

Report of	Meeting	Date
Deputy Chief Executive	Council	26 <sup>th</sup> January 2021

## Establishment of a Climate Change Working Group

### Purpose of report

1. To outline the proposal to establish a member-led Climate Change Working Group.

### Recommendation(s)

2. A Climate Change Working Group is established which is a member led, non-decision-making body which will provide strategic leadership to the Council on climate change matters, monitoring performance to achieve climate change targets and informing policy decisions.
3. The Terms of Reference (appendix one) are adopted to inform the governance and structure of the group.

### Executive summary of report

4. The green agenda was first identified as a key priority in the 2019 Corporate Strategy and a new corporate strategy project was included to deliver activity to support the council's commitment to the green agenda. The Council also subsequently supported a motion to declare a Climate Change Emergency with a target to achieve carbon neutrality by 2030.
5. An Overview and Scrutiny Task Group into Developing the Council's Green Agenda was established and following a series of meetings during which, members engaged with key stakeholders and considered the challenges and issues, published a series of recommendations which were agreed by Executive Cabinet on the 12<sup>th</sup> of March 2020 and approved as the basis for the development of an action plan.
6. Officers have been progressing work on Climate Change which comprises of several different strands including air quality, sustainable transport, flood risk, carbon neutrality. This collection of key projects will form the Climate Change Programme which will be managed by a dedicated Climate Change officer, steered by this proposed Climate Change Working Group.

<b>Confidential report</b> Please bold as appropriate	Yes	No
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### Corporate priorities

7. This report relates to the following Strategic Objectives:

Involving residents in improving their local area and equality of access for all	X	A strong local economy	
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Clean, safe and healthy homes and communities	X	An ambitious council that does more to meet the needs of residents and the local area	X
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## Background

8. The green agenda was first identified as a key priority in the 2019 Corporate and a new corporate strategy project was included to deliver activity to support the council's commitment to the green agenda. The Council also subsequently supported a motion to declare a Climate Change Emergency with a target to achieve carbon neutrality by 2030.
9. The Overview and Scrutiny Task Group into Developing the Council's Green Agenda was established in September 2019 and engaged with a range of key stakeholders to inform a series findings and recommendations. The task group recognised the scale of the challenge presented by climate change and reported its findings to Executive Cabinet on the 12<sup>th</sup> March 2020 including a set of 8 key recommendations. All recommendations were agreed by Executive Cabinet approved as the basis for the development of an action plan. This action plan has formed the basis of the Climate Change programme of work, with other additional activities the Council are undertaking linked to climate change, also being added.
10. The Council made a public declaration and a commitment to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2030 and therefore it is crucial that Elected Members are engaged in the programme of work which will deliver this ambitious target, as well as ensuring the Council's policies meet any emerging obligations, such as those introduced by the Environment Bill or following the UN Climate Change Conference in Glasgow in November 2021.
11. It is recognised that the target to achieve carbon neutrality is ambitious and will require a coordinated effort, not just of one team or the Council operating solus, rather it will be achieved as a result of a multi-agency, cross sector approach, which includes all other public bodies, business and enterprise and local residents. Therefore, effective engagement and a communications strategy will be very important if we are to influence and change behaviour and achieve this collective goal.

## Membership

12. It is proposed that there will be 7 available positions for elected members on the Climate Change Working Group based on political proportionality, with a ratio of 6:1:0. Reserves will be permitted.
13. The group will be supported by officers, the lead supporting officer will be the Climate Change Officer, which is a post currently being recruited to, supported by others including the senior responsible officers which are the Service Lead for Spatial Planning and Director for Development and Place.

## Terms of reference

14. The proposed Terms of Reference are attached at appendix one.

## Next steps

15. Upon approval, the inaugural meeting will be arranged, and the first session will include an update from officers on the programme of work.

## Implications of report

16. This report has implications in the following areas and the relevant Directors' comments are included:

Finance	X	Customer Services	
Human Resources		Equality and Diversity	
Legal	X	Integrated Impact Assessment required?	
No significant implications in this area		Policy and Communications	

17. There are no risks associated with this proposal.

**Comments of the Statutory Finance Officer**

18. Any financial implications will be within reports brought forward. There is an existing £500k capital scheme to cover the Green Agenda which is reported within the financial reports.

**Comments of the Monitoring Officer**

19. As this is a non-decision making working group the proposed terms of reference are appropriate.

Chris Sinnott  
Deputy Chief Executive

Report Author	Ext	Date
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