

## REPORT TO CABINET

<b>Open/Exempt</b>		Would any decisions proposed:			
<b>Any especially affected Wards</b>	Mandatory-/	Be entirely within Cabinet's powers to decide?		YES/NO	
	Discretionary	Need to be recommendations to Council?		YES/NO	
	/ Operational	Is it a Key Decision?		YES/NO	
Lead Member: Cllr Brian Long E-mail: cllr.brian.long@west-norfolk.gov.uk			Other Cabinet Members consulted: All members.		
			Other Members consulted: The Environment and Community panel.		
Lead Officer: Dave Robson E-mail: dave.robson@west-norfolk.gov.uk Direct Dial: 01553 616302			Other Officers consulted: Henry Saunders, Ged Greaves, Management Team and the Climate Change Officer Working Group.		
Financial Implications YES/NO	Policy/ Personnel Implications YES/NO	Statutory Implications YES/NO	Equal Impact Assessment YES/NO If YES: Pre-screening/ Full Assessment	Risk Management Implications YES/NO	Environmental Considerations YES/NO
If not for publication, the paragraph(s) of Schedule 12A of the 1972 Local Government Act considered to justify that is (are) paragraph(s).					

Date of meeting: **22/09/2020**

### CLIMATE CHANGE POLICY

**Summary:**

The climate change mitigation and adaptation approach for the BCKLWN is described in this policy. This policy is key to informing and guiding future council activities, including the climate change strategy and action plan

**Recommendation:**

We recommend the adoption of this climate change policy.

**Reason for Decision:**

To provide a framework and approach for future climate change work done by the BCKLWN.

#### 1. Background

##### 1.1 Reason for policy:

Motion to Council 5/19 was submitted to full council in October 2019. Council referred the motion to cabinet. The motion was discussed at cabinet on February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2020. This was then agreed in Council on July 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Cabinet's recommendations were as follows:

- a. That officers be requested to prepare a climate change policy and separate strategy with action plan.
- b. That the council fully recognise the evolving climate crisis and work towards Borough Council carbon footprint neutrality and net zero district carbon emissions. The dates will be determined considering emerging policies at the national and local level.
- c. The current 12-month UEA intern post should be extended to a temporary 2-year fixed term post.

This climate change policy is the first of 2 significant pieces of work requested by cabinet: the climate change policy and the climate change strategy with action plan.

We need a climate change policy to guide the direction of our climate change work going forwards. This policy provides a framework for other areas of council work to be referred against.

The policy will work alongside the council's corporate priority "protecting and enhancing the environment including tackling climate change".

This policy highlights our approach to tackling climate change, through reductions in our greenhouse gas emissions, as well as being the first step to embedding a positive climate change culture within the council.

#### 1.2 Policy statement:

"It is this council's policy to proactively identify, understand, manage and review its level of greenhouse gas emissions to play its part in contributing towards achieving the Climate Change Act 2008 and Paris Climate Agreement".

"The council's corporate business plan sets out its priorities, objectives and broad direction of action that will implement its Climate Change Policy".

"This policy will be reviewed every three years, or earlier in the light of new guidance, to ensure it remains relevant to the needs of the council. The next review date is x 2023".

#### 1.3 Policy scope:

The scope of this policy covers the borough council's greenhouse gas emissions and its role as a community leader to influence the level of greenhouse gas emissions across the King's Lynn and West Norfolk district.

Whilst referencing this council's role as a community leader, its scope focuses on phase 1 of our climate change work, in 'getting our house in order'. The detail of this approach will be followed up in our climate change strategy and action plan.

Part of the council's work on the district emissions (phase 2) will be presented through the forthcoming local plan climate change policy, as part of this council's local plan review. The rest will be actioned through the county group.

#### 1.4 Coronavirus and climate change:

The 2020 coronavirus pandemic has seen dramatic shifts to the way in which the council operates. This includes a shift towards agile working and a push for greater green and active travel provisions.

As a result of the UK's lockdown response to the coronavirus pandemic we have seen daily emissions drop by 36%. Lessons can be learnt from this pandemic and they will influence our future climate change strategy with action plan.

## 2. Options Considered

### Option 1: Do nothing

This is an option; however, this does not fit with this council's emerging green agenda and its corporate business plan, which prioritises "protecting and enhancing the environment including tackling climate change".

### Option 2: Adopt a policy

Adopting a policy such as this climate change policy is the appropriate way forward for this council's climate change work. Adopting this policy would align this council with the Local Government Association (LGA), this council's corporate business plan, in addition to other plans such as the local plan.

Officers have considered cabinets recommendations, following motion 5/19, and have also considered feedback on the policy from Management Team and the Environment and Community Panel.

## 3. Policy Implications

This policy is to be reviewed every 3 years. However, we may need to respond to changes to future and emerging national guidance. The 2020 United Nation Climate Change Conference (COP26) is now to be held in 2021, following the 2020 coronavirus pandemic. This policy will require a review considering any national changes to target and statutory guidance following COP26 next year.

This climate change policy has potential to influence or compliment other established or emerging council policies, for instance the local plan or our tree and woodland strategy.

Training and briefings will be provided to staff and members as part of the forthcoming climate change strategy and action plan.

## 4. Financial Implications

No financial implications have been identified with the adoption of this policy. Financial implications will be identified through the climate change strategy and action plan as individual projects and measures are identified and costed.

## 5. Personnel Implications

A graduate intern from the UEA was initially appointed in September 2019 for 4 months. This was extended in January to 12 months, ending late September 2020. This extra resource has enabled the carbon audit of the Borough Council to be

completed, the whole district CO2 bubble to be investigated and the work on the council's climate change policy.

The UEA intern will be progressing to a new 2-year fixed term contract in September 2020, which will allow for the continuation of current work and further implementation of the climate change policy and future strategy and action plan.

## **6. Environmental Considerations**

The BCKLWN emitted 4,632.4 tonnes of CO2e in the 2018/2019 financial year.

This climate change policy will help guide the councils work in reducing these greenhouse gas emissions. This will allow the borough council to contribute to the Paris Agreement and Climate Change Act 2008, in helping limit warming to below 2°C and reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions to net zero by 2050.

## **7. Statutory Considerations**

This climate change policy is based on the UK Climate Change Act 2008 and the Paris Climate Agreement. There are currently no specific statutory requirements at a local authority level to adopt a climate change policy.

Adopting a climate change policy will demonstrate this council commitment to the climate change agenda, aligning with the council corporate business plan priority; "protecting and enhancing the environment including tackling climate change".

Officers will keep this policy under review in case of any new or emerging national statutory guidance.

## **8. Equality Impact Assessment (EIA)**

A pre-screening EIA has been completed and is attached. No adverse issues have been identified.

## **9. Risk Management Implications**

The likely climate change impacts to the district will impact certain service areas.

Planning will need to consider which policies should be taken forward for the local plan. The development management side of planning will need to consider the potential impacts on development as sites come forward for planning permission.

Emergency Planning will need to continue to plan, prepare and respond through the multi-agency Norfolk Resilience Forum to any climate related civil emergencies that may arise in the future.

The Flood and Water Management Team will need to continue through the Hunstanton Coastal Management Plan and the Wash East Coastal Management Strategy, and the Surface Water Management Plan ensure that coastal, fluvial and pluvial flooding is kept under review.

Reputation management:

This council has seen significant negative press as result of its high district emissions. Declaring the commitment to reducing corporate emissions and ultimately tackling climate change can help to mitigate this negative press and therefore negative reputation.

**10. Declarations of Interest / Dispensations Granted**

None.

**11. Background Papers**

1. BCKLWN Climate Change Policy
2. Climate Change Team: Work Plan

**Pre-Screening Equality Impact Assessment**

Borough Council of  
**King's Lynn & West Norfolk**



Name of policy/service/function	Climate Change Policy				
Is this a new or existing policy/service/function?	New				
<p>Brief summary/description of the main aims of the policy/service/function being screened.</p> <p>Please state if this policy/service is rigidly constrained by statutory obligations</p>	<p>The climate change mitigation and adaptation approach for the BCKLWN is described in this policy. This policy is key to informing and guiding future council activities, including the climate change strategy and action plan</p>				
<b>Question</b>	<b>Answer</b>				
<p><b>1. Is there any reason to believe that the policy/service/function could have a specific impact on people from one or more of the following groups according to their different protected characteristic, for example, because they have particular needs, experiences, issues or priorities or in terms of ability to access the service?</b></p> <p>Please tick the relevant box for each group.</p> <p>NB. Equality neutral means no negative impact on any group.</p>		Positive	Negative	Neutral	Unsure
	Age			x	
	Disability			x	
	Gender			x	
	Gender Re-assignment			x	
	Marriage/civil partnership			x	
	Pregnancy & maternity			x	
	Race			x	
	Religion or belief			x	
	Sexual orientation			x	
	Other (e.g. low income)			x	

Question	Answer	Comments
<p><b>2.</b> Is the proposed policy/service likely to affect relations between certain equality communities or to damage relations between the equality communities and the Council, for example because it is seen as favouring a particular community or denying opportunities to another?</p>	No	
<p><b>3.</b> Could this policy/service be perceived as impacting on communities differently?</p>	No	
<p><b>4.</b> Is the policy/service specifically designed to tackle evidence of disadvantage or potential discrimination?</p>	No	
<p><b>5.</b> Are any impacts identified above minor and if so, can these be eliminated or reduced by minor actions?  If yes, please agree actions with a member of the Corporate Equalities Working Group and list agreed actions in the comments section</p>	No	<p><b>Actions:</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>Actions agreed by EWG member:</b> <b>Alison Demonty</b></p>
<p><b>If 'yes' to questions 2 - 4 a full impact assessment will be required unless comments are provided to explain why this is not felt necessary:</b></p> <p><b>N/A</b></p> <p><b>Decision agreed by EWG member: Alison Demonty</b></p>		
<p><b>Assessment completed by:</b></p> <p><b>Name</b></p>	<p><b>Henry Saunders</b></p>	
<p><b>Job title</b></p>	<p><b>Climate Change Officer</b></p>	
<p><b>Date</b></p>	<p><b>25/08/2020</b></p>	