

This report is public	
Climate Action Plan 2026-27	
Committee	Executive
Date of Committee	7 April 2026
Portfolio Holder presenting the report	Portfolio Holder for Greener Communities, Councillor Tom Beckett
Date Portfolio Holder agreed report	16 March 2026
Report of	Head of Biodiversity and Climate Resilience, Michael Suddens,

Purpose of report

To seek the Executive's approval of the Climate Action Plan for 2026-27, which is attached as Appendix 1 to the report.

1. Recommendations

The Executive resolves:

- 1.1 To adopt the Climate Action Plan (CAP) for the 2026-27 financial year.
- 1.2 To note that following the adoption Climate Action Plan, Executive will receive an annual update on delivery progress.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 The Climate Action Plan outlines the key activities of the Council for the 2026-27 financial year to contribute towards net zero commitments for both council operations and the district.
- 2.2 This CAP builds upon the January 2026 update to Executive on progress towards the Council's Climate Action Programme.
- 2.3 The Climate Action Plan 2026-27 has been produced in close collaboration with all Cherwell District Council service areas and is authored by the Biodiversity and Climate Resilience Service, with support from Bioregional. The plan builds on the previous Climate Action Plan 2024-26 and is guided by the Climate Change Framework (2020).
- 2.4 Actions identified align to several significant county-wide initiatives in which Cherwell District Council is an active partner. Most notably, this plan supports Pathways to a Zero Carbon Oxfordshire (PaZCO), which is endorsed by the Council and was overseen by the Future Oxfordshire Partnership.

Cherwell District Council

2.5 A total of 37 actions have been identified, which will be managed and monitored through the Council’s Climate Action Programme and progress reported to Executive annually.

Implications & Impact Assessments

Implications	Commentary			
Finance	<p>There are no finance implications arising directly from this report.</p> <p>Where actions identify measures required to deliver the Council’s net zero commitments and are unable to be funded from existing budgets or new external grants, a business case will need to be prepared for consideration by the Executive.</p> <p>Kimberley Digweed, Finance Business Partner, 11 March 2026</p>			
Legal	<p>There are no legal implications arising directly from this report.</p> <p>The Climate Change Act 2008 set a national target for the UK to reduce its emissions by 80% by 2050 compared to its 1990 levels. While there is no statutory duty placed on Local Authorities under this legislation it is generally understood that local government plays a critical role in achieving these targets.</p> <p>Cherwell declared a climate emergency in 2019 looking to do its part to support the district in becoming carbon net zero, and ensuring that its own operations and activities are carbon net zero by 2030.</p> <p>Climate emergency declarations hold a legally ambiguous position but it is important to note they are a potential mechanism to challenge decisions taken by a local authority who has made one.</p> <p>The Climate Action Plan will help to ensure that we comply with the Councils targets and the Climate Action Act 2008.</p> <p>Denzil John Turbervill, Head of Legal Services, 11 March 2026</p>			
Risk Management	<p>There are no risks arising from the proposed endorsement of the Climate Action Plan 2026-27.</p> <p>Celia Prado-Teeling, Performance & Insight Team Leader, 11 March 2026</p>			
Impact Assessments	Positive	Neutral	Negative	Commentary
Equality Impact				
A Are there any aspects of the	X			The delivery of the Climate Action Plan 2026-27 has many co-benefits, beyond supporting the

proposed decision, including how it is delivered or accessed, that could impact on inequality?				Council's net zero ambitions. These benefits include making communities more resilient to the impacts of climate change and reducing fuel poverty through supporting home energy upgrades for example. Celia Prado-Teeling, Performance & Insight Team Leader, 11 March 2026
B Will the proposed decision have an impact upon the lives of people with protected characteristics, including employees and service users?		X		
Climate & Environmental Impact	X			This report supports the Council's biodiversity and climate resilience ambitions, including reducing carbon emissions and achieving net zero.
ICT & Digital Impact		X		There are no IT/Digital implications.
Data Impact	X			The Climate Action Plan 2026-27 proposes improvements to collection, monitoring and reporting of climate action activities and environmental data such as council greenhouse gas emissions.
Procurement & subsidy		X		N/A
Council Priorities	The report aligns with the Council's strategic priority of Environmental Stewardship and Economic Prosperity, supporting the vision of enabling positive, lasting change and building an inclusive and green economy.			
Human Resources	N/A			
Property	Council operational property is a key source of carbon emissions that this CAP aims to address to meet the Council's net zero commitments.			
Consultation & Engagement	The Climate Team has actively engaged with key internal and external stakeholders to advance actions under the Climate Action Plan.			

Supporting Information

3. Background

- 3.1 The Council declared a climate emergency in 2019 and committed to transforming its own estate and operations to net zero by 2030. The Council further committed to doing its part to support the district to become net zero.

3.2 The Climate Action Plan is an internal operational plan for 2026-27 that sets out how the Council will contribute towards its ambition to become a net zero organisation and support climate resilience and decarbonisation across the district.

3.3 The CAP is informed by the following key Cherwell District Council documents:

- Climate Action Plan 2024-26
- Climate Action Framework 2020
- Carbon Management Plan 2022-2025
- District Carbon Pathways and Roadmap to Net Zero Report (2025)
- Commercial and Industrial Emissions Report (2025)
- Internal Emissions Pathway Report (2025)
- Fleet and Depot Decarbonisation Review (2025)

3.4 The CAP is monitored by the Council's Climate Action Programme and is informed by the cross-service Climate Change Programme Steering Group.

4. Details

4.1 The Climate Action Plan 2026-27 identifies actions and projects across a range of carbon emissions sources and enabling themes.

4.2 For Cherwell District Council, each action identifies the emissions area, the goals they would contribute towards, carbon saving potential and key performance indicators to monitor delivery progress. Council actions focus on carbon emissions from fleet, property, staff activities, procurement and enabling areas including funding, governance and monitoring.

4.3 For the district area, each action identifies the emissions area, the goals they would contribute towards and key performance indicators to monitor delivery progress. District actions focus on carbon emissions from transport, households, business, community and enabling areas including planning, evidence bases, communications and engagement.

5. Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection

5.1 The following alternative options have been identified and rejected for the reasons as set out below.

Option1: Do Nothing: This option is not recommended as the previous action plan covered up to the end of 2025-26 financial year only. A refreshed CAP enables stronger programme management and likelihood of realising new opportunities to deliver the Council's net zero ambitions.

Option 2: Delay Decision: This option is not recommended as this CAP covers the 2026-27 financial year only and a delay will reduce the potential impact and benefit of the plan.

Option 3: Do Not Adopt: This option is not recommended as this CAP supports the delivery of the Council's strategic priorities and covers the 2026-27 financial year only, where a delay will reduce the potential impact and benefit of the plan.

6. Conclusion and Reasons for Recommendations

- 6.1 The Climate Action Plan details the activities of the Council towards its net zero ambitions for the 2026-27 financial year. Members are invited to adopt the action plan and the proposal for Executive to be presented with an annual report on progress.

Decision Information

Key Decision	Yes
Subject to Call in	Yes
If not, why not subject to call in	N/A
Ward(s) Affected	All

Document Information

Appendices	
Appendix 1	Climate Action Plan 2026-27
Background Papers	None
Reference Papers	Climate Action Update, 6 January 2026
Report Author	Michael Suddens, Head of Biodiversity and Climate Resilience
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Executive Director Approval (unless Executive Director or Statutory Officer report)	Ian Boll, Executive Director Place & Regeneration