

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 Paul Kunes E-mail: Cllr.Paul.Kunes@west-norfolk.gov.uk		Other Cabinet Members consulted: various			
		Other Members consulted: Informal Members Climate Change Working Group, the Environment & Community Panel			
Lead Officer: Dave Robson E-mail: dave.robson@west-norfolk.gov.uk Direct Dial: 01553 616302		Other Officers consulted: various			
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

Date of meeting: 21st September 2021

CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

Summary

The Borough Council's approach to reducing its carbon footprint to net zero and facilitating the reduction of the district carbon emissions to net zero are described in this Strategy and Action Plan. The Borough Council will bring forward its carbon footprint net zero target from 2050 to 2035.

Recommendations

- 1 That the Climate Change Strategy & Action Plan be adopted
- 2 That the Borough Council's carbon footprint net zero date be brought forward to 2035 or sooner if financially and practically deliverable

Reason for Decision

To provide a Strategy and Action Plan to achieve the Borough Council's carbon footprint net zero target by 2035 and work towards the UK's net zero target of 2050.

1 Background

1.1 The Council has previously considered the impacts of Climate Change and adopted an overall Climate Change Policy in September 2020.

1.2 This Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan (CCS&AP) follows on from the Climate Change Policy document and provides a clear Strategy and an Action Plan to deliver the Council's Climate Change agenda. The CCS&AP has been split into Phase 1 works which will deal with the reduction of the Council's own carbon footprint to carbon net zero by 2035. Phase 2 will deal with the BEIS district carbon emissions and will be led by several factors such as national policy initiatives and local stakeholders such as the Norfolk

Climate Change Partnership to deliver net zero by the Government's policy target date of 2050.

2 Options Considered

2.1 A Gap Analysis has been completed which considered many published documents from various organisations. We were also able, through the UEA Environmental Consultancy programme, to engage two undergraduate students to provide background papers on a tree planting and carbon footprint options, both of which are attached as background papers.

2.2 To assist with drawing up the Action Plan a series of cross departmental Task & Finish Groups have been set up. They have covered the following topics: -

- Trees and Green Habitats
- Council's Vehicle Fleet
- Council's Travel Plan update
- Procurement
- Building Re: fit
- Housing
- IT
- Electric vehicle charging point provision
- Land Use Planning – Local Plan

2.3 Phase 2 work has mainly been taken forward through the Norfolk Climate Change Partnership.

2.4 Consultation on the draft report has been completed through an Informal Members Climate Change Working Group held in May 2021, which then reported to the Environment & Community Panel in June 2021. The comments from this consultation have been reviewed and are attached.

2.5 The consultation comments are listed in the attached document and show if they have been included or if they have not been taken forward. Some of these matters such as the Tyndall Centre report have been previously considered, either in responses to a Motion to Council or as part of the Climate Change Policy Cabinet report.

2.6 The draft CCS&AP has a revised carbon reduction pathway. There are four key areas to consider: -

- Building Re: fit programme, including PV and Wind renewable energy generation
- Contractor emissions, primarily from waste collections
- Emissions from transport fleet
- Scope three residual emissions such as water and transmission losses

2.7 The main work areas will focus on the 4 key areas listed in para 2.6 above. Therefore, we will: -

- Complete a high level assessment (HLA) of Re: fit options which will be ready in early 2022

- Engage with the Energy Saving Trust for a green transport fleet review to be completed in 2022
- Consider options for the contractor waste collections, to be ready for the next contract in around 2027
- Ongoing review options for residual emissions and mitigation measures

2.8 The decision to move the Borough Council's net carbon footprint date from 2050 to 2035 is based on the CCS&AP. One key factor to consider further is the Re: fit programme. The high level assessments (HLA) will give a clear indication of what works are required and likely costs. Once this work is completed then we will have a better understanding of what works are covered or partially covered by available grants and what works will not be covered. Cabinet and Management Team have indicated once they have considered the HLA, there will be an annual review if or when the Borough Council's net carbon date could be brought forward to 2030.

3 Policy Implications

3.1 The Borough Council now has a practical action plan to implement and a clear roadmap how to be carbon net zero by 2035.

3.2 The previous policy was based on the legal requirements under the Climate Change Act 2008 and the Government and the Statutory independent Climate Change Committee lawful deadline of 2050. Cabinet has requested that the Borough Council's carbon footprint date of 2050 should be reviewed.

3.3 The possible BCKLWN emissions reduction pathway shown in 8.2 of the draft CCS&AP shows that a net carbon zero target can be achieved by 2035, with further annual reviews to consider bringing that target date forward.

3.4 We recommend that the district emissions still follow's the Government and the Independent Committee on Climate Change recommended target net zero target date of 2050. Whilst as part of the consultation the Tyndall Centre report was put forward, this has been previously considered. The UK has set a target date of 2050 for net zero. Many of the actions required to meet the Tyndall Centre report are not within the direct control of the Borough Council. Instead, Phase 2 of the CCS&AP lists the recommended actions that can be followed to achieve the 2050 target. Progress against these actions will also be made through the Norfolk Climate Change Partnership.

3.5 A key area going forward will be engagement. Some residents and local businesses have already started to consider how they can reduce their impact on climate change. We need to engage further with the residents of West Norfolk to explain why we are taking this action and what measures they can take to help minimise their environmental impact. We have started this process with the "What can you do to tackle climate change" webpage on the Borough Council's website. The CCS&AP includes this aspect and public engagement will also be taken forward through the joint working of the Norfolk Climate Change Partnership. We will also want to encourage local businesses in West Norfolk to start to reduce their carbon footprints going forward.

4 Financial Implications

4.1 Funding has previously been provided for a full-time permanent Climate Change Officer.

4.2 Funding has also been requested for a 12-month temporary post to be filled by a UEA post graduate student. This post will assist the Climate Change Team in implementing the CCS&AP.

4.3 A budget provision of £250,000 per annum has been requested over next the four years which is supported by Management Team and is subject to approval by Cabinet and Council. The requests are currently going through the formal approval process in accordance with Financial Regulation procedures. This will allow implementation of smaller schemes; help fund preparation for larger capital scheme funding bids and also fund feasibility reports on potential options.

5 Personnel Implications

5.1 To assist with the implementation of the CCS&AP an additional 12-month Temporary UEA intern post has now also been approved. This post will assist the Climate Change Officer in delivering the CCS&AP and we anticipate them starting in September/October 2021.

5.2 Section 9 of the CCS&AP clearly identifies the potential staff resourcing and budget issues. This is a corporate cross cutting issue and therefore will be implemented by many different teams throughout the Borough Council and its external partners.

6 Environmental Considerations

6.1 The United Nation's (UN) Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change is the UN's body for assessing the science related to climate change published their new report "AR6 Climate Change 2021: The Physical Science Basis" in August 2021.

6.2 The report's main points are: -

- Total human-caused global surface temperature increases from 1850–1900 to 2010–2019 is 1.07°C.
- Global surface temperature will continue to increase until at least the mid-century under all emissions scenarios considered. Global warming of 1.5°C and 2°C will be exceeded during the 21st century unless deep reductions in CO₂ and other greenhouse gas emissions occur in the coming decades.

- It is unequivocal that human influence has warmed the atmosphere, ocean and land. The scale of the changes to the climate system as a whole and the present state are unprecedented over many centuries to many thousands of years.
- Limiting human-induced global warming to a specific level requires limiting cumulative CO2 emissions, reaching at least net zero CO2 emissions, along with strong reductions in other greenhouse gas emissions

6.3 The impacts of climate change are now more readily noticed by the public due to their impacts on local weather. 2021 has seen severe flooding in Germany and the UK, extreme heat in the western seaboard of North America, wildfires in Greece and Turkey, Cyclone “Seroja” across Indonesia etc, etc. In West Norfolk flooding events in 2021 have occurred to North/South Creake area and the Burnham’s and as well as in and around Gayton.

6.4 The potential impacts of climate change to West Norfolk can be summarised in the following areas: -

- Sea Level rise – this will potentially impact coastal areas. The Hunstanton Coastal Management Plan has already considered this matter and includes measures to raise the wave return wall to maintain the current level of protection
- Surface water flooding – the potential for more frequent and severe thunderstorm events is noted. Multi-agency partnership working is already in place led by Norfolk County Council as Lead Local Flood Authority.
- Fluvial Flooding – this impact is mainly covered by the Lead Local Flood Authority, Environment Agency, and Internal Drainage boards. We will continue to work in partnership with all relevant agencies.
- Major flooding events are responded to by Emergency Planning through the multi-agency Norfolk Resilience Forum (NRF). Emergency plans exist to deal with such issues and are updated on a regular basis.
- Severe heat and drought are also dealt with by Emergency Planning through the NRF
- Land Use Planning – this matter has recently been considered as part of the Local Plan and there are current Strategic Flood Risk Assessment in place to aid the development control process.

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 Declaring a Climate Emergency is not a legal requirement and its does not impact on the Borough Council ability to implement the S&AP or apply for any current grant applications.

8 Equality Impact Assessment (EIA)

(Pre screening report template attached)

A pre-screening EIA has been completed and is attached.

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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 polices 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 work with the Norfolk County Council, the Lead Local Flood Authority, on surface water events to ensure that coastal, fluvial, and pluvial flooding is kept under review.

9.5 The Climate Change Team will need to implement the CCS&AP with input from the various teams within BCKLWN and through the Norfolk Climate Change Partnership. They will need to keep the technical aspects of climate change under review and ensure both the Policy and Strategy & Action Plan remain relevant. The implementation will need to also take into consideration section 9 of the CCS&AP, namely staff resources and finance.

9.6 Reputation management:

9.6.1 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.

9.6.2 As stated in Section 9 of the S&AP resourcing will need to be allocated to ensure that the CCS&AP can be implemented.

10 Declarations of Interest / Dispensations Granted

10.1 None

11 Background Papers

Gap Analysis

UEA Environmental Consultancy Report - Tree Planting for Net-Zero – Ben Spratling

UEA Environmental Consultancy Report - Setting a Target for Carbon Neutrality for the
Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk – Frances Gurton

IPCC AR6 Climate Change 2021: The Physical Science Basis

E&C Panel & Informal Members Working Group Consultation Responses

Pre-Screening Equality Impact Assessment

Borough Council of
King's Lynn & West Norfolk



Name of policy/service/function	Climate Change Strategy & Action Plan
Is this a new or existing policy/service/function?	New / Existing (delete as appropriate)
Brief summary/description of the main aims of the policy/service/function being screened. Please state if this policy/service is rigidly constrained by statutory obligations	<p>The purpose of this strategy and action plan is to deliver the Council's Climate Change Policy and reduce the Council's carbon footprint. A secondary focus will be to encourage broader action to address carbon reduction in west Norfolk.</p> <p>There is a national target for carbon neutrality by 2050 and non-statutory guidance although no specific targets for local authorities</p> <p>The Policy sets out an Action Plan to mitigate the impacts of climate change on the District. The Policy will benefit all persons living and working within the District. The Policy will not negatively impact on any of the protected groups listed below, or is specifically aimed at any of those groups except those on low incomes.</p> <p>Low income groups are most likely to be impacted by fuel poverty and will most likely benefit from the climate change agenda overall as funding is being aimed at improving housing standards in property types most likely lived in by families with low incomes.</p>

Question	Answer				
	Positive	Negative	Neutral	Unsure	
<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>			X		
	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>	<p>Yes / No</p>	<p>Local and global actions to address climate change will have a long term positive impact for all communities</p>
<p>3. Could this policy/service be perceived as impacting on communities differently?</p>	<p>Yes / No</p>	<p>Resources will need to fund sea defence improvements to maintain current levels of protection. Non coastal communities not affected by sea level change may not agree with this funding allocation.</p>
<p>4. Is the policy/service specifically designed to tackle evidence of disadvantage or potential discrimination?</p>	<p>Yes / No</p>	<p>The phase 1 focus of this strategy is to reduce the Council's carbon footprint. Over the life of this strategy, those activities will not have a significant impact upon particular groups or communities although it is intended that they will encourage actions from residents, communities and businesses to address their carbon footprints that collectively are hoped to have a positive impact for everyone. The strategy also has measures in Phase 2 to move to reduce the district carbon emissions.</p> <p>Addressing climate change at a global level will help to address issues related to severe weather, cold weather and heat waves which may have a disproportionate impact upon groups and communities. For example, cold temperatures predominantly affect older age groups, children and those with chronic illnesses. Heat waves are known to affect the elderly, people living alone, having a pre-existing disease, being immobile or suffering from mental-illness and being economically disadvantaged. Severe weather can have disproportionate effects on different groups within society.</p>
<p>5. Are any impacts identified above minor and if so, can these be eliminated or reduced by minor actions?</p> <p>If yes, please agree actions with a member of the Corporate Equalities Working Group and list agreed actions in the comments section</p>	<p>Yes / No</p>	<p>Actions:</p> <hr/> <p>Actions agreed by EWG member:</p> <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:

Decision agreed by EWG member:

Assessment completed by:	
Name	Dave Robson/ Ged Greaves
Job title	Environmental Health Manager / Policy Manager
Date	18.08.2021