


The Authority's response to Climate Change

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Risk Code	RR494	Risk Title	The Authority's response to Climate Change
Risk Owner	Jeanette Thompson	Updated By	Reuben Ayavoo
Year Identified	2008	Corporate Priority	Prosper and Protect
Risk Description	<p>If the Council fails to plan and respond to the potential negative impacts of Climate Change, there is a risk that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Council fails to control and reduce its carbon emissions, e.g. through utilising sustainable energy sources and alternative working practices - The Council fails to lead by example and influence the wider reduction of carbon emissions through relevant policies and partnership working - Council services are not able to adapt or respond to changes linked to Climate Change <p>This could lead to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Council not achieving its target of zero carbon emissions by 2030 - Damage to the Council's reputation - Services becoming less resilient - Services being ineffective in responding to adverse weather conditions/events 		
Opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reducing the Council's negative impact on the environment - Improving the sustainability of energy and water sources or the use of renewable sources of energy production - Reducing the use and associated costs of non-renewable energy sources - Providing leadership, sharing good practice and increasing partnership working with individuals/residents and other organisations wishing to reduce their impact on the environment e.g. increased recycling rates and waste minimisation - Plan for increased use of park and open spaces (or other resources) with the advent of potentially warmer winters and hotter/drier summers - Promotion of energy efficiency measures/schemes to reduce district residential carbon emissions 		
Consequences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Council does not limit the negative impacts of climate breakdown - Unplanned additional costs for providing services, e.g. providing more advice to the public and responding to emergency events - Council services are unable to respond to relevant demands, with a negative impact on local residents - Inability to deliver the Council's objectives 		
Work Completed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Signed the Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change - Following motions agreed at Full Council on 18 July 2018: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -- Plastic Free Letchworth -- Single Use Plastics - Full Council on 21 May 2019 agreed motion declaring a Climate Emergency - Full Council on 11 July 2019 agreed motion relating to Ultra Low Emission Vehicles (including electric vehicles and plug in hybrids (PHEVs)) 		

Ongoing Work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - NHDC participates in Climate Change related activities across the county wherever and whenever it can - Climate Change implications are considered for changes to service provision and for projects - Data on CO2 emissions from our own estate collected - Data on CO2 emissions from the local authority area is collected on an annual basis and reported on Pentana - Representation at a technical workshop relating to the proposed London Luton Airport expansion - Consideration/implementation of actions/initiatives relating to the motions agreed at Full Council on 18 July 2018 - Setting up a Cabinet Panel on the Environment - Drafting new Climate Change Strategy, with contributions from the new Cabinet Panel - Strategy to be reported to Overview & Scrutiny, Cabinet and Council in autumn/winter 2019 		
Current Impact Score	2	Current Likelihood Score	2
Overall Risk Score	5	Current Risk Matrix	 <p>Likelihood</p> <p>Impact</p>
Date Reviewed	02-Aug-2019	Next Review Date	29-Nov-2019
Latest Note	<p>02-Aug-2019 Risk reviewed and updated by Reuben Ayavoo on 2 August 2019. Changes to the risk entry reflect recent Council motions, the formation of a Cabinet Panel on the Environment and the development of a new Climate Change Strategy. This is becoming a more high profile issue and it is a priority area for the new administration. The risk score has been increased from 1 - Low/Low to 5 - Medium/Medium.</p>		