

Appendix B- Background and wider context

- i. The Council declared a Climate Change and Ecological Emergency on 9th July 2019 which contained a set of actions for DCC including the goal for the Council to become net carbon zero by 2030 at the latest, to enhance biodiversity in Denbighshire and to draw up a clear plan to achieve this.
- ii. In 2019, the Welsh Government published Wales' Low Carbon Delivery Plan "Prosperity for All: A Low Carbon Wales" which contained a requirement for "public sector to baseline, monitor and report progress towards carbon neutrality" (policy 20) and set the ambition for the public sector in Wales to be net carbon zero by 2030.
- iii. The Climate and Ecological Change Strategy and Action Plan seeks to get the Council to net carbon zero and ecologically positive by 2030. The strategy will contain a set of existing and new policies across the range of Council services and operations that are supportive of low carbon, increased carbon sequestration and biodiversity improvement. The action plan will cover the years 2021/22 – 2029/30 and outline the projects the Council intends to deliver, subject to the securing of the necessary funds, to reduce carbon, to increase carbon sequestration and improve biodiversity. By the Council reducing its carbon as fast and as far as it can it will deliver our contribution to tackling climate change as well as maximise on the financial savings that can be realised over the life of the strategy and beyond.
- iv. It is proposed that the final Climate and Ecological Change Strategy and Action Plan is submitted to Cabinet and Full Council for formal approval in January 2021. Once adopted, it is proposed that progress in achieving the goals set out in the Climate and Ecological Change Strategy and Action Plan will be monitored by the Corporate Plan Board up until 31st March 2022 and the equivalent Board which may be established thereafter. Once adopted (scheduled for January 2021), it is proposed that the Climate Change and Ecological Emergency Working Group disbands and compliance and progress scrutinised by Internal Audit and Scrutiny Committees at appropriate points and at the discretion of the Chief Internal Auditor and Scrutiny Chairs and Vice Chairs.

Appendix C- Amendments in detail to the Council's Constitution

CURRENT	PROPOSED
<p data-bbox="220 427 730 517">page 76, Section 13.2- Principals of decision making</p> <p data-bbox="165 568 775 640">All decisions of the Council will be made in accordance with the following principles:</p> <p data-bbox="165 678 767 750">13.2.1 proportionately (i.e. the action must be proportionate to the desired outcome);</p> <p data-bbox="165 788 767 860">13.2.2 due consideration and the taking of professional advice from Officers;</p> <p data-bbox="165 898 619 931">13.2.3 respect for human rights;</p> <p data-bbox="165 969 639 1041">13.2.4 a presumption in favour of openness;</p> <p data-bbox="165 1079 639 1151">13.2.5 clarity of aims and desired outcomes;</p> <p data-bbox="165 1189 708 1261">13.2.6 consideration of any alternative options; and</p> <p data-bbox="165 1299 783 1397">13.2.7 the giving and recording of reasons for the decision and the proper recording of these reasons.</p> <p data-bbox="165 1435 767 1547">13.2.8 having regard to the sustainable development principles and the well-being of future generations.</p>	<p data-bbox="868 427 1378 517">page 76, Section 13.2- Principals of decision making</p> <p data-bbox="809 568 1428 640">All decisions of the Council will be made in accordance with the following principles:</p> <p data-bbox="809 678 1423 750">13.2.1 proportionately (i.e. the action must be proportionate to the desired outcome);</p> <p data-bbox="809 788 1418 860">13.2.2 due consideration and the taking of professional advice from Officers;</p> <p data-bbox="809 898 1270 931">13.2.3 respect for human rights;</p> <p data-bbox="809 969 1291 1041">13.2.4 a presumption in favour of openness;</p> <p data-bbox="809 1079 1291 1151">13.2.5 clarity of aims and desired outcomes;</p> <p data-bbox="809 1189 1358 1261">13.2.6 consideration of any alternative options;</p> <p data-bbox="809 1299 1433 1397">13.2.7 the giving and recording of reasons for the decision and the proper recording of these reasons;</p> <p data-bbox="809 1435 1418 1507">13.2.8 having regard to tackling climate and ecological change; and</p> <p data-bbox="809 1545 1418 1657">13.2.9 having regard to the sustainable development principles and the well-being of future generations.</p>

Appendix D- Amendments to supporting documents and processes

DOCUMENT/ PROCESS	CHANGE PROPOSED
<p>Wellbeing Impact Assessment online tool and report generator</p>	<p>Online tool is amended to include specific guidance/ questions on tackling climate and ecological change and contribution that can be made to the Council achieving its net carbon zero and ecologically positive goals. The Lead Officer for Climate Change to be a member of the WIA Critical Friend Group.</p>
<p>Council's Report Template (Council, Committees, SLT)</p>	<p>Guidance included in the template under the following sections to ensure report author includes information and recommendations with regard to the decisions impact on climate and ecological change.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Section 5- How does the decision contribute to the Corporate Priorities? - Section 6- What will it cost and how will it affect other services? - Section 7- What are the main conclusions of the Well-being Impact Assessment? - Section 8- What consultations have been carried out with Scrutiny and others?
<p>The Terms of Reference for the Council's Budget Board, Strategic Investment Group (SIG) and Asset Management Group (AMG)</p>	<p>Inclusion in the terms of reference for these advisory/delegated authority committee's requirements around seeking information in relation to, and considering in the decision and actions of the committee, tackling climate and ecological change.</p>

DOCUMENT/ PROCESS	CHANGE PROPOSED
<p>Strategic Investment Group (SIG) Business Case Template</p>	<p>Adjustment to the Business Options section so that an enhanced eco option is always presented in the option appraisal for the project.</p> <p>Updating the revenue impact section and providing excel template for the calculation and presentation of the whole life cost for proposed scheme.</p> <p>Updating of the existing carbon impact and biodiversity impact sections in light of the net carbon zero and ecological positive goals in terms of scope and ambition.</p> <p>Inclusion of a Lead Officer for Climate Change Statement, alongside the County Landlord and Chief Finance Officer Statement.</p>
<p>The Council's Project Management Templates (Verto system).</p>	<p>Inclusion of a carbon impact and biodiversity impact section along the lines of the SIG business case.</p> <p>Guidance on developing Business Options along the lines of the SIG business case.</p> <p>The inclusion of the Lead Officer for Climate Change in the online review and approval process for the various project management gateways.</p>

Appendix E – Notable Risks

RISK	DESCRIPTION	MITIGATION ACTION
Meeting the Programme timetable	There is a risk that the time table for delivering the tasks to enable DCC to have regard to tackling climate and ecological change in Council decision making will slip if the Council do not meet in October.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Entry on the Committee forward plan. • Providing officers and Members with advance warning on dates and approach.
Securing Funding to deliver the Programme	There is a risk that the Council is unable to commit sufficient resource (revenue and capital) to coordinate the programme, deliver net carbon zero and ecologically positive projects and deliver other projects in an enhanced eco way meaning funding bids are not submitted, opportunities not maximised, actions are not delivered and benefits are not realised.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carbon Literacy Training and ongoing support to officers to factor in eco enhancement from inception stage of projects, building in sufficient provision within external funding bids. • Implementing whole life costing into business case process to capture fully the long term costs and benefits of schemes. • Maximising on the delivery of the many projects which save both money and carbon annually for the Council. • Maximising on the delivery of projects which deliver upon COVID-19 recovery requirements and carbon saving for the Council. • Early input into the Budget Board on calls on revenue and capital for 2021/22 and in particular securing resource commitment for programme and project management support. • Ongoing dialogue with Section 151 officer in relation to longer financial plans via the Medium Term Financial Plan. • Proactively seeking external finance with Welsh Government

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		<p>and Whitehall Departments using the strategy and action plan as our narrative.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submitting strong and coordinated external funding bids, working collaboratively across the region as well as across internal DCC departments.
Meeting Public Expectation	There is a risk of not meeting public expectation on this agenda and the democratic and reputational damage that could cause.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to engage with the public proactively, constructively and sensitively on this agenda being very clear on the scope and scale of the Council's targets. • Through working with the Public Service Board (PSB) and community development partners, support the public in contributing personally to this agenda at a community level. • Celebrating the Council's existing and continued success in this agenda via press releases/social media and ensuring the public are aware of the range of work the Council are undertaking via webpages.
Reputational Damage	There is a risk of reputational damage to the Council if don't meet Welsh Government and locally set carbon reduction, sequestration and biodiversity targets.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Having a clear strategy and action plan on this agenda, coordinated framework for delivery and understood measures of achievement. • Resourcing (revenue and capital) the delivery of the programme, maximising on external funding opportunities where possible.

Appendix F- Power to make the decisions

LEGISLATION	POWER
Section 2, Local Government Act 2000	<i>the power to do anything which DCC consider is likely to achieve the promotion or improvement of the environmental well-being of their area.</i>
Section111, Local Government Act 1972	<i>the power to do anything which is conducive to, or calculated to facilitate, the discharge of the Council's functions.</i>