

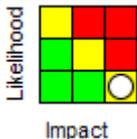
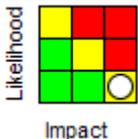
Delivering the NHDC Climate Change Strategy

Generated on: 28 July 2021



Risk Code	RR570	Risk Title	Delivering the NHDC Climate Change Strategy
Risk Owner	Jeanette Thompson	Updated By	Reuben Ayavoo
Year Identified	2020	Council Objective	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 set out how the Council aimed to do this. The strategy identified three strategic priorities, with related actions, to reduce the organisation's impact on the environment. On 16 March 2021, Cabinet approved a revised Climate Change Strategy 2021-26, which contained revisions to the previous objectives and proposed actions.</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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	<p>- Monitoring arrangements in place for the Climate Change Implementation Group, with Service Directors providing updates on activities in the action tracker, which support the broader aims of the strategy.</p> <p>- Introduced 'Environmental Implications' into the committee report template.</p> <p>- Related items now included in the quarterly performance and key projects reports to O&S.</p> <p>- Revised Climate Change Strategy (2021-26) was approved at Cabinet (16 March 2021). This strategy contained revisions to the objectives and proposed actions that were agreed by the Leadership Team, Executive Members, Service Managers and Political Liaison Board (PLB). The revised objectives are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Achieve Carbon Neutrality for the Council's own operations by 2030 (at least Scope 1 and Scope 2); ● Ensure all operations and services are resilient to the impacts of climate change; ● Achieve a Net Zero Carbon district by 2040; and ● Become a district that is resilient to unavoidable impacts of climate change. <p>- A SIAS audit took place to review the Council's Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan, in addition to its monitoring and implementation of climate change projects to determine if the Council is on track to meet its 2030 goal of becoming carbon neutral.</p> <p>- Climate Change and Sustainability audit report received in June 2021 (Reasonable assurance – two Medium Priority recommendations (Cabinet Panel for the Environment Action Tracker and Strategy and Action Plan Monitoring)).</p>		
Ongoing Work	<p><u>Business-as-Usual</u></p> <p>- Continue to refine monitoring and measuring arrangements on an ongoing basis.</p> <p>- Ongoing evaluation of individual actions (costs involved, anticipated benefits and associated opportunities/risks) to determine the most effective way of implementing them.</p> <p>- Regular meetings of the Climate Change Implementation Group - service area activity reviewed at each meeting.</p> <p>- Annual review of the related items to be included in corporate monitoring reports, i.e. quarterly performance and key projects reports (currently developing the key milestones for the 2021/22 reports).</p> <p><u>Specific (SMART) Actions</u></p> <p>- Implementing the Cabinet Panel for the Environment Action Tracker audit recommendation (January 2022).</p>		
Current Overall Risk Score	6		
Current Impact Score	3	Current Likelihood Score	1
Current Risk Matrix		Target Risk Matrix	
Date Reviewed	14-Jul-2021	Next Review Date	14-Jan-2022
Latest Notes	<p>14-Jul-2021 Risk reviewed with Reuben Ayavoo on 14 July 2021. The current assessment is that NHDC is still likely to deliver the aims of the strategy. This is supported by the findings of the related SIAS audit report, which was received in June 2021. The impact of Climate Change remains a priority and monitoring arrangements relating to implementation of the strategy are undertaken at the highest level. However, it is acknowledged that due to Covid-19, the progress of some projects has been hampered and there remains uncertainty regarding future available funding/resources. No change made to the risk score.</p> <p>13-Apr-2021 Risk reviewed by Reuben Ayavoo on 8 April 2021. Updated to reflect Cabinet's approval of a revised Climate Change Strategy (2021-26) on 16 March 2021. No change made to the risk score.</p>		

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	<p>05-Nov-2020 Risk reviewed with Reuben Ayavoo on 5 November 2020. The current assessment is that NHDC is likely to deliver the aims of the strategy. The impact of Climate Change remains a priority and monitoring arrangements relating to implementation of the strategy are undertaken at the highest level. However, due to Covid-19, there is increasing uncertainty regarding available funding and the situation will be kept under review. The current risk score is at the same level as the target risk score, both of which align with the Risk Management Group's scoring suggestion.</p>
	<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>