

**Committee:** Scrutiny  
**Title:** Climate Change Action Plan  
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**Date: Tuesday 23  
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## Summary

1. Uttlesford District Council declared a climate emergency in 2019 and we have pledged to take local action to prevent a climate and ecological catastrophe through the development of practices and policies which aim to achieve net-zero carbon status by 2030 and to protect and enhance biodiversity in the district.
2. This Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP) is the vital next step in moving on from a statement of intent and overall approach, and into specific actions.

## Recommendations

3. To consider and comment on the draft Climate Change Action Plan detailed in APPENDIX 1 and note progress on the actions therein.
4. To note the achievements made since declaration of the Climate and Ecological emergency in 2019 as set out in APPENDIX 2

## Financial Implications

5. The Council has agreed a specific climate change budget of £1,000,000 budget over 3 years.
6. To date £10,000 of the climate Change budget has been committed or spent.
7. External funding totalling £260,000 has also been secured.

## Background Papers

8. The following papers were referred to by the author in the preparation of this report and are available for inspection from the author of the report:  
Climate Change Action Plan, Climate Change Strategy

## Impact

- 9.

Communication/Consultation	The Climate Change Action Plan has been reviewed by the Climate Change Working Group
Community Safety	None
Equalities	None
Health and Safety	None
Human Rights/Legal Implications	None
Sustainability	Improves sustainability
Ward-specific impacts	None
Workforce/Workplace	None

## Situation

10. The Council declared a climate and ecological emergency in 2019 and immediately established a cross party Climate Change Working Group and was tasked with developing the Climate Change Strategy and Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP). The working group was attended by a range of community stakeholders in order to capture a diverse range of views and expertise.
11. The Climate Change Strategy defined the Council's ambition to achieve net-zero carbon status by 2030 and to improve biodiversity and was published in September 2020.
12. The working Group then set about the development of the CCAP which provides detail on the delivery of projects designed to mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change in Uttlesford. The draft CCAP is attached as APPENDIX 1.
13. The CCAP has been developed to be an ambitious document that contains a mixture of projects. Where the Council has direct control over the project and outcomes, these tasks are described as in-house. If the project relies on partnership working, persuasion or influencing / campaigning, these are described as partnership tasks.
14. Some of projects suggested in the CCAP are of a scale, particularly financially, that they require a business plan and must go through the Council's governance process for prioritisation and approval. Wherever the CCAP action point is to make a business case, it should be inferred that this refers to a triple bottom line business case, in which the financial, environmental, and social impacts of the potential project are set out for consideration.

15. The Action Plan has 38 components, and the scale of the task to turn each one into a worked-up plan, actually delivering, is considerable.

- 8 are ongoing (for instance home insulation grant delivery, local highways panel);
- 12 are priorities for early development or feasibility study (with accompanying business plans, as necessary) by March 2022, 13 are scheduled for December 2022,
- 2 will go beyond this date and 2 are complete.

16. At a previous meeting of this Committee, a request was made to set out the Climate and biodiversity related achievements that have been made since the December 2020 declaration. A brief summary of is shown at APPENDIX 2. The Committee are requested to note those achievements.

17. Three CCAP projects are highlighted as being particularly responsive to the carbon emissions in the district.

(1) Action point 15 – creation of a Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan – to address transport emissions.

(2) Action point 34 – delivery of grant funding for energy efficiency measures for low-income households, and further grant applications pending.

(3) Action point 12 – local biodiversity survey completed and being integrated into Nature Recovery Mapping and project delivery.

## Risk Analysis

18. See individual lines in the CCAP for risk assessment and mitigating actions.

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigating actions

1 = Little or no risk or impact

2 = Some risk or impact – action may be necessary.

3 = Significant risk or impact – action required

4 = Near certainty of risk occurring, catastrophic effect or failure of project.