

POLICY REVIEW AND DEVELOPMENT PANEL REPORT

REPORT TO:	Environment and Community Panel		
DATE:	3 rd December 2019		
TITLE:	Climate Change Update		
TYPE OF REPORT:	Update		
PORTFOLIO(S):	Environment		
REPORT AUTHORS:	Dave Robson, Ged Greaves & Henry Saunders		
OPEN/EXEMPT	Open	WILL BE SUBJECT TO A FUTURE CABINET REPORT:	Yes

REPORT SUMMARY/COVER PAGE

<p>PURPOSE OF REPORT/SUMMARY:</p> <p>To give an update on the climate change work completed and currently ongoing since the September update.</p>
<p>KEY ISSUES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set up Climate Change Officer Working Group (CCOWG). • Agree Terms of Reference and work plan for CCOWG. • Appoint Student Intern. • Start the Carbon Audit of the BCKLWN. • Engage with NA LEP regarding district CO2 emissions work. • Consider use of UEA environmental consultancy module. • Start background work on policies/ best practice/ strategy options. • Start background work on district CO2 bubble. • Engage and participate in the county group.
<p>RECOMMENDATIONS:</p> <p>This report is for noting.</p>
<p>REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:</p> <p>To advance the BCKLWN's work on climate change.</p>

REPORT DETAIL

1. Introduction

- 1.1 We have been asked to conduct a carbon audit of the borough council, look into the district carbon bubble and identify policies for the borough council going forward. In September a climate change officer working group was established, with the view of feeding into ongoing and future work regarding the council's climate change activities.
- 1.2 We have been recently exploring opportunities with the UEA to get 3rd year environmental science students to conduct a number of useful projects for us. This also forms part of their final year Environmental Consultancy module.
- 1.3 In November a county group was established by Norfolk Chief Executives, in order to look at climate change on a larger, multi-authority and county scale.
- 1.4 A work plan has been drawn up, highlighting our aims and providing a timeline for our work to be completed by.

2. Update Report

2.1 Set up CCOWG

- ✚ The climate change officer working group was established and had its first meeting in September 2019.
- ✚ The second meeting will be held on the 25th November 2019.
- ✚ The Group feeds into ongoing and future work regarding the council's climate change activities.

2.2 Agree Terms of Reference and work plan for CCOWG

- ✚ The work plan was agreed, detailing key functions and responsibilities and the time frame.
- ✚ The time frame and key functions and responsibilities can be found in the provided Climate Change Work Plan 2019 to 2020.

2.3 Appoint Student Intern

- ✚ A UEA intern was appointed on the 30th September 2019 for 4 months.
- ✚ This internship has now been extended until 25th September 2020.

2.4 Start the Carbon Audit of the BCKLWN

- ✚ Work started on the audit in late September 2019 and is expected to be completed in January 2020.
- ✚ 3 scopes have been identified and their contents have been agreed by management.
- ✚ The audit was based on the 2017/2018 Norwich City Council carbon footprint report.

- ✚ Service areas have been contacted to provide appropriate data for the carbon audit.
- ✚ There are a number of areas identified in the current audit for the 2018/2019 financial year that will need updating and refining for future audits.
- ✚ The audit is roughly 75% complete.

2.5 Engage with NA LEP regarding district CO₂ emissions work

- ✚ We had a conference call with the New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership about what their work on climate change includes.
- ✚ We discussed possibilities for further work together, so that work is not repeated by the NA LEP and BCKLWN.

2.6 Consider use of UEA environmental consultancy module

- ✚ We are engaging in the UEA, Environmental Sciences environmental consultancy module as a way to further research into areas we feel we need some further understanding on.
- ✚ We have had a conference call with the module leader who was very positive about the BCKLWN's involvement.
- ✚ Management Team and Cabinet are supportive of this venture.

2.7 Start background work on policies/ best practice/ strategy options

- ✚ We are reviewing policy publications that give suggestions for local authority emissions reductions (Friends of the Earth and ADEPT – listed as background papers).
- ✚ We are collecting current policies and potential policies from BCKLWN service areas. This will help to inform future policies going forward.
- ✚ A county group has been set up by Norfolk Chief Executives, which will help us to establish common policies and strategies to implement on a wider scale (multi-authority and county level).
- ✚ It is hoped the first meeting will take place in December to report back to the next Chief Officers Group in January 2020.

2.8 Start background work on district CO₂ bubble

King's Lynn and West Norfolk emitted 1405.3 ktCO₂ in 2017.

- ✚ 50% came from Industry and Commercial (697.5 ktCO₂).
 - Emissions are relatively high because the district's economy is mainly in the industrial and agricultural sector.
 - The district is home to a number of large point source emitters (A1 Installations).
 - The largest point source emitters are regulated by the Environment Agency (EA) and some are commissioned by the government (e.g. power plants).

- The BCKLWN is unable to influence these installations to reduce their emissions.
- Consequently, the district is a high emitter, but the BCKLWN has very little power to tackle the large point source emitters.
- There are 28 A1 installations in the district regulated by the EA.

✚ 28% came from Road Transport (389.4 ktCO₂).

- We have main A roads coming in and out of the district, which are the only/main routes in and out. As a result, emissions from this sector are also relatively high.
- Roads include the A10, A134, A17, A47, A149, A148 and rural areas with many B roads.
- A roads contributed 56% of Road Transport emissions in 2017.
 - (217.8 ktCO₂).
- Minor (B) roads contributed 41% of Road Transport emissions in 2017.
 - (159.9 ktCO₂).
- Other transport contributed 3% of Road transport emissions in 2017.
 - (11.6 ktCO₂).

✚ 17% came from Domestic (245.9 ktCO₂).

- Not all houses in the district are able to access mainline gas. Therefore, other less efficient sources of energy are used (e.g. oil).
- This is often the case in rural areas within the district.
- Another challenge is getting private sector houses to improve their energy efficiency.

✚ 5% came from Land Use, Land Use Change & Forestry (77.2 ktCO₂).

- Whilst many districts have a CO₂ sink with forestry, we (like other fen districts) are a net CO₂ contributor.
- This is due to methane/CO₂ emissions from the fen peat deposits.
- Fenland and East Cambridgeshire have similar LULUCF emissions.
 - Fenland: 83.3 ktCO₂ in 2017
 - East Cambridgeshire: 132.2 ktCO₂ in 2017

In October the Tyndall Centre for Climatic Research published a report, stating that King's Lynn and West Norfolk had an 8,000,000 tonne lifetime carbon budget. This is in order for King's Lynn and West Norfolk to align with the Paris Agreement target of 2°C, ideally 1.5°C of warming. They suggested a reduction pathway, bringing the King's Lynn and West Norfolk district to 95% carbon neutrality by 2041.

Work is ongoing in this area and will require further work. We do not predict this work to be completed by the end of the 2019/2020 financial year. We are looking to talk to large point source emitters in the area to obtain an understanding of their net emissions, and emissions reduction strategies.

2.9 Engage and participate in the county group

- ✚ In November a county group was set up to look at climate change policies, strategies and projects.
- ✚ We are aiming to have the first meeting in December 2019.
- ✚ Information has been circulated regarding what all local authorities in the county are working on, with regards to climate change.
- ✚ This group will be chaired by Lorraine Gore.

2.10 Outstanding work

- ✚ Other areas of work in the climate change work plan will be completed or are ongoing in 2020.

3. Issues for the Panel to Consider

This update is to report our progress on implementing the climate change work plan.

4. Corporate Priorities

This work aligns with the proposed corporate business plan priority, to protect and enhance the environment including tackling climate change.

5. Financial Implications

A student intern was appointed for 4 months. The internship has now been extended until 25th September 2020. Funding has been provided for this.

6. Any other Implications/Risks

Not applicable at this time.

7. Equal Opportunity Considerations

Not applicable at this time.

8. Environmental Considerations

This work will highlight the BCKLWN's carbon footprint, through the carbon audit. This will allow for decisions to be made for the borough council to mitigate and adapt to climate change in the future.

The policy work undertaken will feed into and influence future policy in relation to climate change, the borough council's carbon footprint and the review of the district CO₂ bubble.

9. Consultation

This is an update report and no consultation will be required.

10. Conclusion

The panel are asked to note the content of the report and progress made to date.

11. Background Papers

- ADEPT: *Good Practice Guidance for Local Government.*
- BCKLWN: *Climate Change Work Plan 2019 to 2020.*
- Friends of the Earth: *33 Actions Local Authorities Can Take on Climate Change.*
- Norwich City Council: *Carbon Footprint Report [2017/2018].*
- Tyndall: *Setting Climate Commitments for King's Lynn and West Norfolk.*