

Statement on the Net Zero Asset Manager's initiative

27 January 2025

On 13 January 2025, the Net Zero Asset Manager's (NZAM) initiative announced its decision to remove its signatory list from the website and suspend activities relating to signatory implementation and reporting whilst it undertakes a consultation on the organisation's future. This step was taken reluctantly, against the backdrop of a hostile and changing political environment that was targeting some of the world's largest asset managers.

For those who are not aware, NZAM is an international group of asset managers who have committed, consistent with their fiduciary duty to their clients and beneficiaries, to invest in line with the aim to limit warming levels to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels. This meant adopting an ongoing decarbonisation programme that leads to achieving net-zero portfolio emissions by 2050 or sooner.

CCLA was, and remains, proud to be a founder signatory of NZAM. We are disappointed with the decision by NZAM to suspend its activities, but after meeting with the NZAM secretariat team, we understand that they had very little other choice.

The main issue now is what comes next.

At CCLA, we recognise that no matter how politically inconvenient it might be, climate change is very real. Unmitigated, it poses not only a significant financial risk to the value of our clients' investments over the long-term, but also our collective way of life. Therefore, we have no choice but to continue to act to accelerate the transition to a low and then no-carbon economy.

For this reason, despite the suspension of NZAM, CCLA's commitment to achieve net-zero emissions on the listed equities within its portfolios no later than 2050 remains active. Similarly, we are sticking to our purpose and convictions by continuing to engage with the companies in our portfolio and with public policymakers with the aim of driving change.

But, for the future, we do think changes need to be made and we will be participating fully in the NZAM consultation. To create an initiative that truly works for our planet and our clients, we consider that the following steps will need to be taken:

- First, we believe the sector needs to be resolute that climate risk is long-term financial risk. We cannot cave to pressure to be quiet, instead we should review options together.

This will sadly mean that – due to anticipated changes in US law – some asset management firms cannot (and some may choose not to) participate in whatever comes next. But this should not stop those that can. In the UK we are fortunate that the Competitions and Markets Authority have explicitly signalled that collaboration and co-ordination on climate change is legal. Collectively, as an industry, UK asset management firms need to use this as the platform to provide leadership on a global scale as we rebuild coordinated action.

- Second, we need to focus on the real world. The investment industry on the whole is quite rightly focused on their portfolios. This is what we can control, this is what our clients own; but a low-carbon portfolio in a high-carbon world will serve no one well. As asset managers we will therefore need flexibility from future initiatives in how we can contribute to accelerating global decarbonisation as well as achieving low portfolio footprints. Different firms will be able to push for change in different ways, depending upon their asset classes, positioning, and processes.

Because of this, a future NZAM will need to carefully tread the line between establishing a common commitment to get to Net Zero while providing asset managers with the flexibility to get there through different routes.

- Third, we will need to set targets wisely. The world has changed since NZAM was formed and achieving a 1.5 degrees target, disappointingly, seems further and further from the path that we are on. Therefore, it is highly likely that a future NZAM will need to carefully consider different decarbonisation scenarios. In rebuilding the initiative, it is essential that whatever scenario chosen, it is the one that is most likely to deliver the change we need to see. If it is too ambitious, NZAM faces the risk of becoming a platform for asset managers to conduct meaningless virtue signalling by setting unachievable targets that look good to clients. However, set too conservatively, it runs the risk of not incentivising the ambitious action we so desperately need.
- Finally, as an industry, we will need asset owners to clearly state their ambition. As the world continues to diverge from the level of action on carbon that is required it is highly likely that – at least over the short-term – returns from portfolios that follow a temperature constrained trajectory may differ (either for good, or for bad) from those that invest based upon the presumption of business as usual. Therefore, while we believe that it is in everyone's interests to address climate change, not everyone will act.

For this reason, like existing 'values-based' investing approaches (where asset owners state stocks that they do not want to hold because they contradict their values) we believe that investors will need to clearly set out the climate scenario that they would like their portfolios to follow.

In what we hope is only a short-term divergence between ambition and reality, asset owners of all sizes will need to be helped to include their climate concerns in their manager selection processes (as continuing to support firms that are doing nothing will be counterproductive) and then know how to communicate their priorities to those managing their money so that – as we already do at CCLA – a commitment to decarbonisation is included in mandates and fund rules. Therefore, a new NZAM will have to encourage asset managers to work much more closely with asset owners.

In conclusion, parts of the Net Zero Asset Manager's initiative may have been suspended but our commitment to climate action has not. At CCLA we are committed to playing our part in developing a new approach that reflects the need for urgent action and can mobilise our industry to be a force for good.

NOTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CWPC RESILIENCE WORKING GROUP HELD AT
CWPC AT 1400 ON 10th FEBRUARY 2025

Present: Cllr David Johncock (Chairman) (DJ); Cllr Ian Forbes (IF); Cllr Clive Jordan (CJ); Wendy Thompson (CWPC Clerk) (WT)

1. Minutes of the Previous Meeting (25th November). The Minutes of the previous meeting were accepted.
2. Actions Arising. All matters complete apart from:
 - a. Item 7 – SSEN Priority Clients. IF had been in contact with SSEN but was awaiting a call back from one of their community liaison officers. **Action: IF**
3. CWPC Resilience Plan. The Chairman had circulated V2 of the draft plan for comment. The following points had been highlighted:
 - Whether the EA Flood Map correctly reflected the risks for the Loudwater area. IF agreed to follow this up with the EA. **Action: IF**
 - Whether CWPC should hold a stock of sandbags ?? Following discussion it was agreed that sandbags were not the most effective means of protecting residential dwellings and that there were a number of other prevention measures that perhaps needed to be brought to the attention of Loudwater residents. It was suggested that an exhibition similar to that held in 2024 in Marlow might be repeated in Loudwater and the Chairman agreed to pursue this idea. **Action: DJ**
 - A 24/7 Contact Number for CWPC. It was agreed that the Clerks mobile telephone number should be publicised for this purpose
 - Local Resources – Do we include shops ?? Following discussion, it was agreed that this was not necessary.
 - Useful Numbers. It was agreed that the telephone numbers for the local resources should be included in Annex B and that any others of significance should be added to Annex C. **Action: DJ/IF/CJ**
4. Newsletter Article. It had been suggested that an article on the Resilience Planning should be included in the Newsletter currently being prepared. However, after discussion it was agreed that any publicity should await the eventual full Council approval of the final plan.
5. Any Other Business - Date Of Next Meeting. It was agreed that the draft plan had reached a stage where it should be added to the agenda of the next F&GP meeting for its endorsement. The Chairman agreed to brief the F&GP Chairman accordingly. **Action: DJ**

CWPC RESILIENCE PLAN

Background.

1. Buckinghamshire Unitary Council has its own Resilience Plan¹ and has been encouraging Town and Parish Councils to develop their own. A CWPC Working Party was established to develop such a plan and this is the outcome.

Aims & Objectives.

2. The aim of this plan is to detail the actions that the CWPC should take in the event of a serious emergency within their parish area. The objective is to focus on those actions that are within the remit and capability of the Council and do not duplicate the activities that would automatically be taken by other authorities and agencies including utility companies.

Risk Analysis.

3. The CWPC Working Party have undertaken a risk analysis and their findings are detailed at Annex A.

What To Do In The Event Of An Emergency.

4. In the event of an emergency, the Parish Clerk would alert the Chairman/Vice Chairman and establish a working team of Councillors from the appropriate Ward to manage the Council's response.

Local Resources.

5. A list of resources within each of the Wards is listed at Annex B.

Useful Telephone Numbers.

6. Many of the local magazines contain lists of useful telephone numbers but key ones are shown in Annexes B and C.

Annual Review.

7. It is essential that this plan is reviewed by the F&GP committee annually and that Annexes B & C are updated as necessary. A record of each review should be made in the minutes of the appropriate committee meeting.

Annexes:

- A. CWPC Risk Assessment.
- B. List of Local Resources By Ward.
- C. List of Other Useful Telephone Numbers.

1. Appendix 1 for Council Resilience Framework and Standards CRFS
(<https://www.google.co.uk/search?q=buckinghamshire+unitary+council+resilience+plan>)

ANNEX A - CWPC RISK ASSESSMENT**CWPC RESILIENCE - RISK TABLE 2ND DRAFT**

<u>RISKS</u>	<u>WARDS AFFECTED</u>	<u>COMMENTS</u>	<u>CWPC PREPARATION</u>
1 AIRCRAFT CRASH	ALL	INCIDENT WOULD BE MANAGED BY NATIONAL AGENCY BUT CWPC WOULD BE EXPECTED TO PROVIDE SUPPORT.	IDENTIFY ACCOMMODATION FOR RECOVERY TEAMS PLUS POSSIBLE FEEDING ARRANGEMENTS.
2 TRAIN CRASH	LOUDWATER	INCIDENT WOULD BE MANAGED BY NATIONAL AGENCY BUT CWPC WOULD BE EXPECTED TO PROVIDE SUPPORT.	IDENTIFY ACCOMMODATION FOR RECOVERY TEAMS PLUS POSSIBLE FEEDING ARRANGEMENTS.
3 MOTOWAY CRASH	LOUDWATER	INCIDENT WOULD BE MANAGED BY NATIONAL AGENCY BUT CWPC WOULD BE EXPECTED TO PROVIDE SUPPORT.	IDENTIFY ACCOMMODATION FOR RECOVERY TEAMS PLUS POSSIBLE FEEDING ARRANGEMENTS.
4 PANDEMIC	ALL	COVID SHOWED THAT EACH VILLAGE WAS ABLE TO MUSTER A TEAM OF SUPPORTERS TO SUCCESSFULLY RESPOND TO THAT OUTBREAK.	NONE NEEDED.
5 TERRORISM	ALL	INCIDENT WOULD BE MANAGED BY NATIONAL AGENCY BUT CWPC WOULD BE EXPECTED TO PROVIDE SUPPORT.	IDENTIFY ACCOMMODATION FOR RECOVERY TEAMS PLUS POSSIBLE FEEDING ARRANGEMENTS.
6 LONG TERM POWER OUTAGE	ALL	MOST HEATING SYSTEMS RELY ON THE SUPPLY OF ELECTRICITY AND ANY LONG TERM OUTAGE COULD AFFECT THE HEALTH OF VULNERABLE PEOPLE.	SEE SCOTTISH AND SOUTHERN ELECTRICITY NETWORKS COMMUNITY TOOL KIT. PUBLICISE NEED TO REGISTER FOR PRIORITY SERVICES.
7 FLASH FLOODING	LOUDWATER	NOT CURRENTLY A SERIOUS ISSUE BUT CLIMATE CHANGE MIGHT CHANGE THAT SITUATION.	IDENTIFY ACCOMMODATION FOR THOSE HAVE TO BE EVACUATED FROM THEIR HOMES. IN ADDITION CONSIDER WHAT CWPC COULD DO TO HELP PROTECT VULNERABLE HOMES, EG PROVIDING SAND BAGS.

3RD DRAFT

8	EXTREME WEATHER	ALL	STRONG WINDS OFTEN CAUSE TREES TO FALL SOMETIMES BLOCKING ROADS AND FOOTPATHS. ADDITIONALLY, PERIODS OF EXTREME HEAT OR COLD CAN AFFECT THE HEALTH OF THE VULNERABLE IN OUR COMMUNITY.	NEED TO IDENTIFY PEOPLE WITH CHAIN SAWS. WE ALSO NEED TO IDENTIFY PLACES THAT HAVE COOL SPACES AND WARM SPACES.
9	COMPUTER HACKING	CWPC ONLY	RELIANCE ON COMPUTER SYSTEMS FOR COMMUNICATION MEANS WE NEED TO ENSURE WE DO EVERYTHING TO ENSURE OUR IT SYSTEMS ARE NOT HACKED AND REMAIN FULLY OPERATIONAL.	SYSTEMS BACKED UP EVERY HOUR EXTERNALLY.

ANNEX B - LIST OF LOCAL RESOURCES BY WARD**FLACKWELL HEATH**

Community Centre including Nancie Ross Centre	https://flackwellheathcommunitycentre.org.uk
Christ Church	01628 533004
Methodist Church	01494 673403
Carrington School	01628 521457
Juniper School	01628 523536
Flackwell Heath Football Club	0793 295 2538
Minors Football Club	07789 881114
Flackwell Heath Scout Hut	0845 094 5526
The Cherry Tree Pub	01628 299651
The 3 Horseshoes Pub	01628 561724
The Stag Public House	01628 529100
The Green Dragon Pub	01628 561725

LOUDWATER

Loudwater Combined School	01494 524919
Openreach Centre	TBD
Loudwater Centre	07986 245193
St Peter's Church	01628 526087
Wycombe Heights Golf Club	01494 816686
Premier Inn	01494 510852

TYLERS GREEN

CWPC Offices	01494 814600
Tylers Green First School	01494 813201
Tylers Green Middle School	01494 812465
Tylers Green Village Hall	01494 819990
Old Queens Head Pub	01494 813371
Horse & Jockey Pub	01494 931735
Red Lion Pub	01494 815925
St Margaret's Church	07713 638917
Penn Free Methodist Church	01491 816202
Penn & Tylers Green Scout Hut	01494 816505
Penn & Tylers Green Sports and Social Club	01494 815346

ANNEX C - LIST OF OTHER USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNCIL	0300 131 6000
BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNCIL RESILIENCE TEAM	TBA
BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNCIL EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTRE	TBA
THAMES VALLEY POLICE	999 OR 101
FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE	999
WYCOMBE HOSPITAL	01494 526161
WEXHAM HOSPITAL	0300 614 5000
THAMES WATER	0800 316 9800
SCOTTISH AND SOUTHERN ELECTRICITY	0330 303 5063
BRITISH GAS	0800 111 999
BRITISH TELECOM/OPENREACH	0800 023 2023

	Actual Year To Date	Current Annual Bud	Variance Annual Total	Committed Expenditure	Funds Available	% Spent
Finance & General Purpose						
<u>401 Salaries & Other Staff Costs</u>						
1076 Precept	405,810	405,810	(0)			100.0%
1079 Miscellaneous	210	58	(152)			362.1%
Salaries & Other Staff Costs :- Income	406,020	405,868	(152)			100.0%
4001 Salaries, NI & Pensions	173,370	227,000	53,630	53,630		76.4%
4002 Members Expenses	840	2,300	1,460	1,460		36.5%
4008 Conferences & Courses	90	750	660	660		12.0%
4009 Travel	31	200	169	169		15.7%
4020 Establishment Costs Misc	389	500	111	111		77.9%
4021 Telephone & Fax	1,066	1,500	434	434		71.1%
4022 Postage	408	500	92	92		81.6%
4023 Stationery & Printing	511	1,500	989	989		34.1%
4024 Subscriptions	2,471	3,000	529	529		82.4%
4025 Insurance	10,465	12,000	1,535	1,535		87.2%
4026 Publications	0	150	150	150		0.0%
4027 Photocopying Charges	585	700	115	115		83.5%
4032 Publicity	929	4,350	3,421	3,421		21.4%
4041 Equipment Hire	448	500	52	52		89.6%
4051 Bank Charges	377	500	123	123		75.4%
4053 Office Equipment	350	500	150	150		70.0%
4060 Other Professional Fees	3,359	4,000	641	641		84.0%
4068 Computers & Data Storage	4,000	4,000	0	0		100.0%
4069 Web Development	0	500	500	500		0.0%
4450 Archives	0	150	150	150		0.0%
4901 Grants & Donations S137	3,328	5,000	1,672	1,672		66.6%
Salaries & Other Staff Costs :- Indirect Expenditure	203,019	269,600	66,581	0	66,581	75.3%
Net Income over Expenditure	203,001	136,268	(66,733)			
<u>403 Contingency</u>						
4048 Contingency	3,532	5,000	1,468		1,468	70.6%
Contingency :- Indirect Expenditure	3,532	5,000	1,468	0	1,468	70.6%
Net Expenditure	(3,532)	(5,000)	(1,468)			
<u>405 F & GP Rents</u>						
1001 Rents	15,018	11,300	(3,718)			132.9%
1090 Interest Received	9,539	4,000	(5,539)			238.5%
F & GP Rents :- Income	24,557	15,300	(9,257)			160.5%
Net Income	24,557	15,300	(9,257)			

Detailed Income & Expenditure by Budget Heading 31/01/2025

Month No: 10

Committee Report

	Actual Year To Date	Current Annual Bud	Variance Annual Total	Committed Expenditure	Funds Available	% Spent
Finance & General Purpose :- Income	430,578	421,168	(9,410)			102.2%
Expenditure	206,552	274,600	68,048	0	68,048	75.2%
Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	<u>224,026</u>	<u>146,568</u>	<u>(77,458)</u>			
Grand Totals:- Income	430,578	421,168	(9,410)			102.2%
Expenditure	206,552	274,600	68,048	0	68,048	75.2%
Net Income over Expenditure	<u>224,026</u>	<u>146,568</u>	<u>(77,458)</u>			
Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	<u>224,026</u>	<u>146,568</u>	<u>(77,458)</u>			

Summary Income & Expenditure by Budget Heading 31/01/2025

Month No: 10

Committee Report

	Actual Year To Date	Current Annual Bud	Variance Annual Total	Committed Expenditure	Funds Available	% Spent
<u>Open Spaces</u>						
Income	16,960	19,200	2,240			88.3%
Expenditure	35,327	61,910	26,583	0	26,583	57.1%
Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	<u>(18,367)</u>	<u>(42,710)</u>	<u>(24,343)</u>			
<u>Works & Service</u>						
Income	12,640	25,200	12,560			50.2%
Expenditure	37,203	60,441	23,238	0	23,238	61.6%
Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	<u>(24,563)</u>	<u>(35,241)</u>	<u>(10,678)</u>			
<u>Finance & General Purpose</u>						
Income	430,578	421,168	(9,410)			102.2%
Expenditure	206,552	274,600	68,048	0	68,048	75.2%
Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	<u>224,026</u>	<u>146,568</u>	<u>(77,458)</u>			
<u>Earmarked Reserves</u>						
Income	0	0	0			0.0%
Expenditure	79,865	428,570	348,705	0	348,705	18.6%
Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	<u>(79,865)</u>	<u>(428,570)</u>	<u>(348,705)</u>			
Grand Totals:-						
Income	460,178	465,568	5,390			98.8%
Expenditure	358,947	825,521	466,574	0	466,574	43.5%
Net Income over Expenditure	<u>101,231</u>	<u>(359,953)</u>	<u>(461,184)</u>			
Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	<u>101,231</u>	<u>(359,953)</u>	<u>(461,184)</u>			