce emissions
  - **Energy and Carbon Efficiency in Council operations** - Review how the Council operates and the way staff and members work to look for carbon efficiency measures.
  - **Local Plan** - To reflect the Net Zero commitment and include policies to reduce emissions.
  - **Procurement** - To ensure the Net Zero commitment is reflected in how we procure goods and services.
  - **Sustainable Transport** - Reducing emissions from travel, delivering the Movement Strategy aims and producing an SDC Travel Plan.
- 6 The actions for 22-23 incorporate the themes and have been organised into 7 categories:

### SDC Building Emissions

- 7 We are committed to reduce the carbon emissions from SDC buildings. We have started with buildings that we use and/or deliver services from and will also work with leaseholders and tenants to reduce emissions across our assets. We have already made some changes such as LED lighting and water savings and we will continue to make improvements.
- 8 SDC has a wide property portfolio with some buildings used directly for Council services such as the Council Offices and Dunbrik, others operated on our behalf such as the leisure centres and others which are leased to other organisations. The Carbon Reduction Plan will look at the contribution our buildings make to the Council's carbon emissions and suggest how the leaseholders of our investment assets, many of whom already have their own climate change strategies, should be engaged on this important agenda.

### Community Engagement and Leadership

- 9 We will support businesses, residents and visitors to reduce carbon emissions within the District. We will proactively and positively engage with our communities providing advice, sharing best practice, through education and training, and by encouraging communities to take individual responsibility for their own carbon emissions.
- 10 We will reach out to hard to reach groups where possible through a range of communication methods and engagement opportunities. We will positively engage with schools and community groups to encourage a reduction in emissions and find ways to work together to achieve our joint aims.

### Movement and Green Travel

- 11 Transport is one of the greatest sources of carbon emissions for both the District and the Council. Although, we are not the highways authority for the District we will work with Kent County Council and communities to develop and encourage sustainable travel. We also commit to reducing the carbon emissions from our own fleet by efficiency measures and embracing new low emission technologies.
- 12 The Movement Strategy has been developed to set out the Council's priorities for sustainable movement in Sevenoaks District. It includes a number of aims to support the priorities including improving the cycling infrastructure, strengthening connections, embracing new technologies and promoting active travel.

### Green Spaces and the Natural Environment

- 13 We commit to improving our natural environment for now and future generations, taking account of a changing climate. We will also support multi-benefit projects which conserve and enhance the natural environment whilst also increasing levels of carbon sequestration.

### Engagement with Landowners, Partners and Businesses

- 14 Partnership working is key to the delivery of the Council's Net Zero 2030 commitment. We can work with others to achieve joint goals, making the most of resources and learning from best practice.
- 15 We will encourage landowners and businesses to reduce their own emissions and to incorporate climate change adaptation measures.

### Council Plans and Strategies

- 16 We will integrate our Net Zero 2030 commitment to all aspects of the Council's plans, strategies and services to ensure all potential opportunities are utilised. As new strategies are developed or reviewed they will incorporate elements that help to deliver the Net Zero 2030 commitment.
- 17 The Local Plan is a key delivery mechanism for the Net Zero 2030 commitment. The Local Plan will support the commitment and include policies to promote sustainable development in the District. The Air Quality Action Plan, Economic Development Strategy and the Community Plan are also key documents for delivery of the commitment.
- 18 It is important to understand the baseline carbon emissions for the Council. This will be incorporated into the Carbon Reduction Plan and is currently calculated following the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy guidance and the Local Government Association Greenhouse Gas Reporting Tool.

### Sustainable Development and Renewable Energy Generation

- 19 Buildings remain a significant emitter of carbon and therefore we commit to supporting low carbon buildings and development where possible. The Local Plan will help to deliver sustainable development within the District and residents and businesses will be encouraged to take part in retrofitting schemes.
- 20 We will also explore and support the use of renewable energy technologies and opportunities both large and small scale.

### **Next Steps**

- 21 Officers will continue to assess and implement the actions via the delivery projects and investigate new opportunities to deliver the Net Zero 2030 commitment. Regular update reports on the Net Zero 2030 work will be provided for members via the Cleaner and Greener Advisory Committee.

## **Other Options Considered and/or Rejected**

The Council have made a commitment to Net Zero 2030.

## **Key Implications**

### Financial

Funding for the Net Zero 2030 commitment will be met from existing budgets.

### Legal Implications and Risk Assessment Statement.

No legal implications have been identified.

### Equality Assessment

The decisions recommended through this paper have a remote or low relevance to the substance of the Equality Act. There is no perceived impact on end users.

### Net Zero Implications

Members are reminded of the Council's stated ambition to be Net Zero with regards to carbon emissions by 2030. The actions are key to delivering the Net Zero 2030 commitment.

## **Conclusions**

The Council have committed to Net Zero 2030 and have identified revised actions to go towards achieving this target.

### **Appendices**

Appendix A - Net Zero Actions 22-23

Appendix B - Net Zero Actions public information pack

### **Background Papers**

None

**Richard Morris**

**Deputy Chief Executive and Chief Officer - Planning & Regulatory Services**