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<b>REPORT TO:</b>	<b>ENVIRONMENTAL AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE</b>	<b>AGENDA ITEM: 9</b>
<b>DATE OF MEETING:</b>	<b>12<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 2021</b>	<b>CATEGORY: RECOMMENDED</b>
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<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENT STRATEGY</b>	<b>REF:</b>
<b>WARD(S) AFFECTED:</b>	<b>All</b>	<b>TERMS OF REFERENCE: EDS01</b>

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## **1. Recommendations**

- 1.1 That the Committee approves a revised Climate and Environment Strategy (STEMS-07-ST2).

## **2. Purpose of Report**

- 2.1 To seek Committee approval of a revised Climate and Environment Strategy following the approval of the Climate and Environment Action Plan by this Committee in May 2021 and a governance review.

## **3. Detail**

### **Background**

- 3.1 At full Council on 27 June 2019 the following pledges were made in declaring a Climate Emergency:

- Declare a Climate Emergency;
- Strive to make South Derbyshire District Council carbon neutral by 2030; and
- Achieve Carbon Neutrality for South Derbyshire before the Government target of 2050;
- Call on the UK Government to provide the powers and resources to make the 2030 target realistic;
- Work with partners across the District and region to deliver this goal through all relevant strategies;
- Report back to Council within six months and have a standard Environmental and Development Service Committee agenda item on improvements the Council is taking to address this emergency

- 3.2 At full Council on the 16 January 2020, approval was given for the Council's first Climate and Environmental Strategy and Climate and Environment Action Plan 2020-2024. The Strategy provides the high-level aspirations for the Council to achieve the above pledges. The Plan contains the detailed actions required to deliver the Strategy.
- 3.3 The Council is accredited to the ISO14001 environmental management system and one of the commitments in this system under 'change management' is that the Council has set a minimum of three-year review period for relevant policies and strategies, unless there is a significant change which would necessitate an earlier review.
- 3.4 On 27 May 2021, at this Committee, the second revision of Climate and Environment Action Plan 2021- 2030 (STEMS-07-ST2-F1) was approved. This provided a detailed breakdown route-map to zero carbon with estimated costs to make South Derbyshire District Council carbon neutral by 2030, as far as reasonably practicable.

### **Climate and Environment Strategy (STEMS-07-ST2)**

- 3.5 The second revision of the Climate and Environment Action Plan was a significant revisional update, requiring all associated documentation in the internal Energy and Climate Procedure (STEMS-07) to be reviewed as part of the ISO change management process.
- 3.6 This review has been undertaken and has highlighted that the Strategy needed to reference how the impacts of climate change will affect socio-economic inequalities.
- 3.7 Evidence suggest that climate change disproportionately affects those who suffer from socio-economic inequalities, including the poorest and minority groups. It is key to understand the climate impacts and decisions in the District that will impact people from different cultures and background. Therefore, the Council's actions to address the climate and ecological emergency needs to understand existing disparities and to ensure that equality, diversity and inclusion considerations are embedded in the Council's approach to carbon reduction in South Derbyshire.
- 3.8 Climate change places compounded stress on the environment, as well as on economic, social and political systems. Whether it comes in the form of unbearable heat waves, harsh winters, or extreme weather events, climate change undermines development gains and leads to shortages in basic necessities:
  - Minority groups tend to live in place that are worst hit by the impacts of climate change, therefore, their poverty exacerbates their vulnerability.
  - Climate change threatens air quality, depletes water sources and limits food supply. It disrupts livelihoods, forces families from their homes and pushes people into poverty.
    - Three out of four people living in poverty rely on agriculture and natural resources to survive.
    - By 2050, climate change is set to increase those people at risk of hunger by 20%
    - Climate change could add 12 percent to 2030 food prices in Africa, where food consumption of the poorest households amounts to over 60 percent of their total spending.

- Poor people get less social support. Only a third of sub-Saharan Africans have access to financial services, while less than 10 percent of the poor in low-income countries are covered by social safety nets.
- Poor people lose more to disasters, as they are often more vulnerable. When Hurricane Mitch hit Honduras in 1998, poor people lost three times more than others, and when heavy rains flooded Mumbai in 2005, poor households lost twice as much.
- The next strongest drivers of climate-linked poverty are health effects such as higher incidences of malaria, diarrhoea and inhibition of normal growth stunting, and lower labour productivity due to extreme heat.

3.9 These socio-economic inequalities have been reflected in the Climate and Environment Strategy “adaptation and mitigation” section to ensure the Council’s recently approved Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy and Action Plan 2021 – 2025 is referenced and supported.

#### **4. Financial Implications**

4.1 There are no direct financial implications to the approval of the revision of the Climate and Environment Strategy.

4.2 The financial implications of the approved 2021-2030 Climate and Environment Action Plan were considered by this Committee on 27 May 2021 and approved by Finance and management Committee on 10 June 2021.

#### **5. Corporate Implications**

##### **Employment Implications**

5.1 None.

##### **Legal Implications**

5.2 The adoption of the Strategy may offer additional leverage to support the Council in “Calling on Government to make 2030 targets a reality” as well as better positioning the Council in the event of new duties on Councils which may emerge from either the Environmental Bill or other future legislation.

##### **Corporate Plan Implications**

5.3 The proposals align with the key aim within the Corporate Plan:

- “Our Environment”
  - “Improve the environment of the District” to “enhance biodiversity across the district”
  - “Tackle Climate Change” to “Work with residents, businesses and partners to reduce their carbon footprint”.
- “Our People”
  - Engaging with our communities

- Supporting and safeguarding the most vulnerable
- “Our Future”
  - Support economic growth and infrastructure to help with decarbonisation aims with developing skills and transforming the Council.

5.4 The proposal supports the Council’s Environmental Management System (STEMS), to ensure ‘change management’ is undertaken as part of significant change and all associated documents are updates as part of this update.

### **Risk Impact**

- 5.5 The proposals will have a beneficial mitigating action against the corporate risk of “Managing the environmental impact of incidents across the District.”
- 5.6 The proposals will also mitigate against the growing reputational risk for public sector organisations which do not have coherent carbon reduction plans.

## **6. Community Implications**

### **Consultation**

6.1 The proposed Climate and Environment Action Plan will be the subject of further consultation over the next 12 months.

### **Equality and Diversity Impact**

6.2 Beneficial - See section 3 of this report. An Equalities Impact Assessment has been completed as part of the revision of this Strategy.

### **Social Value Impact**

6.3 Beneficial.

### **Environmental Sustainability**

6.4 The Strategy reflects the positive environmental aspirations of the Council and has been identified as an opportunity within the ISO14001 risk and opportunity register.

## **7. Conclusion**

7.1 That the Committee approves the revised Climate and Environment Strategy (STEMS-07-ST2).

## **8. Background Papers**

[Finance and Management Committee, 10 June 2021](#)

[Environment and Development Services Committee, 27 May 2021.](#)

[Environment and Development Services Committee, 16 January 2020.](#)

[Environment and Development Services Committee, 16 August 2018.](#)

[Environment and Development Services Committee, 17 April 2019.](#)

[Environment and Development Services Committee, 15 August 2019.](#)

[Full Council, 27 June 2019](#)

[Climate and Environment Action Plan 2021 -2030](#) – Version 2

[Climate and Environment Strategy 2020](#) – Version 1

[Climate and Environment Action Plan 2020-2024](#) – Version 1