



ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

DETAILS OF PLAN, POLICY, PROGRAMME, STRATEGY OR DOCUMENT

Responsible Committee:

Environment and Regeneration Committee

Title of the plan, policy, programme, strategy or document:

Net Zero Action Plan 2022-2027

What prompted the plan, policy, programme, strategy or document:

(e.g. a legislative, regulatory or administrative provision)

Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009;
Climate Change (Duties of Public Bodies: Reporting Requirements) (Scotland) Amendment Order 2020;
The Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategies (Scotland) Order 2022.

Plan, policy, programme, strategy or document subject:

(e.g. transport)

All areas of carbon reduction action under the key areas of Governance, Significant Carbon Emitters (Energy Use in Building / Transport / Streetlighting and Water / Waste), Awareness and Behaviour Change, and Offsetting.

Based on Boxes 3 and 4, our view is that:



An Environmental Assessment is required as the environmental effects are likely to be significant.



An Environmental Assessment is not required, as the environmental effects are unlikely to be significant.

Contact details:

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Date:

8th November 2022

CONTEXT AND DESCRIPTION OF THE PLAN, POLICY, PROGRAMME, STRATEGY OR DOCUMENT

Context of the plan, policy, programme, strategy or document:

The Council's Net Zero Strategy sets out Inverclyde Council's route map to achieving net zero direct greenhouse gas emissions from its operations by 2045. The Strategy will be implemented through a series of Action Plans, with the 2022-2027 Action Plan providing the objectives and associated actions that will achieve the carbon reductions over the five years of the initial plan.

Description of the plan, policy, programme, strategy or document:

The Action Plan sets out the Key Priority Areas and Actions to achieve carbon reductions over the life of the proposed five year plan subject to allocation of funding as part of the Council's budget 2023/26 setting process which, in addition to the current year allocation, will address the first 4 years of the plan (final year subject to future budget setting). A proportion of the proposed action plan projects will require to be brought back to Committee for approval prior to progression following the completion of detailed technical assessments of the one-off capital costs, revenue cost impacts (negative or positive), and carbon reduction improvements.

What are the key components of the plan, policy, programme, strategy or document?

Governance: Embed sustainability into policies, systems and processes across Council Service areas;
Significant Carbon Emitters: The scale of the proposed actions relates to the significance of the carbon emission to the Council's carbon footprint in the areas of Energy Use in Buildings, Transport, Streetlighting and Water, and Waste;
Awareness and Behaviour Change: Raising awareness of how individual actions contribute to carbon footprint and climate change;
Offsetting: Action intended to compensate for the emission of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere.

Have any of the components been considered in previous Environmental Assessments?

No.

In terms of your response to Boxes 7 and 8 above, set out those components of the plan that are likely to have an impact.

Governance
 Significant Carbon Emitters
 Awareness and Behaviour Change
 Offsetting

IDENTIFYING INTERACTIONS WITH THE ENVIRONMENT AND THE LIKELY SIGNIFICANCE OF ANY INTERACTIONS

Plan Components	Environmental Topic Areas										Explanation of Potential Environmental Effects	Explanation of Significance
	Biodiversity, flora and fauna	Population and human health	Soil	Water	Air	Climatic factors	Material assets	Cultural heritage	Landscape	Inter-relationship		
Governance	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Potential for reduced emissions through embedding procedures in policies, systems and processes; procurement activities; education and learning activities; community transport and active travel promotion; regeneration initiatives; and climate adaptation actions.	Potential for significant positive effects through core organisational priorities and key service area activity.
Significant Carbon Emitters	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	Potential for reduced emissions through asset rationalisation; digital transformation; energy conservation; low and zero carbon heating; renewable energy production; fleet decarbonisation; waste management including recycling and treatment.	Potential for significant positive effects through understanding and managing energy consumption; asset reduction and investment in key technologies; fleet and waste management.
Awareness and Behaviour Change	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	Potential for reduced emissions through reduced waste (circular economy); active travel; energy conservation etc.	Potential for significant positive effects through behaviour change

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Offsetting	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	Potential for reduced emissions through improved carbon sequestration / storage; enhanced local biodiversity; improved natural habitats for wildlife.	Potential for significant positive effects through storage / capture.

SUMMARY

Summary of interactions with the environment:

(Including an outline of the likely significance of any interactions, positive or negative, and explanation of conclusion.)

The 2022-2027 Action Plan is intended to have a significant positive impact on the environment with each action area targeting either direct or indirect greenhouse gas emission reductions.