

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 Ian Devereux E-mail: cllr.ian.devereux@west-norfolk.gov.uk		Other Cabinet Members consulted: Cllr B Long			
		Other Members consulted:			
Lead Officer: Dave Robson E-mail: dave.robson@west-norfolk.gov.uk Direct Dial: 01553 616302		Other Officers consulted: Ged Greaves, Henry Saunders, Alan Gomm			
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: 4th February 2020

CLIMATE CHANGE MOTION TO COUNCIL 5/19

Summary

Motion 5/19 proposes that a Climate Emergency be declared and the district and Borough Council be carbon neutral by 2030. The Motion also calls for additional work to be completed and setting up various panels and groups.

Recommendations: -

- 1 That officers be requested to prepare a climate change policy & separate climate change strategy with action plan
- 2 That Cabinet consider the attached report and determine one of the following:
 - a To 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 taking into account emerging policies at the national and local level.
 - b If the Council chooses not to declare a Climate Emergency then the reason for this decision should be made clear.
 - c Declare a Climate Emergency and leave a target date blank until the Carbon Audit and further policy work has been carried out.
 - d Declare a Climate Emergency with a target date of 2050 which would be in line with the Government target and Paris Agreement.
 - e Declare a Climate Emergency with a target date of 2030 which would be in line with various environmental groups and the 5/19 Motion.
 - f Declare a Climate Emergency with a target date of 2041 in line with the Tyndall Centre report
- 3 The current 12 month UEA Intern post should be extended to a temporary 2 year fixed term post.

Reason for Decision

- 1 To ensure the Council is able to mitigate its carbon footprint
- 2 To consider and respond to Motion 5/19
- 3 To ensure the work plan and other areas of work are progressed

1 Background

1.1 Motion to Council 5/19 was submitted to Full Council in October 2019 by Councillor M de Whalley. Council referred the matter to Cabinet 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.

2 Options Considered

2.1 Officers have considered Motion 5/19 and the detailed response to each section is attached.

3 Policy Implications

3.1 Management Team and Cabinet have previously considered the wider issue of Climate Change. A discussion paper was prepared and submitted to Management Team which resulted in team plan for climate change being drawn up. Management Team agreed to a phased approach as detailed in the team plan.

3.2 The Corporate Business Plan has included several environmental themes and climate change work areas.

3.3 The Local Plan Task Group is also considering what policies should be included within the revision of the Local Plan.

3.4 A climate change work plan for 2019/20 has been agreed and is being implemented. One of the items is to draw up a climate change policy for adoption and develop a climate change strategy with action plan. The carbon audit of the Council's activities has been completed and can be used as a baseline going forward. The climate change policy is being drafted and should be available in late April/ early May 2020. The climate change strategy and action plan will be developed later in 2020/21.

3.5 The Norfolk Chief Executives have recently agreed to set up a Norfolk District's Climate Change Group which will allow collaborative working on environmental and green issues. This group will be led by the Chief Executive of BCKLWN and will allow the Borough Council to review and develop its own policies within this area. The first meeting has been arranged for January 2020, where its terms of reference will be agreed.

4 Financial Implications

4.1 Management Team have agreed to provide a £25,000 budget for 2019/20.

4.2 Many aspects of the proposed Motion 5/19 will require additional resources and finance. These are currently not budgeted for. Once Cabinet, in consultation with Management Team, confirm which proposal will go ahead then a more detailed resource and financial impact can be determined.

4.3 The current UEA Intern has proved invaluable in developing this area of work in the short time he has been in post. We would not have completed the current work without his input. To ensure the work plan and other areas of work are progressed we recommend the UEA Intern post should be extended to a temporary 2 year fixed term post. No budget has been allocated for financial years 20/21 and 21/22 and therefore this will need to be agreed.

5 Personnel Implications

5.1 A UEA Intern was initially appointed in September 2019 for 4 months which has now been extended for 12 months. This extra resource will enable the carbon audit of the Borough Council to be completed, and will allow work to start reviewing the whole district CO₂ bubble and some work on the Council's climate change policy and climate change strategy & action plan in due course.

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 of 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.

6.3 They state:

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

6.4 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.
- Fifteen 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.

6.5 2019 is on track to become either the third or even second warmest year on record. In the England, we have seen the highest recorded temperature of 38.7°C set on 25th July 2019 at Cambridge and we have had the 5th wettest autumn on record (348.4mm during Sept to November).

7 Statutory Considerations

7.1 There is no legal duty to declare a Climate Emergency.

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 ensure that coastal, fluvial and pluvial flooding is kept under review.

10 Declarations of Interest / Dispensations Granted

10.1 None

11 Background Papers

Review of Motion 5/19

Climate Change Team Plan 2019/20

UKCP18 Science Overview Report

IPCC, 2018: Summary for Policymakers

UN Environment Programme Emissions Gap Report 2019

Tyndall Centre Report: Setting Climate Commitments for King's Lynn and West Norfolk

Pre-Screening Equality Impact Assessment

Borough Council of
King's Lynn & West Norfolk



Name of policy/service/function	Climate Change Motion 5/19 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?</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>	Yes / No	<p>Actions:</p>
		<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:</p> <p>Name</p>	<p>Dave Robson</p>	
<p>Job title</p>	<p>Environmental Health Manager - Environment</p>	
<p>Date</p>	<p>23.12.2019</p>	