

## Environmental Sustainability Full Impact Assessment

### Impact Assessment Id: #126

#### 1.0 Screening Information

**Project Name**

WCC Net Zero Carbon Plan

**Name of Project Sponsor**

Nigel Hudson

**Name of Project Manager**

Liz Alston

**Name of Project Lead**

Katie Bruton

**Please give a brief description of the project**

The County Council's Net Zero Carbon Plan sets out how the Council will meet net zero emissions from its operations and activities by 2050.

**Data Protection screening result**

Does not need a full impact assessment

**Equality and Public Health screening result**

Will require a full impact assessment

**Environmental Sustainability screening result**

Will require a full impact assessment

#### 1.1 Background and Purpose

**Background and Purpose of Project?**

To support your answer to this question, you can upload a copy of the project's Business Case or similar document. WCC Net Zero Carbon Plan sets out how the Council will meet its zero carbon target by 2050, with an appended shorter-term action plan to achieve emissions reductions over the next 2-5 years. Draft Net Zero Carbon Plan and appended Action Plan attached for information.

**Upload Business Case or Support documents**

- [Annexe 1 Draft WCC Net Zero Carbon 2 Year Action Plan 2020-2022\\_.docx](#)
- [Draft WCC Net Zero Carbon Plan v3 \(003\).docx](#)

**Project Outputs**

Briefly summarise the activities needed to achieve the project outcomes.  
Action Plan attached details the proposals to achieve net zero emissions by 2050

**Project Outcomes**

Briefly summarise what the project will achieve.  
The plan will achieve emissions reductions, and associated energy and cost savings, from the Council's own operations and activities, including WCC buildings, street lighting, fleet, staff mileage, waste disposal; as well as emissions from contractors for Waste, Fleet and Highways. The Council has operated a carbon/energy management strategy since 2002. To date, the Council has reduced its emissions by 40% from 2009/10 baseline. The Net Zero Carbon Plan aligns with the national Government target to achieve net zero emissions by 2050.

**Is the project a new function/service or does it relate to an existing Council function/service?**

Existing

**Was consultation carried out on this project?**

No

## 1.2 Responsibility

### Directorate/Organisation

Economy & Infrastructure

### Service Area

Strategic Infrastructure & Economy

## 1.3 Specifics

### Project Reference (if known)

Not Recorded

### Intended Project Close Date \*

November 2025

## 1.4 Project Part of a Strategic Programme

### Is this project part of a strategic programme?

No

## 2 Greenhouse Gas Emissions

### Could the project result in an increase in GHG emissions (including CO2)? No

Please be mindful that the Council has committed to reduce its GHG emissions to zero by 2050 and most projects are likely to have an impact on this target. This should be a key consideration in your project delivery and should be reviewed when completing the assessment.

### Have you undertaken an assessment of the project to know if there will likely be an increase in GHG emissions? Yes

#### Please explain your answer below:

The Net Zero Carbon Plan is specifically looking to achieve a reduction in emissions and actions are proposed to achieve net zero emissions, not to result in any increase in emissions from Council activities and operations.

### 3 Resources

**Will the project result in increased consumption of electricity, gas or other heating fuels? No**

e.g. project may require use of additional buildings, lighting and heating in buildings, additional ICT equipment, etc.

**Will the project reduce energy needs and result in reduced consumption? Yes**

e.g. disposal of WCC property assets

**Will the project require additional water resources leading to an increase in water consumption? No**

e.g. increased use of water through construction processes

**Might there be a decrease in water consumption? Yes**

e.g. will the project involve water saving measures or initiatives

**Please explain your answer below:**

Potentially, but water is not currently included in the Net Zero Carbon Plan - should further water data become available WCC may wish to include our water carbon footprint in future reviews of the plan.

**Will the project result in the use of other resources, materials or minerals? Yes**

e.g. use of natural resources such as wood; or use of aggregate minerals?

**Please explain your answer below:**

The plan includes proposals to further invest in renewable energy on the Council's own estate. Many solar panels are produced overseas, particularly in Asia, so there will be an impact with regard to the transport and manufacture of such products.

The procurement process for each of the discrete actions within each of the sections of the plan will ensure sustainable product choices which aim to reduce associated emissions.

### 4 Transport

**Will the project result in more people needing to travel? No**

e.g. will there be additional cars on the road

**Have alternative transport modes been considered? Yes**

e.g. could use be made of public transport/walking/cycling etc.

**Please explain your answer below:**

The Plan fully supports active travel, and includes reference to the County Hall staff travel plan which promotes sustainable travel choices for staff, and will include grey fleet (staff travel for business purposes) during its current review. The plan also includes proposals to reduce emissions from the Council's own fleet - please see attached plan for full details.

### 5 Waste

**Is there likely to be an increase in waste as a result of the project? No**

e.g. construction waste, packaging waste etc.

**Have opportunities to prevent, minimise, reuse or recycle waste been identified and considered? Yes**

e.g. will recycling facilities be available as part of the project

**Please explain your answer below:**

Proposal to include actions for suppliers and contractors on meeting the objectives of the Net Zero Carbon Plan through contract negotiations and renewal, this will include reference to waste minimisation.

## 6 Wildlife and Biodiversity

**Will there be any negative impacts on the natural environment? Yes**

e.g. will the project involve removal of green space/trees; have wildlife surveys been considered; result in enhancements to green infrastructure; increased biodiversity opportunities etc.?

**Please explain your answer below:**

Enhancements to biodiversity - plan includes proposals to plant a number of trees over the coming years, which will act as carbon sequestration.

Possible impacts on biodiversity regarding installation of solar PV and other renewable energy installations - will ensure that the Council's Planning Team and County Ecologists are involved in the process to assess any potential impacts upon wildlife and biodiversity, and ensure all relevant surveys and planning prerequisites are met.

**Has a preliminary ecological appraisal been undertaken? No**

**Please explain your answer below:**

Not recorded

**Has there been consideration of statutory assessments? No**

e.g. Sustainability Appraisals, Sustainable Environmental Appraisals and Habitat Regulations Assessment Screening?

N.B. This is a matter of legal compliance - All plans and projects (including planning applications) which are not directly connected with, or necessary for, the conservation management of a habitat site, require consideration of whether the plan or project is likely to have significant effects on that site. This consideration – typically referred to as the 'Habitats Regulations Assessment screening' – should take into account the potential effects both of the plan/project itself and in combination with other plans or projects.

## 7 Pollution to land/air/water

**Is there a risk of pollution to the local environment? No**

e.g.

- will there be surface water run-off or discharge into local water source?
- will there be any impact on local water quality?
- will any waste water require treatment?
- is there the potential for spillage of chemicals?
- is there the potential for emissions to air from combustion processes resulting in poor air quality?

## 8 Resilience to climate risks

### Could climate risks affect your project? Yes

N.B. some projects may be more sensitive to future changes in the climate e.g. hotter and drier summers; milder and wetter winters; increased likelihood of extreme weather events. These climate risks may affect project delivery and should be considered at the early stages of project development.

#### Please explain your answer below:

The Net Zero Carbon Plan is specifically trying to reduce any future climate risks by reducing emissions now.

### Has the impact of extreme weather events on the project been considered? Yes

e.g. heat waves and flooding.

#### Please explain your answer below:

The Net Zero Carbon Plan is specifically trying to reduce emissions and reduce the impacts of future climate change, such as extreme weather events.

### Is there a business/project continuity plan in place to ensure climate risks are minimised? Yes

e.g. can you ensure that the project is resilient to climate risks and can continue to deliver on outcomes.

#### Please explain your answer below:

The Net Zero Carbon Plan is, in itself, a continuity plan, acting now to reduce emissions from Council activities and operations to reduce future climate impacts.

Following on from the FIA reviewer's comments regarding resilience to future climate change - "while the zero carbon plan acknowledges that adaptation to climate change goes hand in hand with driving down emissions there does not appear to be reference to further actions within the action plan. There is currently no coordinated approach to provide direction on adapting to the impacts of a changing climate." This is acknowledged and will be referred to within the final draft of the Zero Carbon Plan, and specific reference to climate adaptation will be made in the appended action plan.

### Could the project exacerbate climate risks? No

e.g. increase flood risk or worsen temperature extremes in the locality.

### Will the project result in the use of other resources, materials or minerals? Yes

e.g. use of natural resources such as wood; or use of aggregate minerals?

#### Please explain your answer below:

The plan includes proposals to further invest in renewable energy on the Council's own estate. Many solar panels are produced overseas, particularly in Asia, so there will be an impact with regard to the transport and manufacture of such products.

The procurement process for each of the discrete actions within each of the sections of the plan will ensure sustainable product choices which aim to reduce associated emissions.

## 9 Historic Environment

### Have you checked with the WCC Historic Environment team as to whether there are any impacts on the Historic Environment (negative or positive)?

No

Check every development with the Historic Environment Team at the planning stage of each project. Further assessment may be required depending on the nature and scale of development. There may also be design options that would negate any need for further assessment (and lessen costs), or even opportunities to enhance heritage assets or their setting through the development.

### Does the development have the potential to result in any impacts to the historic environment or opportunities for enhancement?

No

If yes, then further assessment will be required. This could take the form of a watching brief during groundworks if the potential is clearly understood and relatively low, or a more comprehensive desk-based and/or field investigation prior to development.

## 10 Procurement

**Could any procurement associated with the project have a detrimental environmental impact? Yes**

e.g. procurement of goods from overseas that have to be shipped; use of unsustainable materials or materials that cannot be recycled at the end of their use?

**Please explain your answer below:**

Actions included within the Net Zero Carbon Plan to specifically reduce emissions associated with the Council's procurement activities.

**Is there likely to be increased Greenhouse Gas emissions from products purchased for the project? No**

e.g. carbon emissions from transport and manufacturing

**Will you be able to make use of sustainable products? Yes**

e.g. recycled, local, ethical etc.

**Please explain your answer below:**

Procurement decisions encouraged to source local, sustainable products where possible to do so

**Have you considered the Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012? Yes**

All major contracts let by the Council (those of more than £100,000 in total value) will be expected to deliver a meaningful contribution to our vision of Social Value in the county. The Act requires us to consider how the services we commission and procure might improve the economic, social and environmental well-being of the local area.

– please see: [Social Value](#)

**Please explain your answer below:**

Associated procurement for projects within the action plan will take into account the Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012.

## 11 Declaration

**I have confirmed that to the best of my knowledge that the information I have provided is true, complete and accurate**

**I have confirmed that I will make sure that Environmental Sustainability has been and continues to be considered throughout the project life cycle and should circumstances change in the project a further Environmental Sustainability Assessment Screening will be carried out.**