

CABINET
28 January 2020

AGENDA ITEM 6

Subject	CLIMATE AND ECOLOGICAL EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN
Report by	CABINET MEMBER FOR SAFER CHELMSFORD

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Purpose	The report sets out an initial action plan to respond to the Climate and Ecological Emergency that was declared by the Council in July 2019.
Options	The Council can choose not to put in place an action plan to respond to the Climate and Ecological Emergency, but this would mean that it is unlikely that the targets set in the declaration would be achieved
Recommendation	It is recommended that the Climate and Ecological Emergency Action Plan as set out in Appendix 2 to the report be adopted.

Corporate Implications	
Legal:	The declaration of a Climate and Ecological Emergency does not, in itself, bind the Council to any statutory duties to make its activities net-zero carbon by 2030. However, the UK government was the first major economy in the world to create legislation to achieve a net-zero position for all greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. The Council's declaration reflects the national legislation and betters that target.
Financial:	The majority of initial actions are intended to be contained within existing resources or will be externally funded. Some longer-

	<p>term projects that have already been scoped are included for funding through the capital programme.</p> <p>In the medium term it needs to be recognised that implementing some of the possible measures that will be needed to achieve a net-zero carbon position by 2030 could have significant financial implications, as can be seen by those projects already set out in the capital programme such as the mass tree planting / woodland creation programme.</p> <p>When these more ambitious projects are contemplated, the financial implications will need to be considered alongside their potential climate and ecological benefits to determine the key areas for investment. These, in turn, will need to be ranked against possibly competing priorities or financial constraints for the Council at the time</p>
Potential impact on climate change and the environment	The proposed action plan includes items that are specifically geared towards responding to the Climate and Ecological Emergency declared by the Council
Contribution toward achieving a net-zero carbon position by 2030	The proposed action plan includes measures that will contribute to making the Council's activities net-zero carbon by 2030
Personnel:	There are no specific human resource implications other than an expectation that employees will take personal responsibility for their behaviour in response to the declared Climate and Ecological Emergency and adhere to any guidance provided by the Council in respect of their working arrangements
Risk Management:	The potential impact of climate change is now identified as a strategic risk for the Council reflected in the Climate and Ecological Emergency declared by Council. There is also a reputational risk if the Council were to fail to effectively tackle the environmental agenda
Equalities and Diversity:	There are no specific equalities and diversity implications
Health and Safety:	There are no specific health and safety implications
IT:	There are no specific digital service / IT implications
Other:	None
Consultees	The draft action plan has been put together by the Climate and Ecological Emergency Task Group which has been established to effectively co-ordinate the Council's [internal] response to the Climate and Ecological Emergency

Policies and Strategies

The context for the Action Plan that will respond to the Climate and Ecological declaration is set by 'Our Plan' for Chelmsford, which is due to be considered by Council at the meeting on 22 January 2020. 'Our Plan' places emphasis on a broad range of environmental matters, to ensure that the growth and development of Chelmsford and the Council's existing operations and activities are as sustainable as possible. It is anticipated that creating a '*safer and greener place*' will be agreed as a priority for the Council in the following terms:

Making Chelmsford a more attractive place, promoting Chelmsford's green credentials, ensuring communities are safe and creating a distinctive sense of place
... protecting and enhancing wildlife, habitats and landscapes in and around Chelmsford and connecting people with the built and natural environment
... providing attractive, high quality green spaces and public spaces that are clean, safe and easily accessible for all
... managing in a sustainable way to help reduce energy consumption and waste and help preserve natural resources

'Our Plan' includes a specific action to develop a new environmental plan promoting a sustainable approach to growth and development, everyday living and a low carbon future.

1. Background

- 1.1 There is increasing concern about the impact of climate change on the local environment, natural resources and the conditions in which people live and work. Evidence is growing that climate change is exacerbated by human activity.
- 1.2 In common with over 250 other local authorities and in response to this growing weight of evidence, the Council has declared a Climate and Ecological Emergency to focus attention on reducing carbon and greenhouse gas emissions in the area and to plan for a more sustainable future.

2. Climate and Ecological Emergency Declaration

- 2.1 The Council declared a Climate and Ecological Emergency at Council on 16 July 2019. Essentially this Declaration represents a commitment to take appropriate action to make the Council's activities net-zero carbon by 2030. The full text of the Declaration is set out in Appendix 1.
- 2.2 Plans to support this declaration need to be ambitious and far reaching in terms of long-term benefits and impact, whilst being instrumental in instigating changes to avoid 'business as usual' in the interim.
- 2.3 An internal Climate and Ecological Emergency Task Group has been established and charged with effectively co-ordinating the response to the Climate and Ecological Emergency by:
 - Creating a new environmental 'charter' that sets out the long-term vision, the approach to be adopted and the priorities for action to encourage more

sustainable lifestyles and to help create more sustainable environment for the City of Chelmsford and surrounding areas

- Developing a comprehensive, cohesive and prioritised environment action plan that addresses the key elements of the Climate and Ecological Emergency declared by the Council
- Promoting the 'green and sustainable' agenda in Chelmsford and oversee a programme of activities designed to engage, inspire and support local people, communities, businesses and organisations in meeting the carbon reduction challenge for the whole area

2.4 It is anticipated that a wider 'Chelmsford Climate Change Partnership' will be established as the action planning gains impetus creating opportunities for people, organisations and businesses to get involved, to influence, inspire and take responsibility for their own actions. This partnership will also be responsible for developing a strategy to achieve a net-zero carbon position for the wider area and helping to prioritise specific carbon reduction measures. In accordance with the Declaration, this partnership should include young people so that they have a clear voice in shaping the future.

3. Climate and Ecological Emergency Action Plan

3.1 To create momentum and immediate impact, it is proposed that the initial Climate and Ecological Emergency Action Plan focusses on the following areas of work:

- i. Establishing a 'carbon baseline' position
- ii. Updating planning guidance on how on-site renewable energy measures can be integrated into new developments and for all new dwellings to incorporate sustainable design features to reduce CO₂ and NO₂ emissions and the use of natural resources [including putting in place a low carbon infrastructure in strategic growth areas]
- iii. Working with Essex County Council to improve movement around the City, including improvements to the cycling and walking infrastructure, to reduce traffic congestion and journey times and encourage more sustainable travel choices
- iv. Implementing further measures to reduce the amount of waste generated and ensure that as much as possible of any waste that is generated is reused, recycled or composted
- v. Implementing measures to lower energy consumption, ensure the most efficient use of water resources, reduce pollution and improve air quality
- vi. Undertaking a greening programme to significantly increase the amount of woodland and the proportion of tree cover in Chelmsford
- vii. Implementing measures to improve the 'green infrastructure' of Chelmsford, protecting and expanding natural habitats and increasing bio-diversity
- viii. Improving the environmental quality, attractiveness and recreational potential of public spaces, rivers and waterways and associated green corridors in the City Centre and surrounding areas
- ix. Upgrading the Council's vehicle fleet to embrace the latest low emission technology, including ultra-low emission electric powered vehicles as they become operationally and commercially viable

- x. Supporting the Environment Agency to implement the Margarettong flood alleviation scheme and other flood mitigation measures to reduce the risk of flooding to residential and commercial properties in the City
- xi. Establishing a 'green investment fund' to support the Council's environment plan
- xii. Reviewing the Council's investment strategy in light of the Climate and Ecological Emergency Declaration
- xiii. Reviewing the Council's procurement policies and practices in light of the Climate and Ecological Emergency Declaration
- xiv. Creating opportunities for people, local organisations and businesses to get involved, to influence and to inspire innovation and cooperation in response to the key challenges identified in the Climate and Ecological Emergency
- xv. Reviewing the Council's human resources and employment policies and practices in light of the Climate and Ecological Emergency Declaration

3.2 The specific actions to deliver this initial plan are set out in Appendix 2, with a short update on progress to date. These are the headline actions not the more detailed action plans.

4. Financial Implications

- 4.1 Delivering actions to make the Council's activities net-zero carbon by 2030 is a challenging agenda. The actions will be delivered through a combination of changes in policy and working practices, direct targeted investment in the Council's operations, realising opportunities for more sustainable growth and development, encouraging residents to change their behaviour and demanding that third parties take greater responsibility for their own climate change actions.
- 4.2 Whilst the initial focus will be on what changes can be made and what can be achieved using existing resources, or those that require limited additional resources with a reasonable pay-back, as plans develop there will inevitably be a demand for increased investment in carbon reduction measures if a net-zero carbon position is to be achieved by 2030.
- 4.3 Where planning for the latter is sufficiently advanced – for example the proposed 10-year greening programme involving mass tree and woodland planting – this has been scoped and included in the capital programme for approval.
- 4.4 In the medium term it needs to be recognised that implementing some of the possible measures that will be needed to achieve a net-zero carbon position by 2030 could have significant financial implications. When these more ambitious projects are contemplated, the financial implications will need to be considered alongside their potential climate and ecological benefits to determine the key areas for investment. These, in turn, will need to be ranked against possibly competing priorities for the Council at the time.

5. Conclusion

- 5.1 The Council has already declared a Climate and Ecological Emergency setting out a challenging agenda and a target to make the Council's activities net-zero carbon by 2030.
- 5.2 A robust and comprehensive action plan is required to achieve this.
- 5.3 The proposed action plan sets out the areas of work that will be given initial focus and a brief update on progress to date.

List of Appendices

Appendix 1: Chelmsford City Council Climate and Ecological Emergency declared at full Council on 16 July 2019

Appendix 2: Climate and Ecological Emergency Action Plan

Background Papers

None

Appendix 1

Chelmsford City Council Climate and Ecological Emergency declared at full Council on 16 July 2019.

“Council notes:

That the impacts of climate breakdown are already causing critical damage around the world.

That the ‘Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C’, published by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change in October 2018

- (a) describes the enormous harm that a 2°C average rise in global temperatures is likely to cause compared with a 1.5°C rise, and*
- (b) confirms that limiting Global Warming to 1.5°C may still be possible with ambitious action from national and sub-national authorities, civil society and the private sector;*

That all governmental bodies (national, regional and local) have a duty to act, and local governments that recognise this should not wait for national governments to change their policies;

That bold policies to cut emissions also have associated health, wellbeing and economic benefits;

That a growing number of UK local authorities have already passed 'Climate Emergency' motions.

Council therefore resolves to:

- **Declare a ‘Climate and Ecological Emergency’ that requires urgent action to make the Council’s activities net-zero carbon by 2030;**
- **Achieve 100% low carbon energy across the Council’s full range of functions by 2030;**
- *Ensure that all strategic decisions, budgets and approaches to planning decisions are in line with a shift to net-zero carbon by 2030;*
- *Support and work with all other relevant agencies towards making the City of Chelmsford and surrounding area net-zero carbon within the same timescale;*
- *Ensure that Officers and political leadership teams within Chelmsford City Council embed this work in all areas and take responsibility for reducing, as rapidly as possible, the carbon emissions resulting from the Council’s own activities;*
- *Ensure that any recommendations are fully costed and that the Executive and Overview & Scrutiny bodies regularly review Council activities, taking account of production and consumption emissions, and produce an action plan within 12 months together with budget actions and a measured baseline;*
- *Request that the Council's Overview & Scrutiny Committee considers the impact of Climate Change and the Environment when reviewing Council policies and strategies;*
- *Work with, influence and inspire partnerships across the city to help deliver this goal through all relevant strategies, plans and shared resources by developing a series of*

meetings, educational events for City Council staff and the wider community and partner workshops focusing on the Climate and Ecological Emergency;

- Request that the Council and its partners take steps to proactively include young people in the process, ensuring that they also have a voice in shaping the future;*
- Establish a Chelmsford Climate Change Partnership within the remit of the Chelmsford Policy Board, involving councillors, residents, young people below voting age, academics and other relevant parties, to prioritise carbon reduction measures, identify related benefits to employment, health, agricultural and transport sectors and develop a strategy in line with the 'net-zero carbon by 2030' target;*
- Establish a baseline for Chelmsford's ecological status and monitor progress year on year;*
- Report on the level of Council investment in the fossil-fuel industry and review the City Council's investment strategy to give due consideration to Climate Change impacts in their investment portfolio;*
- Ensure that all reports in preparation for the 2020/21 budget cycle and investment strategy note the actions the City Council will take to address this Emergency;*
- Call on the UK Government to provide such new powers and resources as are necessary to make this possible, and to work within the LGA to encourage other councils to back this plan."*

Appendix 2

Climate and Ecological Emergency Action Plan

Workstream	<i>Climate and Ecological Emergency Action Plan</i>	
1)	Establishing a ‘carbon baseline’ position	Coordinator: Richard Bishop
	<i>Target to achieve</i>	<i>Progress</i>
a.	Establish an agreed definition of ‘net-zero carbon’	<p>Net-zero carbon is commonly described as ‘achieving a state in which the activities within an organisation or place result in no net impact on the climate from greenhouse gas emissions</p> <p>It is proposed to adopt the Carbon Trust definition of a net-zero company / organisation as one ‘that will set and pursue an ambitious 1.5 °C aligned science-bases target for its full value-chain emissions. Any remaining hard-to decarbonise emissions can be compensated using certified greenhouse gas removal’</p>
b.	Undertake an assessment of the carbon emissions arising from the Council’s activities, [i.e. an ‘organisational’ assessment] including energy use, emissions from buildings, operations and vehicles [measured in tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO ₂ e)]	<p>The Carbon Trust has provided advice on the best approach for assessing the Council’s a carbon baseline and a common system has been adopted based on this advice.</p> <p>A draft carbon baseline assessment has been undertaken which requires some further refinement before being adopted</p>
c.	Consider a ‘supply chain’ assessment of carbon emissions i.e. from the raw materials and services that are purchased by Council in order to deliver its services	Approach and timing to be determined

Workstream	<i>Climate and Ecological Emergency Action Plan</i>	
2)	Updating planning guidance on how on-site renewable energy measures can be integrated into new developments and for all new dwellings to incorporate sustainable design features to reduce CO ₂ and NO ₂ emissions and the use of natural resources [including putting in place a low carbon infrastructure in strategic growth areas]	Coordinator: Claire Stuckey
	<i>Target to achieve</i>	<i>Progress</i>
a.	Update the existing 'Making Places' Supplementary Planning Document to provide further guidance on how on-site renewable energy measures can be integrated into new developments and for all new dwellings to incorporate sustainable design features to reduce CO ₂ and NO ₂ emissions and minimise the use of natural resources	Draft SPD in preparation. Member Workshop proposed for January 2020. Approval to consult on draft to be sought from Chelmsford Policy Board in March 2020 and Cabinet in April 2020. Consultation scheduled for six weeks in April – May 2020. Adoption by Council expected in Summer 2020
b.	Explore options to incentivise developers to achieve as close to zero-carbon homes as possible and / or to implement a carbon offset tariff for new developments	It may be possible to use the 'neighbourhood Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)' contributions within the nine unparished urban wards to support the delivery of zero-carbon homes in the City Centre or to use some of this funding to mitigate the impact of new homes. This would need to be in accordance with the Community Infrastructure Levy Regulations. This could potentially include the funding of schemes to reduce the carbon footprint of new builds or conversions, subsidising low carbon affordable housing, or carbon offsetting measures, such as new tree planting. Work to consider and explore the potential options to commence in 2020 Review of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Charging Schedule

Workstream	<i>Climate and Ecological Emergency Action Plan</i>	
		alongside a review of the Chelmsford Local Plan 2013-2036. Review is programmed to commence in 2023
c.	Revise adopted planning policies to require all new dwellings to be built to zero-carbon standard	Chelmsford Local Plan 2013-2036 is programmed for adoption in early 2020. Review of Chelmsford Local Plan to commence in early 2023. Evidence base to inform the review to consider requiring all new dwellings to be built to zero-carbon standard
d.	Update the existing Planning Obligations Supplementary Planning Document to seek planning obligations when considering planning applications towards the Council's mass tree planting programme	Draft SPD in preparation. Member Workshop proposed for January 2020. Approval to consult on draft to be sought from Chelmsford Policy Board in March 2020 and Cabinet in April 2020. Consultation scheduled for six weeks in April – May 2020. Adoption by Council expected in Summer 2020
3)	<i>Working with Essex County Council to improve movement around the City, including improvements to the cycling and walking infrastructure, to reduce traffic congestion and journey times and encourage more sustainable travel choices</i>	Coordinator: Hannah Dungate
	<i>Target to achieve</i>	<i>Progress</i>
a.	Support Essex County Council in delivering improvements to the cycling and walking infrastructure as part of the Chelmsford City Growth Package	Chelmsford Policy Board has established a Working Group with the remit to examine proposals that will 'improve movement around the City', in particular to 'make proposals to improve the provision for cycling and walking' Essex County Council has now implemented improvements to cycling and walking infrastructure along Victoria Road South and Bell Mead.

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		<p>The next stage of works will include new hybrid cycling tracks along Broomfield Road and New Street. Longer term works include a contra-flow cycle route along Market Road, joining the proposed cycle route through the pedestrian-prioritised space at Tindal Square</p> <p>Short-term walking priorities have also been identified as part of the draft Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan in conjunction with ECC</p>
b.	Develop a cohesive car park strategy, including the integration of park and ride options, that matches provision to future demand and includes measures that will encourage people to use more sustainable transport options to help reduce overall vehicle emissions	<p>Chelmsford Policy Board has established a Working Group with the remit to examine proposals that will ‘improve movement around the City’, in particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To develop a new car parking strategy ▪ To examine the business case for a further park and ride site
4)	Implementing further measures to reduce the amount of waste generated and ensure that as much as possible of any waste that is generated is reused, recycled or composted	Coordinator: Peter Masson
	<i>Target to achieve</i>	<i>Progress</i>
a.	Put in place a policy to eliminate, as far as possible, single-use plastics in Council premises and encourage others and the wider community to do the same	Policy on single-use plastics adopted by the City Council in July 2019 Pan-Essex plastic reduction campaign launched in December 2019
b.	Full range of waste mitigation and recycling	Civic Centre has full recycling provision

Workstream	<i>Climate and Ecological Emergency Action Plan</i>	
	<p>facilities available at all City Council buildings to minimise the amount of non-recyclable waste generated and maximise the capture rate of materials that can be recycled</p>	<p>Riverside Leisure Centre– has full recycling provision apart from glass Dovedale Sports Centre – needs evaluated, scheme to be implemented shortly South Woodham Ferrers Leisure Centre – partial recycling provision [no glass or food waste at present] Chelmsford Sports and Athletics Centre – partial recycling provision [no glass or food waste at present] Hylands – full recycling provision apart from food waste [dealt with by caterers] Chelmsford Museum [Oaklands] – provision for paper and card only at present Chelmsford indoor market – full recycling provision High Street Market – no recycling provision at present, scheme currently being developed Sandford Mill – no recycling provision at present Waterhouse Lane Depot – scheme currently being developed Crematorium – paper and card only</p>
c.	<p>Comprehensive waste minimisation and recycling provision at all events taking place on City Council land and premises</p>	<p>Updated Waste and Recycling Collection Policy for Outdoor Events adopted on 6 November 2019 Terms and conditions of hire for Council land and premises reviewed to ensure compliance</p>
d.	<p>More provision for ‘recycling on the go’</p>	<p>Currently 17 ‘quad’ recycling-on-the-go bins are installed across the City area in the key high footfall areas. 11 are within the city centre zone and 6 are in other shopping parades and SWF town centre. Five additional locations for provision have been identified – 4 in the City Centre and one village site (subject to development in the respective areas or land owner permission being granted) Additional requests for recycling on the go provision is by request and the suitability of the location assessed against the collection policy</p>

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		criteria
e.	Provide support and assistance to small businesses and enterprises to adopt their own local waste minimisation plans	Full range of recycling and composting collection services now available / offered to commercial customers Support and assistance, including an 'easy guide' provided when customers sign up for commercial waste and recycling collection contracts – needs more promotion
f.	Review the 'green credentials' of the Indoor Retail and High Street Markets	Separate glass, cans, plastic, cardboard food waste and battery recycling in place Lighting replaced with LED units in 2019 Proposed actions to be completed in 2020: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Investigate compostable cup recovery – Additional food waste recycling for new food vendors – Installation of a water bottle refill point – Investigate bulk buying paper shopping bags for re-sale to traders
5)	Implementing measures to lower energy consumption, ensure the most efficient use of water resources, reduce pollution and improve air quality	Joint Coordinator: Richard Bishop Joint Coordinator: Paul Brookes
	<i>Target to achieve</i>	<i>Progress</i>
a.	100% of electricity used by the City Council to be from renewable sources	In July 2019 the Council's electricity supply was switched to a 'green tariff' guaranteeing that the supply was generated from renewable sources. Together with generation from on-site photovoltaic installations and the combined heat and power facility this ensures that

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		100% of the electricity consumed by the Council is from renewable sources
b.	Improve home energy efficiency, affordability and encourage the use of renewable energy sources for home energy switches	In recent years the Council has promoted successful energy switches in collaboration with Essex CC. In 2019 the electricity switch was to a supply which was certified from 100% renewable sources. Chelmsford energy switch promotions will continue
c.	Examine the business and environmental case for potential future investment opportunities in green technology and renewable energy initiatives, including solar farms	TBC – further opportunities to be examined, although the optimum sites have already had been fitted with renewable energy generation installations
d.	Refresh the air quality strategy and action plan for Chelmsford to further reduce damaging vehicle and CO2 emissions and reduce air pollution generally	The approach to the management of air quality in Chelmsford was agreed in October 2018, accompanied by a refreshed air quality strategy and action plan Arrangements in place to ensure that the Council fully meets its statutory duty to monitor air quality in the area and take action where air quality exceeds the air quality objectives set by Government Policies included in the Local Plan to encourage air quality mitigation measures in new development and ensure suitable low carbon infrastructure is provided in growth areas
e.	Update and refresh the Chelmsford City Council's Travel Plan setting out the actions and initiatives to encourage employees to use sustainable transport options to get to, from and between workplaces	Travel Plan updated in 2019 including improvements to cycle parking, provision of bicycles for travelling to meetings and site visits, provision of bicycle maintenance workshops and improved showering and changing facilities for anyone who cycles or jogs to work Car sharing scheme expanded and continuing programme of events, such as 'pedometer challenge' to encourage staff to walk to work In October 2019 Chelmsford City Council was awarded the Modeshift

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		National Sustainable Travel gold-level accreditation [only the second local authority to do so] for putting in place a range of measures and initiatives to encourage staff to use sustainable travel options
f.	Work with public service transport providers and regulated transport providers [such as taxis] to ensure that wherever possible vehicles used in Chelmsford are low emission and / or compliant with at least Euro 6 emission standards	<p>Hackney carriage and private hire licensing conditions due to be updated at the Regulatory Committee on 13 February 2020 to ensure that all vehicles operating under a Chelmsford licence plate are compliant with at least the Euro 6 emission standard by 2024 in order to reduce harmful emissions from these vehicles</p> <p>Bus operators to be approached to provide updates on their commitments to upgrade their vehicle fleets to meet the latest emission standards</p>
6)	<i>Undertaking a greening programme to significantly increase the amount of woodland and the proportion of tree cover in Chelmsford</i>	Coordinator: Paul Van Damme
	<i>Target to achieve</i>	<i>Progress</i>
a.	Put in place a sustained medium-term mass tree planting and woodland creation programme resulting in the planting of at least 148,000 additional trees / create 71 hectares of woodland to achieve tree cover of at least 20% in the Chelmsford area by 2030	<p>First phase of mass tree planting, involving 27,500 trees, creating 5.35 hectares of woodland commenced and programmed to complete in late 2020</p> <p>Future 10-year programme scoped, but at present unfunded. Will require additional land not currently in City Council ownership</p>
b.	Encourage local people and communities to take greater responsibility for greening their area / environment, including planting trees in their	Initial 'Call for Trees' campaign due to be launched January 2020 – invites members of the public to identify opportunities and specific places that would benefit from tree, copse or hedgerow planting.

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	gardens	Subject to the practicality and landowner permission, the City Council, or possibly other providers, will try to meet this request
c.	Adopt the ‘Woodland Carbon Code’ to validate the carbon sequestration value for mass tree planting and woodland creation projects [possible link to uses as carbon offsetting measure for new development]	TBC – merits and potential use of this scheme to be investigated
d.	Explore opportunities to participate in the Eastern Claylands project promoted by the Woodland Trust designed to help create a more resilient landscape that can absorb and recover from natural and human pressures and adapt to future change, whilst retaining a diverse array of wildlife and a range of benefits for people	To be investigated during 2020, possible opportunities to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Give further protection to and enhance our existing woodlands and trees – Support woodland owners to manage their woods more appropriately for multiple benefits – Increase diversity of species and age of trees within woods – Create new woodland sites – Connect habitats by planting and restoring hedgerows, planting trees in hedges and improving the management of ancient and veteran trees – Connect people to trees and woods to help unlock and appreciate economic values and social benefits
7)	Implementing measures to improve the ‘green infrastructure’ of Chelmsford, protecting and expanding natural habitats and increasing bio-diversity	Joint Coordinator: Claire Stuckey Joint Coordinator: Paul Van Damme
	<i>Target to achieve</i>	<i>Progress</i>
a.	Establish a continuous, fully connected green	Policy framework within the Chelmsford Local Plan 2012-2036. Specific

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	wedge through the Chelmer River Valley [north]	enhancements will be identified in emerging North East Chelmsford site masterplans and planning applications for the development which is expected to commence in 2022
b.	Establish a new Chelmer River Valley green wedge to the east of the city centre	Policy framework within the Chelmsford Local Plan 2012-2036. Specific enhancements will be identified in emerging site masterplans and planning applications for East Chelmsford which are expected to commence in 2021
c.	Create a new natural open space and country park as part of the North East Chelmsford growth area	Policy framework within the Chelmsford Local Plan 2012-2036. Specific requirement will be identified in emerging site masterplans and planning applications for the development. Country Park is expected to be provided towards the latter stages of the development
d.	<p>Refresh the Bio-Diversity Action Plan for Chelmsford to improve the habitat value of green spaces and promote greater bio-diversity across the area, adopting the ‘Making Space for Nature’ [Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs 2010] principles to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Improve the quality of sites by better habitat management – Increase the size of current wildlife sites – Enhance the connections between and join up sites either through physical corridors or through habitat ‘stepping stones’ – Create new sites – Reduce the pressures on wildlife by improving the wider environment through the buffering of existing wildlife rich sites 	Bio-Diversity Action Plan to be re-written in 2020

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e.	Work with Essex Wildlife Trust, statutory bodies, landowners and community organisations to formulate and implement 'Living Landscape' plans across the Chelmsford area to create bigger, better connected and sensitively managed habitats and natural spaces where wildlife can thrive	Engagement with key stakeholders including Essex Wildlife Trust is scheduled for early 2020.
f.	Create a new country park at Sandon as part of the East Chelmsford growth area	Policy framework within the Chelmsford local Plan 2012-2036. Specific requirements will be identified in emerging site masterplans and planning applications for the developments. County Park is expected to be provided by mid-2020s
8)	<i>Improving the environmental quality, attractiveness and recreational potential of public spaces, rivers and waterways and associated green corridors in the City Centre and surrounding areas</i>	Coordinator: Paul Van Damme
	<i>Target to achieve</i>	<i>Progress</i>
a.	Establish Chelmsford Policy Board Working Group Improve the environmental quality, attractiveness and recreational use of the rivers and waterways	Rivers and Waterways Working Group established by the Chelmsford Policy Board to look at options to widen the use of the City's rivers and adjacent green spaces, improve their environment and biodiversity and revitalise the presentation of the river frontage. The Working Group intend to involve the wider 'river and waterways community' to help implement an agreed action plan
b.	Examine options to improve navigation on the rivers and waterways and review current and future flood prevention measures [including devices to retain water in the City Centre all year	Feasibility study commissioned for possible combined structure for water retention and 'lock' to improve navigation on the River Chelmer

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	round]	
c.	Consider opportunities to extend and improve green spaces adjoining the rivers and waterways, including options for greening of the canalised sections of the river to improve its appearance and attractiveness	TBC – potential work programme to be proposed by the Waterways Working Group
d.	Promote projects and activities that enhance the habitat, ecological and biodiversity value of the river corridors	TBC – potential work programme to be proposed by the Waterways Working Group
e.	Consider opportunities that could be taken to extend and improve the network of riverside footpaths and cycleways	TBC – potential work programme to be proposed by the Waterways Working Group
9)	Upgrading the Council’s vehicle fleet to embrace the latest low emission technology, including ultra-low emission electric powered vehicles, as they become operationally and commercially viable	Coordinator: Peter Masson
	<i>Target to achieve</i>	<i>Progress</i>
a.	Replace all Council fleet vehicles that do not currently meet the Euro 6 standard	Replacement programme in place [fully funded] to ensure that all vehicles in the Council fleet will meet at least the low-emission standard [designated as Euro 6 or equivalent] by 2024
b.	Evaluate ultra-low emission alternatives [electric or hydrogen powered] for selected vehicles where	Two electric-powered [ultra-low emission] utility vehicles now in service in city centre parks [since October 2019]

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	operationally and commercially viable	Two further electric-powered [ultra-low emission] utility vehicles due for delivery to Parks in January 2020. Two tipper mini-vans used by grounds maintenance team to be replaced with electric-powered alternative in 2020/21 [vehicles currently on demonstration / being evaluated]
c.	Acquire a selection of low emission or ultra-low emission 'pool' vehicles to provide more sustainable options for business travel	Capital programme bid submitted [£17,000 per annum for 3 years] to acquire up to 5 pool vehicles
d.	Consider adapting the current lease car scheme so that it offers preferential terms and incentives for those employees who choose an ultra-low emission vehicle	TBC – to be investigated, no specific proposal to date
e.	Provide additional bicycles [including power assisted] for travelling to meetings and site visits, improve cycle storage and welfare facilities to facilitate the use of cycling as a more sustainable travel option	Two additional pool bicycles in service within Sustainable Communities [planning] Continued promotion of the Cycle2Work scheme Additional covered cycle parking provided
10)	Supporting the Environment Agency to implement the Margaretting flood alleviation scheme and other flood mitigation measures to reduce the risk of flooding to residential and commercial properties in the City	Coordinator: Hannah Dungate
	<i>Target to achieve</i>	<i>Progress</i>
a.	Final phase of the wider, Environment Agency led	Update – The flood alleviation scheme at Margaretting is an

Workstream	<i>Climate and Ecological Emergency Action Plan</i>	
	Chelmsford flood alleviation scheme constructed protecting an additional 548 residential and 235 commercial properties from the risk of flooding	<p>Environment Agency led scheme to which the City Council originally agreed, in 2010, to make a substantial contribution toward the construction cost from the Growth Fund grant received from Government.</p> <p>The scheme has been subject to prolonged delays as a result of a landowner taking legal proceedings to try to prevent construction of the flood barrier. The EA are currently producing a revised business case for the scheme that reflects the changes since it was originally agreed, which is needed for the EA's internal approval processes</p>
11)	Establishing a 'green investment fund' to support the Council's environment plan	Coordinator: Alison Chessell
	<i>Target to achieve</i>	<i>Progress</i>
a.	Create a new 'zero carbon communities' grant scheme where local communities can bid for funding for initiatives that will help them lower carbon emissions in their area	New Community Funding Scheme launched in October 2019. 'Our Plan' themes [fairer and inclusive, greener and safer place, healthy, active and enjoyable lives and connected Chelmsford] used as the main criteria for assessing applications for funding support so actions that will help address the climate and ecological emergency are eligible. Consideration to be given to perhaps ring-fencing some of the funding available to support zero-carbon community initiatives in future years
12)	Reviewing the Council's investment strategy in light of the Climate and Ecological Emergency Declaration	<p>Joint Coordinator: Joe Reidy</p> <p>Joint Coordinator: Phil Reeves</p>

Workstream	<i>Climate and Ecological Emergency Action Plan</i>	
	<i>Target to achieve</i>	<i>Progress</i>
a.	When investing any fund managers will be required to consider Environmental, Social and Governance factors in their investment process. All fund managers would be expected to have signed up to the UN Principles for Responsible Investment that proposes that active participation in ESG and exercising shareholder rights on this basis can help to improve the performance of companies which may otherwise not address such concerns	Fund managers have been identified and agreed by the Treasury Management Sub-Committee who comply with the target. Further requirements, in addition to those identified, are not considered to be practical given the limited ability to directly influence any immediate change in the financial markets
b.	The Councils direct property investment strategy will take account of the Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards legislation as a minimum requirement	The Councils property investment portfolio meets this minimum standard.
13)	Reviewing the Council's procurement policies and practices in light of the Climate and Ecological Emergency Declaration	Coordinator: Alison Chessell
	<i>Target to achieve</i>	<i>Progress</i>
a.	Adopt a policy for the Council to use Fair Trade or Rain Forest Alliance certified products	Policy put in place in June 2019 that all products used for refreshments at the Civic Centre site should be Fair Trade or Rain Forest Alliance certified Consideration to be given to extending this to all Council premises and for third party providers to be incentivised to use certified products as opportunities to renegotiate contracts arise.
b.	Strengthen and simplify requirements for social	Updated Procurement Policy to be agreed in February 2020. Policy will

Workstream	<i>Climate and Ecological Emergency Action Plan</i>	
	value and environmental impacts within all the Council's procurement and commissioning activities to incentivise supply chain to support Council's objectives.	<p>strengthen incentivisation for suppliers to deliver social value and environmental impacts as an integral part of any agreement with the Council.</p> <p>New Procurement Manual and Contract Rules to be issued in April 2020 following approval</p> <p>Training to be delivered to all staff that are responsible for procurement activity on new policy implications</p> <p>Guidance to be prepared and issued to suppliers detailing social value and environmental impact considerations for all relevant procurement opportunities</p>
c.	Raise awareness of social value and environmental impacts within public procurement within the local business community	Investigate holding an awareness event for local suppliers within Chelmsford with key partners. Initial discussion undertaken in November 2109. Decision on possible event to be made by April 2020
d.	Work with partners to influence social value and environmental impacts within the wider public sector procurement community.	<p>Hosted Chartered Institute of Procurement and Supply Essex Branch Social Value Event at Civic Centre in November 2019</p> <p>Sharing information and working with Essex County Council regarding their current Social Value TOMS Pilot. Review findings of pilot when completed in Nov 2020.</p> <p>Member of the Contract for Change Steering Group. This group will bring together volunteers to collaborate and embed the principles of social value into procurement and commissioning best practice. First Meeting Jan 2020</p>

Workstream	<i>Climate and Ecological Emergency Action Plan</i>	
14)	Creating opportunities for people, local organisations and businesses to get involved, to influence and to inspire innovation and cooperation in response to the key challenges identified in the declared Climate and Ecological Emergency	Coordinator: Rebecca Moss
	<i>Target to achieve</i>	<i>Progress</i>
a.	Create a 'Chelmsford Climate Change Partnership' or similar affiliation of interests to engage with partners, other agencies and the wider community to agree an approach and develop plans to meet the target for Chelmsford to be net zero-carbon by 2030	A plan has been put together to create a partnership group; possible participants, agencies and communities to be identified by end January 2020, invitations for the group to be sent out in February 2020, with a possible launch event to be held by the end of March 2020
b.	Adapt the 'Love Your Chelmsford' programme as the primary vehicle for engaging and fostering community activity aligned to the Climate and Ecological Emergency Declaration	A briefing document on widening the scope of the 'Love Your Chelmsford' programme has been put together and shared internally. This will be implemented with immediate effect once the initial action plan has been agreed
c.	Develop a website and social media presence as a point of reference and interface for people and organisations wishing to 'connect' with the Climate and Ecological Emergency, the wider 'green agenda' and as a means to promote participation in the 'Love Your Chelmsford' programme	Initial website mapping completed in December 2019. Website developer commissioned with a proposed deadline for the launch of the website in March 2020

Workstream	<i>Climate and Ecological Emergency Action Plan</i>	
15)	Reviewing the HR Policies and practices in light of the Climate and Ecological Emergency Declaration	Coordinator: Debbie Wootton
	<i>Target to achieve</i>	<i>Progress</i>
a.	Review people management policies and working practices to ensure that reflect the Climate and Ecological Emergency Declaration Develop an ongoing communication and training programme for employees to highlight their social and environmental responsibilities	TBC
b.	Consider ways to encourage a community-based volunteering scheme for City Council employees	Currently reviewing volunteer schemes
c.	Green skills appear key to a sustainable future and the transition towards a 'green' economy will start to shape the labour market. Need to consider any possible job creation and upskilling opportunities for the current workforce	TBC
d.	Promote flexible working to enable employees to work at home to avoid transport congestion and pollution.	Implementation of Microsoft Office 365 and integrated communications provides the opportunities for more flexible working. Flexible working policies and guidelines updated in January 2020