

POLICY REVIEW AND DEVELOPMENT PANEL REPORT

REPORT TO:	Corporate Performance Panel		
DATE:	4 January 2024		
TITLE:	Annual update – Norfolk Climate Change Partnership		
TYPE OF REPORT:	Monitoring		
PORTFOLIO(S):	Climate change and Biodiversity		
REPORT AUTHOR:	Ged Greaves, Climate Change Manager		
OPEN/EXEMPT	Open	WILL BE SUBJECT TO A FUTURE CABINET REPORT:	No

REPORT SUMMARY/COVER PAGE

PURPOSE OF REPORT/SUMMARY:
An annual update on the council's participation with Norfolk Climate Change Partnership was provided to the Panel on 4 January 2023. This report provides an update on activities over the last 12 months.
KEY ISSUES:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The partnership structure has evolved and includes a reconstituted portfolio holders group, a strategy group, an operational meeting and an advisory panel. • The partnership continues to be co-chaired by BCKLWN's chief executive. • A full time partnership manager has been recruited. • The partnership was successful in a bid for UK Innovate funding for the Norfolk Net Zero Communities project. • Partnership website continues to be hosted by BCKLWN. • Portfolio holder updates to Council include information regarding partnership meetings.
OPTIONS CONSIDERED:
Not applicable as this is a monitoring report.
RECOMMENDATIONS:
The Panel is asked to review the annual update.
REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:
Members should use the information within the annual update to review progress with the partnership.

1. Introduction

1.1 On 4 January 2023, the Chief Executive and Corporate Performance Manager verbally updated the Panel on progress with Norfolk Climate Change Partnership. The Panel agreed to receive an annual update on progress.

2. Annual update

2.1 Over the last 12 months the partnership has progressed in the following ways:

2.2 Following the May 2023 elections the portfolio holders group has been re-constituted under the chair of Norfolk County Council. The portfolio holders group has an updated terms of reference and reviewed the priorities agreed under the previous political administrations.

2.3 The partnership structure has evolved and includes a strategic officer group, an operation delivery group and an advisory panel. This is summarised in the diagram at Appendix A.

2.4 The partnership continues to be co-chaired by BCKLWN's chief executive and the chief executive of North Norfolk District Council. The co-chairs championed the establishment of the partnership manager role and its resourcing, for an initial 12 months, from the Business Rates Pool and contributions from local authorities.

2.5 A full time partnership manager commenced in July 2023 and is hosted by North Norfolk District Council. The purpose of the role is to develop and maintain a comprehensive climate change policy programme which delivers the three strategic outcomes of the partnership. These are:

- Develop a sustainable energy plan to decarbonise energy supply for Norfolk and improve distribution of energy to citizens and businesses
- Reduce and conserve energy demand on the system through retrofitting of buildings through behaviour change, enabling fabric first and heating
- Enable greener sustainable transport solutions through statutory powers, promoting behaviour change and investing in appropriate infrastructure

2.6 The partnership was successful in a bid for UK Innovate funding for the Norfolk Net Zero Communities project. On behalf of the partnership, Great Yarmouth Borough Council lead the development of the successful bid and are the accountable body. Information about the countywide project has been reported to Environment and Community Panel in August and November 2023.

2.7 BCKLWN established the partnership's website during its term as secretariat. The site continues to be hosted by BCKLWN with information updates managed by the Partnership Manager. The site includes information about members, meetings, projects such as the Norfolk Net Zero Communities, terms of reference and key documents such as an annual report. The website can be found at: <https://www.norfolkclimatechange.co.uk/>

2.8 Portfolio holder updates to Council include information regarding partnership meetings.

2.9 The topics covered in partnership meetings over the last 12 months included:

- Transport related initiatives
- Electric vehicle charging funding and infrastructure
- Climate change risk assessment

- Carbon literacy training
- Partnership governance
- Norfolk Net Zero Communities project (also known as Fast Followers)
- Carbon offsetting in the Broads
- Norfolk County Council's climate strategy
- Climate Action Fund – the National Lottery Community Fund
- Partnership's forward work programme
- 1 million trees for Norfolk action plan
- Norfolk Green Skills Programme
- Regional Climate Change Forum updates
- Sustainable Energy Plan for Norfolk
- 2021 carbon emissions

2.10 The Partnership Manager is attending the meeting via Zoom.

3. Corporate priorities

The Council's new corporate strategy includes a priority to "Protect our environment" and seeks "To create a cleaner, greener and better protected West Norfolk by considering environmental issues in all we do and by encouraging residents and businesses to do the same".

4. Financial implications

District/borough level local authority members of the partnership each contributed £2,500 towards the initial cost of the Norfolk Climate Change Partnership Manager. This was funded via the corporate climate change reserve.

5. Any other implications/risks

None.

6. Equal opportunity considerations

None.

7. Environmental considerations

The Norfolk Climate Change Partnership is an important element of the Council's place leadership work in progressing climate change action and the climate change strategy.

8. Consultation

Chief Executive and portfolio holder.

9. Conclusion

The Panel is asked to review the update and receive a further annual update in 2025.

10. Background papers

- Corporate Strategy

- <https://www.norfolkclimatechange.co.uk/>

Appendix A – Revised Norfolk Climate Change Partnership structure

Proposed NCCP Governance - August 2023

