


Delivering the NHDC Climate Change Strategy 2020-25



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Risk Code	RR570	Risk Title	Delivering the NHDC Climate Change Strategy 2020-25
Risk Owner	Jeanette Thompson	Updated By	Reuben Ayavoo
Year Identified	2020	Corporate Priority	Respond to challenges to the environment
Risk Description	<p>On 21 May 2019, Council passed a motion to declare a Climate Emergency, pledging its commitment to do everything within its power to make North Hertfordshire carbon zero by 2030. As one of the first council's in the UK to pass this motion, NHDC is leading the way for climate action.</p> <p>Building on previous strategies and initiatives, on 28 January 2020, Cabinet approved the NHDC Climate Change Strategy 2020-25, which sets out how the Council aims to do this. The strategy identifies three strategic priorities, with related actions, to reduce the organisation's impact on the environment.</p> <p>As a result of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A lack of available funding, e.g. diminishing capital receipts, a continuing reduction in government support and the concentration of capital receipts on schemes to reduce revenue costs or generate income. - The need to prioritise actions, in terms of the extent to which they can be delivered and the timing of delivery, to ensure that the overall programme is affordable within the Council's available resources. - The evaluation of individual business cases, in terms of cost, benefit and risk. - A lack of available staff resources. - A lack of engagement with local people, businesses and partners. <p>There is a risk that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Council fails to deliver the proposed actions and to achieve the aims of the strategy, i.e. net zero carbon emissions by 2030. 		
Opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Effective leadership and partnership working within North Hertfordshire to address Climate Change. - Improvement to or reduced negative impact on the local environment. - Increased awareness and action by local people, businesses and partners, e.g. voluntary and community groups. 		
Consequences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - NHDC does not reduce its impact on the local environment to the expected level. - Council services are unable to adapt or respond to changes linked to Climate Change, e.g. adverse weather conditions/events. - Services become less resilient. - Damage to the Council's reputation. - Local people, businesses and partners do not reduce their own carbon impact. 		
Work Completed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cabinet Panel on the Environment (advisory panel) established, with community participation encouraged. - Climate Change Implementation Group formed to co-ordinate and formulate Climate Change actions and to make recommendations in relation to policy development. - New objective of 'Respond to challenges to the environment' introduced in the Council Plan. - Cabinet (28 January 2020) resolved 'That the Strategy and Appendices be kept under review and updated as required.' - Proposed actions (agreed by SMT and Executive Members) included in both the Council Plan and Climate Change Strategy. - First meeting of the Climate Change Implementation Group held on 27 February 2020. 		

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Ongoing Work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Introducing 'Environmental Implications' into the committee report template. - Developing monitoring and measuring arrangements, e.g. for the Climate Change Implementation Group and O&S. - Evaluation of individual actions (costs involved, anticipated benefits and associated opportunities/risks) to determine the most effective way of implementing them. - Introducing related measures into corporate monitoring reports, e.g. quarterly performance reports to O&S. 		
Current Impact Score	3	Current Likelihood Score	1
Overall Risk Score	6	Current Risk Matrix	
Date Reviewed	20-May-2020	Next Review Date	18-Sep-2020
Notes	<p>21-May-2020 Risk entry discussed at the Risk Management Group meeting held on 18 May 2020. There were concerns that the Original Risk Score of 3 was too low. Following the meeting, these concerns were raised with Reuben Ayavoo. Having reviewed the risk again, Reuben was happy to increase the Current Risk Score to 6 in line with the Risk Management Group's suggestion, as delivery of the strategy could prove to be challenging in the current circumstances. However, it should also be acknowledged that our collective impact on the environment will have reduced in the current COVID-19 lockdown.</p> <p>11-Feb-2020 Draft risk entry created following Cabinet's approval of the NHDC Climate Change Strategy 2020-25 on 28 January 2020 and a subsequent meeting with Reuben Ayavoo and Georgina Chapman. Although there are reasons why the Council may be unable to deliver all of the proposed actions and achieve the strategic priorities, implementation of the strategy has only just started. In view of the preparations involved during the development of the strategy and the accompanying actions, and that responding to challenges to the environment is now a Council objective, the current assessment is that we are likely to deliver the aims of the strategy. The risk entry will continue to be reviewed and assessed in light of further developments and the actual progress being made.</p>		