

REPORT TO CABINET

Open/Exempt		Would any decisions proposed:			
Any especially affected Wards ALL	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:		
			Other Members consulted:		
Lead Officer: Dave Robson E-mail: dave.robson@west-norfolk.gov.uk Direct Dial: 01553 616302			Other Officers consulted: Henry Saunders, Ged Greaves, Noel Doran.		
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If not for publication, the paragraph(s) of Schedule 12A of the 1972 Local Government Act considered to justify that is (are) paragraph(s)					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 MOTION TO COUNCIL 1/20

Summary:

- Motion 1/20 proposes that the Borough Council take timely actions necessary to prevent dangerous climate change, as our fair share of the UK's efforts to limit global temperature increase to 1.5°C following the recent Dutch Supreme Court Judgement (Urgenda v The State of the Netherlands) on December 20th, 2019.

Recommendations:

- That the motion be rejected.

Reason for Decision:

- The borough council is already taking timely actions to reduce emissions.
- The borough council is not the body vested with the authority within its jurisdiction to tackle all areas of King's Lynn and West Norfolk emissions.
- The Dutch Supreme Court Judgement (Urgenda v The State of the Netherlands) does not bind the UK courts or government but may be of persuasive influence.
- The acceptance or rejection of this motion will not be determinative of the extent to which the Urgenda case impacts the borough council.

1. Background

- 1.1. Motion to Council 1/20 was submitted to Full Council in January 2020. Cabinet agreed to consider the issue further and then report back to Full Council in due course. Cabinet have requested a report to consider the Motion and its potential impacts.
- 1.2. Due to the current COVID-19 pandemic local authorities have deployed a significant amount of time and resources to help the UK. Our extensive local and national response to the crisis, will impact on the BCKLWN's capacity to focus on the issues detailed in the motion and this report. We expect short-term work on these issues to be affected as well as possible medium-term work.

2. Options Considered

- 2.1. Officers have considered Motion 1/20 and the detailed response is attached.
- 2.2. Officers have previously reported the CO₂ "district bubble" emissions data for 2017 as produced by BEIS.
- 2.3. The UK Government has signed up to the Paris Climate Change Agreement to mitigate against climate change in order to limit global temperature rise of 2°C.
- 2.4. The UK Government amended the Climate Change Act 2008 to cutting CO₂ emissions to net zero by 2050, from a 1990 baseline.

3. Policy Implications

- 3.1. Cabinet recommended three actions to council on 4th February 2020. Council agreed the below recommendations on the 9th July 2020.
 - 1) That officers be requested to prepare a climate change policy & separate climate change strategy with action plan.
 - 2) That the Council fully recognise the evolving climate crisis and work towards Borough Council carbon footprint neutrality and net zero Borough carbon emissions. The dates will be determined taking into account emerging policies at the national and local level.

- 3) The current 12-month UEA Intern post should be extended to a temporary 2-year fixed term post.
- 3.2. Officers have drafted the Climate Change Policy, which is going through the appropriate panels. Once adopted, officers will then draft a separate climate change strategy and action plan.
- 3.3. The Corporate Business Plan has included several environmental themes and climate change work areas.
- 3.4. The Local Plan Task Group have considered climate change related policies should be included within the revision of the Local Plan.
- 3.5. The 2019/2020 climate change work plan has been worked through, and a new one for the 2020/2021 financial year is in progress. This new work plan includes the adoption of a climate change policy in autumn 2020 and the adoption of a climate change strategy and action plan in spring 2021.
- 3.6. The 2018/2019 carbon audit of the BCKLWN was been completed. This shows that the council emitted 4,632.4 tonnes of CO₂e in the 2018/2019 financial year. This is a 25% reduction since the last audit was carried out in 2014/2015. The 2019/2020 audit is underway and will be completed as soon as required data is available.
- 3.7. Work has started of looking into policies and strategies to reduce the council's annual emissions. This will feed into the climate change strategy and action plan.
- 3.8. Currently three strategies have taken place or been approved:
 - 1) The council estate Re: fit.
 - 2) The 500 trees planted in King's Reach.
 - 3) The switch to a renewable electricity tariff.

4. Financial Implications

- 4.1. None identified.

5. Personnel Implications

- 5.1. None identified.

6. Environmental Considerations

- 6.1. DEFRA, BEIS, the Met Office and Environment Agency jointly published UKCP18 Science Overview report on this subject in November 2018. This report provides a scientific basis for a new set of climate change predictions and tools to access climate data.

Main findings:

- All the top ten warmest years have occurred since 1990.
- Average annual temperatures between 2008-2017 are 0.8°C warmer than the average between 1961-1990.
- There will be a move towards warmer, wetter winters and hotter, drier summers. However, natural variations mean that some cold winters, some dry winters, some cool summers and some wet summers will still occur.
- Hot summers are expected to become more common. In the recent past (1981-2000) the probability of seeing a summer as hot as 2018 was low (<10%). The probability has already increased due to climate change and is now estimated to be between 10-20%.
- UK coastal flood risk is expected to increase over the 21st century and beyond under all emission scenarios considered. There will be an increase in the frequency and magnitude of extreme water levels around the UK coastline. This increased future flood risk will be dominated by the effects of time - mean sea level rise, rather than changes in atmospheric storminess associated with extreme coastal sea level events. There may also be changes in tidal characteristics.
- London sea level change rise by year 2100 is expected to be between 0.53m to 1.15m.

- 6.2. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change have published a special report on the impacts of global warming of 1.5°C.

They state:

- Unchecked, a 1.5°C rise will occur by year 2040.
- Unchecked, a 2°C rise will occur by year 2060.

- 6.3. The UN published their emissions gap report in November 2019.

They state:

- 2018 emissions recorded a record high of 51.8 GtCO₂e in 2018 without Land Use Change (LUC) emissions and 55.3 GtCO₂e in 2018 with LUC.
- Fossil CO₂ emissions, from energy use and industry, dominate total GHG emissions and reached a record 37.5 GtCO₂ per year in 2018, after growing 1.5% per year in the last decade and 2.0% in 2018.
- 15 of the 20 wealthiest nations have no timeline for a net zero target. The UK is one of the five nations with a target (2050).

- Emissions have gone up by 1.5% per year in the last decade.
- The Earth is on course to experience a temperature rise of 3.2°C by the end of the 21st century.
- The world needs to cut emissions by 7.6% every year for the next 10 years to meet the 1.5°C target.
- If urgent action is not taken, then the 1.5°C goal will be out of reach before 2030.
- The top four emitters (China, EU28, India and the United States of America) contribute to over 55% of the total GHG emissions over the last decade excluding LUC.
- The top seven (including Japan, Russia and international transport) account for 65%.
- G20 members contribute 78%.
 - China emits 26% of global emissions (excluding LUC).
 - The United States of America emits 13% of global GHG emissions.
 - The European Union emits 8.5% of global GHG emissions.
 - India emits 7% of global GHG emissions.
 - The Russian Federation emits 4.8% of global GHG emissions.
 - Japan emits 2.7% of global GHG emissions.
 - International transport (aviation and shipping) emits around 2.5% of global GHG emissions.

Globally, 2019 was the second hottest year on record.

6.4. In the UK:

- We saw the highest recorded temperature of 38.7°C set on 25th July 2019 in Cambridge.
- We saw the 5th wettest autumn on record with 348.4mm during September to November 2019.
- Winter 2019/2020 was the 5th wettest and 5th mildest on record.
- February 2020 was the wettest February on record, with a UK average of 202.1mm. It was also the 5th wettest month on record.

7. Statutory Considerations

- 7.1. The Climate Change Act 2008 and, to a lesser extent, the Paris Agreement 2015, impose obligations on central government to reduce carbon and other greenhouse gas emissions.
- 7.2. These obligations are not specifically applicable to, or enforceable against, tiers of local government such as Borough or District Councils.
- 7.3. There are no obvious statutory implications arising from either the acceptance or rejection of this motion.

- 7.4. The case of Urgenda v The State of the Netherlands is a decision of the Dutch Supreme Court and is not binding on the UK courts and governments.
- 7.5. It does, however, consider the application of law in the Netherlands that do also apply in the UK (European Convention on Human Rights and the Human Rights Act 1998). In the absence of any change in legislation, should similar matters be brought before a UK court then it may be of persuasive influence.
- 7.6. Acceptance or rejection of this motion will not determine the extent to which the Urgenda case may impact on the borough council.

8. Equality Impact Assessment (EIA)

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

9. Risk Management Implications

- 9.1. The likely climate change impacts to the district will impact certain service areas.
- 9.2. 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.
- 9.3. 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.
- 9.4. 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 to ensure that coastal, fluvial and pluvial flooding is kept under review.

10. Declarations of Interest / Dispensations Granted

10.1. None.

11. Background Papers

- Response to Motion 1/20.
- Climate Change Team: Work Plan 2020/21.
- UKCP18 Science Overview Report:
<https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/pub/data/weather/uk/ukcp18/science-reports/UKCP18-Overview-report.pdf>
- IPCC, 2018, Summary for Policymakers:
<https://www.ipcc.ch/2018/10/08/summary-for-policymakers-of-ipcc-special-report-on-global-warming-of-1-5c-approved-by-governments/>
- UN Emissions Gap Report 2019:
<https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/30797/EGR2019.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y>

Pre-Screening Equality Impact Assessment

Borough Council of
King's Lynn & West Norfolk



Name of policy/service/function	Climate Change Motion 1/20 Review				
Is this a new or existing policy/service/function?	New / Existing (delete as appropriate)				
<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>Motion to declare climate emergency and other working options. Cabinet Report explains how climate change is currently being moved forward and details where there is cross over or duplication with existing work and proposals. Concerns raised over resources required to implement some of the proposals.</p> <p>No statutory requirement to declare climate emergency.</p> <p>Government target set to be carbon net zero by 2050.</p>				
Question	Answer				
<p>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?</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 (eg low income)			X	

Question	Answer	Comments
<p>2. 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>	Yes / No	
<p>3. Could this policy/service be perceived as impacting on communities differently?</p>	Yes / No	
<p>4. Is the policy/service specifically designed to tackle evidence of disadvantage or potential discrimination?</p>	Yes / No	
<p>5. 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>	Yes / No	<p>Actions:</p> <hr/> <p>Actions agreed by EWG member: Claire Dorgan</p>
<p>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:</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>Decision agreed by EWG member: Clare Dorgan</p>		
<p>Assessment completed by: Name</p>	<p>Dave Robson</p>	
<p>Job title</p>	<p>Environmental Health Manager - Environment</p>	
<p>Date</p>	<p>23.12.2019</p>	