| Option | Do not declare a climate emergency | Declare climate emergency (no additional action) | Declare a climate emergency and announce a carbon neutrality target | Declare a climate emergency, announce a carbon neutrality target and announce additional action on climate change |
|---|--|---|--|--|
| Advantages | ✓ Resource reallocation not required ✓ BAU programme continues | ✓ Leadership ✓ Aligns with other councils ✓ Resource reallocation not required ✓ BAU programme continues | ✓ Leadership and walks the talk ✓ Aligns with other councils ✓ Manages future carbon pricing risks ✓ Wider environmental cobenefits | ✓ Leadership and walks the talk ✓ Aligns with other councils ✓ Manages wider climate change risks, including carbon price risk ✓ Wider environmental and organisational co-benefits |
| Disadvantages | May impact reputation Unaligned with other councils Less focus on realignment of resources and prioritisation Climate change risks may not be managed | May impact reputation Less focus on realignment of resources and prioritisation Climate change risks may not be managed | Wider climate change risks not managed ** Wider climate change ** ** ** ** ** ** ** ** ** | Reallocation/possibly additional resources required May impact on other programmes |
| Significance | Low | Low-High | Medium | Medium-High |
| Promotion of community outcomes | Low | Low-Medium | Medium | High |
| Impact on capacity to meet present and future needs | Low | Low | Low-medium | Low-High |