

| Bath & North East Somerset Council | | |
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| MEETING | Climate Emergency and Sustainability Policy Development & Scrutiny Panel | |
| MEETING DATE: | 16th March 2020 | |
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| TITLE: | Climate Emergency Action Plan - Update Report | |
| WARD: | All | |
| AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM | | |
| List of attachments to this report: | | |
| Appendix One: Climate Emergency Action Plan - Timeline | | |
| Appendix Two: Timetable – Climate Emergency Review of Council Strategies & Plans | | |

1 THE ISSUE

- 1.1 This report updates the Panel on the actions the council is undertaking and is planning in response to the Council's declaration of a climate emergency in March 2019. Specifically, it focuses on the timescales for reviewing the council's strategies and plans to align them to the climate emergency, and on the next stage of reviews, research and action planning, as agreed by Council in October 2019.

2 RECOMMENDATION

The Panel is asked to:

- 2.1 Note the update on the reviews, research and action planning identified in para 3.7 iv of the October Climate Emergency Progress Report (see para 3.2 below and Appendix One).
- 2.2 Note the timetable set out for reviewing key strategies and plans, including the prioritisation by high, moderate or low relevance to the delivery of the Council's Climate Emergency commitments and the current gap, which has been identified

as the lack of an overall housing strategy that is needed to support the home energy efficiency retrofitting at scale. (see para 3.8 below and Appendix Two).

2.3 Consider the request contained in the October Climate Emergency Progress Report (3.7 i) for the Panel to play a role in the alignment of all the Council's strategies and plans and a recommendation that the panel enable and support the development of the Council's policy framework through, for example, a scrutiny enquiry day and/or task and finish groups, starting with the strategic policy gap identified above on housing and retrofitting (in line with and informed by the second phase of research and road-mapping later in the year).

3 THE REPORT

3.1 Following its declaration in March 2019 of a climate emergency, Council received an update report in October 2019. It agreed that

- i. an update report for the next stage of work in respect of the reviews, research and planning identified in the report be brought to the March 2020 meeting of the Climate Emergency & Sustainability Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel, with a progress report to council each year
- ii. a further update report to the March Panel will identify the timescale for reviewing all the Council's existing strategies and plans to re-align them to the Climate Emergency.

3.2 Since then, the council has been continuing to implement and develop a wide-ranging and ambitious action plan which meets the scale and urgency of the challenge, is based on sound evidence and delivers on our ambition. Key actions include:

- The adoption of a new four-year Corporate Strategy which incorporates the climate and nature emergency as one of the two core policies of the council, which means that it will shape everything the Council does. The three carbon reduction priorities identified in the report to Council in October have been embedded across the strategy and reflected in its key commitments. These priorities are:
 - ✓ buildings' energy efficiency and zero carbon new build;
 - ✓ shift to mass transport, walking and cycling;
 - ✓ rapid and large-scale increase in renewable energy
- The adoption of a detailed Delivery Plan for 2020/21 which has seen these commitments reflected across all the council's services, with service areas incorporating climate emergency work into their day-to-day activities. Over 150 specific actions have been identified across services to meet the climate emergency. (See action plan summary on Council's website, Climate Emergency page: <https://www.bathnes.gov.uk/climate-emergency>)
- Additional investment, agreed through the budget process, in the climate emergency, totalling £800,000 across the council. This includes increasing capacity to co-ordinate and deliver action planning, engage with local communities, conduct research and invest in transport schemes such as low traffic neighbourhoods and improvements to walking and cycling.

- The establishment of robust internal governance arrangements to support the work including a cross-departmental officer group and a senior officer advisory group, with cross-party advice and support provided via the regular Group Leaders' meetings.
- Citizen engagement and communications work, including:
 - ✓ items at each of the Area Forums in January and February 2020
 - ✓ publication of the Parish Council Climate Emergency Toolkit to support more parishes to declare (to date, seven have done so: Freshford Parish, Keynsham Town Council, Radstock Town Council, Timsbury Parish, Chew Magna Parish, East Harptree Parish, Compton Martin Parish)
 - ✓ support and promotion of the B&NES Climate Emergency Schools' Network (launched in December 2019)
 - ✓ planning for a community led day-long event on 9 April 2020
 - ✓ support and promotion of a range of initiatives and community activities, including press releases on seven different topics during December and January alongside extensive social media activity

3.3 This community engagement programme includes developing citizen juries on key issues, to commence later in 2020 and then one for each of the next two years. A survey to map community action on the climate emergency was conducted in January and February and the results will be used to inform further support for community across the area.

3.4 Pre-procurement work is underway to prepare a package of prioritised specialist work ready to be put out to tender by the end of March and completed during the summer to inform the September Progress Report, and includes:

- ✓ Development and delivery of the in-house carbon literacy programme including basic learning for all staff and councillors, plus more in-depth work to support officers in key areas related to the priorities such as planning, transport, housing, procurement and to provide appropriate carbon business case tools
- ✓ Council Scope 3 emissions analysis to enable further development of the Climate Emergency Commissioning & Procurement Strategy, and support the work of all commissioners, especially of the major contracts and including a special piece looking at Heritage Services and tourism;
- ✓ A review of the capital programme and an investigation into innovative financing mechanisms with a view to developing or facilitating new ways to bring finance into the district to fund, for example, home energy efficiency retrofitting and renewable energy development at the scale and speed required;
- ✓ A review of the modelling conducted in the first phase of work in 2019, with a view to updating the pathway to map 100% carbon neutrality by 2030;
- ✓ A full road-mapping exercise for the three priority areas of action identified in the October report, including a local SWOT analysis, a "locus of action" exercise (identifying who can do what), exploring conditions for creating

change and enabling us to identify what actions need to be taken against each priority area during the 2020-22 period, the 22-25 period and the 25-30 period. This will be closely aligned with the work underway in key departments in order to provide the maximum support for the reviews of the planning policy framework, transport and housing planning.

- 3.5 Further research and road-mapping into other areas such as community Scope 3, carbon sequestration, local food and land use issues and citizen carbon foot-printing will be deferred to later this year or next.
- 3.6 Work to identify the status of the full range of Council strategies and plans has been conducted via the Corporate Strategy and Directors' Delivery Plan process, with some renewal dates brought forward in key policy areas to respond more quickly to the climate emergency.
- 3.7 The chart attached at Appendix Two shows the current list of strategies and plans, prioritised for high (H), moderate (M) or low (L) relevance to the Climate Emergency.
- 3.8 The following Council strategies and plans have been identified, mostly of high relevance, which will either be delivered or renewed in 2020:
 - Council Corporate Strategy & Delivery Programme;
 - Climate Emergency Action Plan;
 - B&NES Core Strategy & Placemaking Plan (Partial Review);
 - Supplementary Planning Document Reviews: S106; HMO; Sustainable Construction & Retrofitting; Bio-diversity Net Gain; Design Guide (walking and cycling);
 - B&NES Tree & Woodland Strategy and Green Infrastructure Strategy;
 - Infrastructure Delivery Plan Review;
 - Community Infrastructure Levy Spend Protocol;
 - Conservation Character Area Appraisals;
 - Building Control Business Strategy and Marketing Plan;
 - Business & Skills Plan;
 - HECA (Home Energy Conservation Act) Strategy;
 - Climate Emergency Procurement and Commissioning Strategy;
 - Heritage Services 5-year Business Plan 2020-2025;
 - Journey Towards Zero Waste 2020-2030 (Resources, Waste & Litter Strategy);
 - Bath Transport Delivery Plan

- East of Bath Assessment (transport)
- Low Traffic Neighbourhoods and Resident Parking Zones
- Clean Air Zone
- Go Ultra Low EV/Charging
- Highways & Transport Policies and Procedures Review (Climate & Nature Emergency) 2020-22
- ADL Business Plan

3.9 At West of England level, the following plans are in development for 2020-21:

- WoE Joint Waste Core Strategy
- WoE Sub-regional Planning and Place-making Charter
- WECA Infrastructure and Investment Delivery Plan
- WoE Green Infrastructure Strategy
- WoE Joint Local Transport Plan including: WoE Bus Strategy; WoE Greater Bristol Rail Feasibility Study; Bristol to Bath Mass Transit; Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan;
- WECA Integrated Transport Authority development

3.10 It is proposed that the next stage of this work is informed by the review requested in the October Progress Report, to be conducted by the Climate Emergency & Sustainability Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel, into the alignment of all Council strategies and plans between 2020 and 2023 (see 2.3).

4 STATUTORY CONSIDERATIONS

4.1 The activity outlined in this report is fully in line with the expectation on local authorities to take local action on the climate issue contained in the Climate Change Act 2008. And, further, is in line with the 2018 UN Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change report on the need to reduce carbon emissions more quickly in order to prevent the world from warming by more than 1.5°C.

5 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCE, PROPERTY, PEOPLE)

5.1 The activity outlined in this report will be staffed and funded by the additional budget approved in the Council's February 2020 Budget.

6 RISK MANAGEMENT

- 6.1 A risk assessment related to the issue and recommendations has been undertaken, in compliance with the Council's decision-making risk management guidance.

7 CLIMATE CHANGE

- 7.1 This report updates on the corporate effort to drive, coordinate and support action across the Council and the area in pursuit of the commitments made in the Climate Emergency Progress Report to Council in October 2020, to enable delivery of the March 2019 Climate Emergency Declaration.

8 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 8.1 The Council's approach to tackling the Climate Emergency referred to in this report was developed from March to September 2019 and was determined following discussions at senior officer and Cabinet member level and informed by specialist consultants, who conducted the first stage of work during the summer of 2019.
- 8.2 Options on how to deliver the priorities for action at the scale and speed identified in the first stage of work, will be analysed during the second phase of work that is being commissioned in March 2019.

9 CONSULTATION

- 9.1 The report has been reviewed by the Climate Emergency Officer Group, Climate Emergency Senior Officer Advisory Group and Corporate Management Team and signed off by the Chief Executive, the S151 Officer and the Monitoring Officer.

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| Contact person | <i>Jane Wildblood, Corporate & Community Sustainability Manager, 01225 477685</i> |
| Background papers | <i>The October 2019 Climate Emergency Progress Report to Council and the background papers are available via the following link to the Council's website:</i> https://www.bathnes.gov.uk/climate-emergency |
| Please contact the report author if you need to access this report in an alternative format | |