



WEST OXFORDSHIRE
DISTRICT COUNCIL

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Name and Date of Committee	EXECUTIVE – 9 JULY 2025
Subject	CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY 2025-2030
Wards Affected	ALL
Accountable Member	Councillor Andrew Prosser – Executive Member for Climate Action and Nature Recovery Email: andrew.prosser@westoxon.gov.uk
Accountable Officer	Hannah Kenyon – Climate Change Manager Email: hannah.kenyon@westoxon.gov.uk
Report Author	Hannah Kenyon – Climate Change Manager Email: hannah.kenyon@westoxon.gov.uk
Purpose	To approve the West Oxfordshire Climate Change Strategy 2025-2030
Annexes	Annex A – West Oxfordshire Climate Change Strategy 2025-2030
Recommendation	That the Executive resolves to: I. Approve the West Oxfordshire Climate Change Strategy 2025-2030 to achieve districtwide net zero by 2050 and climate resilience.
Corporate Priorities	• Putting Residents First • A Good Quality of Life for All • A Better Environment for People and Wildlife • Responding to the Climate and Ecological Emergency • Working Together for West Oxfordshire
Key Decision	NO
Exempt	NO
Consultees/ Consultation	Officers and partner organisations have been consulted on the Strategy.

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1** The Climate Change Act 2008 requires the UK to reduce emissions by at least 100% by 2050 compared to 1990 levels.
- 1.2** West Oxfordshire District Council declared a Climate Change and Ecological Emergency in 2019 and approved the Climate Change Strategy 2021-2025.
- 1.3** Addressing climate change and accelerating nature recovery are key priorities in the Council Plan 2023-27.
- 1.4** The Council has committed to achieving carbon neutrality by 2030. The Carbon Action Plan 2024-2030 includes a carbon baseline, pathways and actions to achieve this target.
- 1.5** The West Oxfordshire Nature Recovery Plan 2024-2030 sets out nature recovery actions, with strong synergies between climate and nature.
- 1.6** Local Government Reorganisation and devolution has the potential to impact on the delivery of this strategy. Projects will either be completed or be at an appropriate stage by 2028 to handover to the new unitary and strategic authorities.

2. MAIN POINTS

- 2.1** The Climate Change Strategy sets out actions to progress over the next five years to achieve districtwide net zero by 2050 and build climate resilience, highlighting where there is greatest opportunity to influence change and reduce climate impact. The priority is to minimise carbon emissions then offset any residual emissions by verified means.
- 2.2** Everyone playing their part and partnership working are key to effective project delivery.
- 2.3** It is a high ambition pathway which is reliant on external factors, for example the availability of funding, national policy, and progress in technological innovations in key areas, as well as embedding carbon reduction across multiple stakeholders.
- 2.4** The Strategy will be monitored and reported on annually.
- 2.5** As well as carbon reduction and climate resilience, actions will also deliver co-benefits, for example accelerating nature recovery, improving water and air quality, increasing thermal comfort, and upskilling.
- 2.6** The Strategy also highlights key achievements and how challenges have been overcome.

3. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 3.1** The Council does not adopt the Strategy. This risks not fulfilling the Council's commitment to facilitate districtwide net zero and climate resilience as there will be no approved strategy in place.
- 3.2** The Strategy could be scaled down from its current level of ambition to smaller projects and a shorter timeframe. This also risks not making sufficient progress in carbon reduction to achieve net zero by 2050.

4. CONCLUSIONS

- 4.1** The Strategy prioritises actions over the next five years that will help to achieve districtwide net zero by 2050 and climate resilience.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1** The resourcing required for each project will be worked up as part of the initial viability assessment and will feed into annual budget discussions. External funding will be secured where possible.
- 5.2** A Climate Change Officer has been recruited to provide long-term support in delivering the Strategy.

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1** None.

7. RISK ASSESSMENT

- 7.1** Some actions do not have funding allocated to them for delivery. There is a risk that not all the actions will be completed, as some resources are yet to be secured.
- 7.2** There is a reputational risk to the Council if it does not facilitate the achievement of districtwide net zero and climate resilience.

8. EQUALITIES IMPACT

- 8.1** Adopting and implementing the Strategy for the Council will support carbon reduction and improve the climate for all.

9. CLIMATE AND ECOLOGICAL EMERGENCIES IMPLICATION

9.1 The Strategy will help to address climate change.

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

10.1 None.

(END)