

Council

Date : 18 December 2019

Report of:

Asst. Director for Planning
and Delivery

Cabinet
Member

Portfolio Holder for
Regulatory Services and
Environment

DECLARATION OF A CLIMATE EMERGENCY : UPDATE REPORT

1.0 Summary:

- 1.1 To provide Council with information regarding the progress made since the declaration of a "Climate Emergency" and establishment of a Policy Development Group to develop an action plan in July 2019.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 **That Council notes the progress to date made by the Climate Emergency Policy Development Group.**

3.0 Report Detail

- 3.1 Members will recall the decision of Council in July 2019 to establish a Policy Development Group in order to devise an action plan for consideration by Cabinet and Council to enable the Council to become carbon neutral by 2030.
- 3.2 The Policy Development Group membership was established shortly after the meeting of Council in July and comprises the Portfolio Holder supported by the Chair of Scrutiny Committee and Cllrs Wilkinson, Steadman and Wood, supported by staff from the key service areas.
- 3.3 At its first meeting the Policy Development Group considered how it may develop a baseline of the topic areas it will consider for potential inclusion in the future Action Plan. These followed the following themes:
- Estate
 - Policy
 - Regulatory
 - Transport
 - Waste
 - Grounds Maintenance
 - Sustainable Food and
 - Private Sector Housing

Each of the areas has been considered by the Policy Development Group and a series of potential actions has been produced for further consideration.

- 3.4 At its subsequent meeting the Policy Development Group devised a means by which the suggested measures would be evaluated and prioritised, taking into account their potential impact (contribution) and their achievability. This work is in hand by officers and will inform the content of the proposed Action Plan. Particular note was taken that the Plan looks forward considerably to 2030 and as such it will recognise that there is scope for longer term and ambitious suggestions: we are not strictly limited by what we are able to implement in current circumstances. In contrast, however, the Group is also able to act immediately where possible and is pleased to report that the solar panels on the roof of Parkside are now connected and are generating power.
- 3.5 The Policy Development Group also considered how it would invite external contribution from interested and expert organisations to assist its deliberations, and to this end an event is planned in early 2020 and a list of invitees is being developed. This will include other Members and Parish Councils, bodies known to be expert and experienced in this area and having a strong interest.
- 3.7 Climate Emergency has featured prominently in the ongoing development of the new Corporate Strategy as a priority in its own right, and it is anticipated will continue to be going forward. By ensuring it is recognised as a priority is considered compatible and complementary to the declaration of a 'Climate Emergency' at the July meeting, and will ensure that it cuts across all Council activity.
- 3.8 Appendix 1 to this report is a summary of the areas for consideration compiled to date.
- 3.9 In addition, following the flooding incidents in October and November 2019, the Policy Development Group has been asked to consider the Council's role in the management and response to such events. This work is running parallel and on similar lines as the climate emergency and recommendations for departure from our established response will be reported to Cabinet etc alongside those for Climate Emergency.

4.0 Consultation and Feedback

- 4.1 No consultation was carried out with regards to this report. However, engagement with stakeholders is now being developed for implementation in early 2020.

5.0 Next Steps

- 5.1 The Policy Development Group will continue to develop its ideas and receive contributions from external contributors as outlined above. A further progress report is intended for the meeting of Council in February 2020.

6.0 Financial Implications

- 6.1 The action plan will identify resource implications for implementation of the identified actions. At this stage no budget has been allocated for any

financial implications.

7.0 Legal and Governance Implications:

7.1 There is no legal requirement for the Council to declare a “Climate Emergency”.

8.0 Equality and Safeguarding Implications:

8.1 None identified through this report however an equality assessment will be undertaken as part of the development of the action plan.

9.0 Community Safety Implications:

9.1 None identified in this report.

10.0 Other Implications

10.1 None identified

11.0 Risk & Mitigation:

11.1	L I K E L I H O O D	A	Very High				
		B	High			1	
		C	Significant		2		
		D	Low				
		E	Very Low				
		F	Almost Impossible				
				Negligible 1	Marginal 2	Critical 3	Catastrophic 4
IMPACT							
Risk No		Risk Description					
1		The measures suggested may not be affordable to the Council					
2		Some actions may depend on the cooperation and/or investment of external parties.					

Background Papers:

None

Appendices

Appendix A – Climate Emergency suggested actions to date

Report Timeline:

Equalities Check & Challenge :	N/A
SLT Sign off :	N/A
Previously Considered by Council:	7.7.2019
Director Approval:	2.12.2019
Chief Finance Officer Sign Off :	29.11.19
Monitoring Officer Sign Off	10.12.19
Consultation with Portfolio Holder	27.11.19

Report Author & Job Title

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