

# Cabinet

## Warwickshire County Council Energy Strategy and Delivery Plan

13 July 2023

### Recommendation

That Cabinet approves the Energy Strategy and the associated Delivery Plan.

### 1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 In 2022 the new Council Plan and the draft Sustainable Futures Strategy (SFS) were published, both having a focus on responding to climate change and meeting net zero commitments (for our Council emissions by 2030 and for County emissions by 2050). In response there is a need to review and align the Council's previous Energy Plans and its longstanding work in measuring and monitoring emissions, with the new targets, standards and legislation.
- 1.2 The Energy Strategy draws these elements together, setting out the Council's approach to sustainable energy management for the future and how we will reduce, use, generate and measure our own energy requirements whilst also supporting that of Warwickshire residents and businesses. An associated Delivery Plan (as set out in the Appendices) has also been created which identifies specific actions we will be taking to achieve our targets.

### 2. Financial Implications

- 2.1 The Energy Strategy will bring a range of benefits, from a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions and a smaller carbon footprint and associated with this will be improvements in the management of water, gas, electricity and waste; all of which we expect will collectively lead to financial savings and improved energy security.
- 2.2 Many of the actions in this Strategy and Delivery Plan will however require revenue investment and / or capital funding (particularly for development of the pipeline of future programmes of work).
- 2.3 All proposals will be aligned to our Medium Term Financial Strategy and we will work with Finance and Commercial colleagues to ensure opportunities are viable, and all funding routes are explored (including external funding such as

grants and/or investment opportunities) through the development of business cases to prioritise cost reduction and future revenue generation.

### **3. Environmental Implications**

- 3.1 The current Council Plan, Sustainable Futures Strategy and the delivery actions proposed by the Energy Strategy will support the Council's net zero targets for 2030 and 2050, which in turn are intended to reduce and mitigate the effects of climate change on the environment and on the lives of Warwickshire residents.
- 3.2 Using 2019 as a baseline year, it has been calculated that Warwickshire County Council's total carbon footprint is 18,245tCO<sub>2</sub>e per year.
- 3.3 It is expected that the UK electricity grid will naturally decarbonise over time (as more renewable projects come on stream and improvements are made) and this will support our move to net zero by approximately 5,919tCO<sub>2</sub>e by 2030.
- 3.4 As outlined in the Sustainable Futures Strategy (SFS), additional expectations are that a further 9,816tCO<sub>2</sub>e can be achieved by a combination of insetting (within Warwickshire County Council's boundary) and offsetting (out-side of Warwickshire). Insetting and offsetting in scope of this Strategy will be investigated with SFS colleagues in the 2023/24 financial year.
- 3.5 The remaining 2,510tCO<sub>2</sub>e will need to be decarbonised from direct measures in a number of areas including on our own estate, transport and waste. Direct decarbonisation in scope of this Strategy will involve reducing emissions from electricity, gas and oil use on our own estate. As electricity will be declining naturally a particular focus for this Energy Strategy will be reduction of gas and oil.

### **4. Supporting Information**

- 4.1 Assets within scope of the Energy Strategy will be those sites where the Council is landlord, occupier and holds responsibility for full repairs, maintenance and operational costs (i.e., assets such as, but not exclusively, offices, Libraries, Children & Family Hubs, Business Centres, Fire Stations, maintained Primary and Secondary Schools and Country Parks). For other areas / assets, the Council will have an important influencing role which will be developed in collaboration with partners and will be included in the Delivery Plan.
- 4.2 Other areas of Transport, Biodiversity and Waste are addressed in the wider Sustainable Futures Strategy, however where they make use of energy on the Council's estate, they will also be considered in scope.

- 4.3 Following the energy hierarchy structure, and the International Standard for Energy Management (ISO50001), key areas of focus have been identified as Energy Saving, Energy Efficiency, Renewables and Lower Carbon Generation and Offsetting.
- 4.4 The Strategy also identifies a number of supporting enablers that will need to be addressed to ensure the success of the Strategy and the Delivery Plan – i.e., resourcing, financing, procurement, data capture and management, supportive strategies and programmes and wider networks.
- 4.5 The Energy Strategy has been developed in a way that aligns with other relevant Council strategies, policies and programmes to improve the connectivity, delivery and integration across the Council. The Strategy also confirms our commitment to working with Partners in supporting public sector sustainability and also by including Levelling Up delivery themes e.g., considering the impact of regeneration schemes and the building and acquisition of new assets which are publicly owned or supporting community ventures.
- 4.6 The development of the Energy Strategy and Delivery Plan has been overseen by an officer Working Group and has involved Member engagement (from the Climate Emergency Cross-Party Group and Resources, Fire and Rescue Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee). The Sustainable Futures Board has also been updated to ensure alignment with the Sustainable Futures Strategy.
- 4.7 We will regularly monitor our data to ensure we identify areas needing additional focus. We will report annually to Corporate Board via the annual Environmental Management Report, as required for Warwickshire County Council's ISO14001 certification and we will externally publish our progress annually via the Council's Building Energy Consumption and Emissions Review and the wider Sustainable Futures Strategy footprint.

## **5. Timescales associated with the decision and next steps**

- 5.1 Energy Strategy published August 2023.
- 5.2 Review of the Strategy after 1 year (August 2024), and three yearly thereafter. Review of the Delivery Plan via annual progress report to Corporate Board (2024 onwards).

## **Appendices**

Appendix 1 – Warwickshire County Council Energy Strategy

Appendix 2 – Warwickshire County Council Energy Strategy Delivery Plan

## **Background Papers**

None

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The report was circulated to the following members prior to publication:

Local Member(s): N/a - county wide matter

Other members: Councillors Jeff Clarke, Jonathan Chilvers, Sarah Feeney, and Jenny Fradgley

Engagement with Member Climate Emergency Cross Party Group