

## St Albans City and District Council Corporate Risk Register

<b>Risk Name</b>	CR4 – Climate Emergency		
<b>Council Plan</b>	Making the Environment a Priority in all decisions.		
<b>Risk Appetite</b>	Averse	<b>Risk Category</b>	Environmental/ Climate
<b>Risk Owner</b>	Chief Executive	<b>Date Added to the Risk Register</b>	26/3/2021
<b>Lead Directorate</b>	All Teams in the Council	<b>Date Last Reviewed</b>	15/01/2026
<b>Accountable Strategic Director</b>	Chief Executive	<b>Date of Next Review</b>	15/04/2026
<b>Risk</b>	<p><b>RISK</b> - Failure to deliver the actions set out in the Council's Sustainability and Climate Crisis strategy.</p> <p><b>CAUSE</b> - Not fully delivering the required actions identified in the Council's Sustainability and Climate Crisis strategy due to a lack of financial and staff resource and failure to make it a cross-council priority to deliver on the climate and sustainability actions.</p> <p><b>CONSEQUENCE</b> - The Council does not achieve its objective to make St Albans City and District carbon neutral by 2030 resulting in reputational damage, increased costs from climate change mitigation, unpreparedness for weather related impacts, and contributing to long-term irreversible damage from climate change.</p>		
<b>Background</b>	St Albans City and District Council was one of the first Council's to declare a climate emergency in 2020. In response to scientific advice, we pledged to do all that we can to decarbonise our own operations, assets and services and use our powers to reduce fossil fuels used for power and transport across the district by 2030. Whilst individual projects continue to be delivered they are not sufficient at present to ensure that the District will be carbon neutral by 2030. Despite cross-council action, corporate emissions have not been reduced in line with our ambitions.		
<b>Risk Likelihood</b>	Risk likelihood is very high as the Council faces challenges in taking action at the speed required to decarbonise its own buildings, contracts and operations by 2030. In the current economic climate, there may be fewer resources to devote to making buildings and transport carbon neutral.		
<b>Risk Impact</b>	The Council and households and businesses in the district will continue to use fossil fuels to power energy and transport, contributing to more dangerous climate changes. The Council will fail to meet its stated priorities, contributing to adverse climate changes, more expensive bills and reputational damage.		
<b>Controls in Place</b>		<b>Additional Actions to Mitigate Risks</b>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sustainability and Climate Crisis Strategy and action plan in place with progress reports going to the Sustainability and Climate Advisory Forum, Planning, Policy and Climate Committee and Senior Leadership Team.</li> <li>Governance arrangements in place for oversight of progress on action plan.</li> <li>Working Groups in place with Lead Officer responsible for driving forward</li> </ol>		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Make use of invest to save options to bid for resources to fund renewable energy schemes.</li> <li>Work with Hertfordshire County Council to identify where further action can be taken and then implement the proposals.</li> </ol>	

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<p>progress.</p> <p>4. Governance and Leadership Working Group Lead is reviewing approaches to leadership to ensure genuine leadership at all levels of the council.</p> <p>5. Sustainability Procurement Strategy approved and followed.</p> <p>6. Environmental Performance Indicators being reviewed annually by Planning Policy and Environment Committee.</p> <p>7. Sustainability and Climate Advisory Forum (SCAF) is active in pushing forward progress in this area.</p> <p>8. Continue to work with other local authorities to create partnership projects and reduce costs in this area.</p> <p>9. Respond to national government consultations to lobby for additional support in this area.</p> <p>10. Sustainability Impacts assessments are widely being carried out as part of the procurement process which ensures staff are aware of all sustainability requirements.</p> <p>11. Team reorganization is underway to increase staff resource for sustainability and decarbonization.</p> <p>12. Active programme of decarbonization for Council Housing Stock.</p> <p>13. At County level sustainability is being integrated to Local Government Reorganisation planning with the aim of enabling projects to be implemented at scale.</p>					
Inherent Risk		Residual Risk		Target Risk	
Likelihood	Impact	Likelihood	Impact	Likelihood	Impact
5	5	4	5	3	5
25		20		15	
First Line of Assurance		Second Line of Assurance		Third Line of Assurance	
<p>1. Sustainability and Climate Strategy</p> <p>2. Sustainability and Climate Crisis Tracker</p> <p>3. Biannual updates to SCAF to Monitor Progress</p>		<p>Environmental performance indicators are reviewed by the Planning, Policy and Climate Committee.</p>		<p>1. There was a 2020-21 audit.</p> <p>2. An audit of the £2.5m Decarbonisation Fund in 2022-23.</p> <p>3. There is to be a 2025-26 audit review of climate and sustainability.</p>	

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