

CABINET	AGENDA ITEM No. 4
3 FEBRUARY 2020	PUBLIC REPORT

Report of:	Steve Cox - Executive Director for Place and Economy	
Cabinet Member(s) responsible:	Cllr Marco Cereste – Cabinet Member for Waste, Street Scene and the Environment	
Contact Officer(s):	Charlotte Palmer – Group Manager Transport and Environment	Tel. 453538

CLIMATE CHANGE – CITY COUNCIL CARBON MANAGEMENT ACTION PLAN

R E C O M M E N D A T I O N S	
FROM: Cabinet Member for Waste, Street Scene and the Environment	Deadline date: <i>Full Council 4 March 2020</i>
<p>It is recommended that Cabinet:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Endorses the attached Peterborough City Council Carbon Management Action Plan (Council-CMAP) and recommend to Council that it adopts the Council-CMAP at its meeting of 4 March 2020. 2. Recommends to Council that delegation be given to the Executive Director for Place and Economy to undertake any presentational, factual or other minor amendments to the Council-CMAP before it is published, provided such amendments do not materially amend the content of the Council-CMAP. 	

1. ORIGIN OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report is submitted to Cabinet following the approval of a Motion (which, in short, declared a climate emergency) at Full Council on 24 July 2019; and at the request of the Cabinet Member for Waste, Street Scene and the Environment.

2. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT

- 2.1 The purpose of this report is to seek Cabinet endorsement of a 'Peterborough City Council Carbon Management Action Plan' (Council-CMAP) and seek Cabinet approval to recommend the Council-CMAP to Council.

- 2.2 This report is for Cabinet to consider under its Terms of Reference No. 3.2.3

To take a leading role in promoting the economic, environmental and social wellbeing of the area.

3. TIMESCALES

Is this a Major Policy Item/Statutory Plan?	YES	If yes, date for Cabinet meeting	3 Feb 2020
Date for relevant Council meeting	4 March 2020	Date for submission to Government Dept.	N/A

4. BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

- 4.1 On 24 July 2019, Full Council approved a wide-ranging Motion relating to climate change matters and which, in short, had the effect of this council declaring that there is a climate emergency.
- 4.2 The Motion agreed a number of specific actions which should take place, including a commitment to “*produce an action plan by 31 March 2020, together with budget actions and a measured baseline*”. This report (and subsequent report to Full Council in March 2020) is intended to meet that commitment.
- 4.3 **The CMAP**
Over the last quarter of 2019, officers have prepared a Council-CMAP which is presented to Cabinet for its endorsement. The Climate Change Member Working Group (which was set up by Cabinet in November 2019, and has to date met twice) considered a draft CMAP at its meeting of 9 January 2020, but it must be remembered that that Working Group has no decision making powers, and the attached CMAP should not necessarily be seen as being approved by individual Members of that Working Group. See section 5.1 for more details of the Working Group’s views.
- 4.4 The Council-CMAP is the first step for the Council towards delivering its carbon commitment and also for the Council to work with the whole City to reduce emissions. It will be important to keep the Working Group's terms of reference under review so it remains able to lead and help drive forward the next phase of work in 2020.
- 4.5 The Council-CMAP has been broadly structured around an ‘old’ CMAP the council had several years ago, which was developed with the Carbon Trust. Officers have been advised that, whilst 10 years old, that original CMAP remained broadly suitable for development of a new Council-CMAP, thus saving time and resource in setting up a bespoke new template.
- 4.6 The CMAP has four main sections:
- A summary, setting out the top 20 ‘pledges’ or actions for 2020/21.
 - A chapter setting out the current ‘baseline’ position, in terms of carbon emissions arising from both citywide and Council activities, where they are quantifiable.
 - A chapter setting out proposed actions, both short and more medium term.
 - A chapter setting out how the actions within the document could be funded.
- 4.7 By way of headlines, the Council-CMAP calculates that the Council currently emits around 11,549 tonnes of CO₂e per year. However, despite broadly following best practice in terms of making that calculation, it is important to acknowledge that such a figure does not include some major other sources of emissions, for example, emissions arising through its farm estates (principally CO₂e losses through degradation of peat soils), emissions arising through the treatment of domestic waste and emissions arising via ‘embodied energy’ in all the things the council buys (such as office equipment, new vehicles, etc). The latter could easily double the true quantity of emissions arising from the council’s operations, whilst the former could dwarf both figures. In the opposite direction, the headline figure above also does not include any ‘carbon off-setting’ which the council achieves through its tree stock. These will all be important matters to reflect on as we continue to hunt out our true climate impact and make decisions to truly cut our net carbon emissions to zero by 2030 (as committed by council to do so).

- 4.8 The summary section of ‘top 20’ pledges is perhaps the most useful ‘snapshot’ of what the council intends to do over the coming year, and has been written in as simple language as is practicable to aid communications and understanding. The main part of the Council-CMAP can, admittedly but necessarily, become somewhat technical in nature.
- 4.9 Cabinet is asked to consider the attached Council-CMAP. If supportive, it is recommended to recommend the Council-CMAP for adoption by Council on 4 March 2019.
- 4.10 **4 March – climate action day**
As supported by the Member Working Group, it is proposed that 4 March 2020, the day Council is asked to adopt the Council-CMAP, is designated as a ‘climate action day’ whereby the council encourages staff and residents to do their ‘extra bit’ to reduce their carbon impact on that day, with the hope that if someone reduces their impact on one day, then they might be persuaded to repeat such an exercise more frequently.
- 4.11 In future years, the intention is for the 4th March to be both a celebration of successes in the previous year, and another push for people to again do something different on that day to minimise their impact.
- 4.12 Whilst a programme of activities and suggestions has not yet been firmed up, examples could be:
- Cycle / walk / bus to work day
 - Lower the heating settings by 1-2C (and wear a jumper (or two!)) (*For PCC, this could be lower the heating in Sand Martin House, or have a ‘cold floor’ and ‘warm floor’ in Sand Martin House, so staff can choose which floor to sit in, and see what the difference is.*)
 - Only buy UK produced food
 - Plant a tree at home
 - Opt for a meat free / dairy free day
 - Throw nothing away for a whole day i.e. don’t purchase or consume anything that comes with waste packaging
 - Don’t travel to any meetings other than by foot, bike or public transport, or instead join meetings by electronic means

5. CONSULTATION

- 5.1 The cross-party Climate Change Member Working Group considered a draft CMAP-Council at its meeting on 9 January 2020. In summary, a good discussion took place and a mix of views were raised, including:
- Notwithstanding the detailed comments below, with one exception, the Climate Change Member Working Group were broadly content for the CMAP-Council to continue to develop and progress to Cabinet and Council. The exception preferred to see a combined council and city wide CMAP, not split plans.
 - Members recognised the volume of work that officers had undertaken in a relatively short period of time in order to produce a plan that allows the Council to begin to get its own house in order and commence a programme of work to measurably reduce carbon emissions. There was recognition that members would like to see this plan go further and include more actions, with the associated budget, to deliver carbon reduction initiatives sooner. Officers advised that this plan allowed the Council to begin its Carbon Management journey and that an updated version of this plan would be produced within 12 months that would detail reductions achieved and further projects that could be brought forward.
 - Some members of the group felt that the scope of the CMAP was too limited and that this document should not be presented to Cabinet until such a time that it can comprehensively take account of emissions and actions at a citywide scale. Officers advised that this plan commits the Council to producing four further plans; one to deliver action on a city scale (District-CMAP); one for schools (Schools-CMAP); one for Parish

Councils (Parish-CMAP) and one detailing how the Council will adapt to the inevitable changes climate change will bring. To hold off until all of these plans were ready would delay essential action to deliver projects that can save carbon now.

- Some members felt that the decision taken by officers to exclude emissions arising from the treatment of domestic waste was not appropriate and that it should be included in this CMAP. Officers advised that these emissions would be fully captured in the District-CMAP as officers considered domestic waste to be a resource of the area and not the Council.
- In order to achieve meaningful action, one member said the Council should commit now to a quantified programme of tree planting in order to offset emissions urgently. Officers advised that this plan does include a commitment to 'Continuing to plant new trees on its own land (and encourage others to do likewise), thus capturing (or 'sequestering') carbon from the atmosphere. The Council will also work with Peterborough Environment City Trust (PECT) to determine whether a local carbon off-setting programme can be put in place, to fully take account of the carbon savings from tree planting'. Further commitments to tree planting across the city, undertaken by a wide range of stakeholders including the Council, will be included in the CMAP—district wide.
- The Group, having considered options, recommends to Cabinet and Council, that rather than a climate change citizen assembly be set up, as advocated in the motion, that resources be utilised in a different way to engage the public and stakeholders (the CMAP-Council attached reflects this view).
- Endorsed the principle of March 4th being a climate action day.

5.2 Other than internal staff consultation, no other direct consultation on the CMAP has been undertaken. However, a variety of external consultation and engagement has been undertaken with a wide range of stakeholders since the climate emergency was declared, and such conversations have, indirectly, influenced what the CMAP contains.

5.3 Moving forward, it is anticipated that wide ranging consultation will take place on various matters relating to the climate emergency declaration, and therefore the Council-CMAP will form a key part of that conversation. Thus, whilst the Council-CMAP is not intended to be issued for the purpose of public consultation before adoption, it is intended that the CMAP be regularly (annually) updated and adopted by Council, and each revised version being influenced by the engagement and consultation that has taken place between updates.

6. ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES OR IMPACT

6.1 It is anticipated that Cabinet will endorse the attached Council-CMAP and recommend it to Council for adoption.

7. REASON FOR THE RECOMMENDATION

7.1 The council has already committed to the principle of preparing an 'Action Plan' by March 2020 (via the unanimously agreed Motion of July 2019). The precise content of such an Action Plan as recommended for approval has been developed by officers, working with the Member Working Group, and has taken account of reasonable and viable options for the council to cut its carbon emissions.

8. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

8.1 The option of not preparing an Action Plan is dismissed, because Council has already committed in principle to its preparation.

Alternative content within the Action Plan could have been prepared and recommended, which could have committed more, less or different projects to reduce the council's carbon emissions. However, in order to start to reduce our emissions to net-zero by 2030, yet take account of the resources available, the content of the action plan is deemed a reasonable and practical set of actions, especially for the next 12 months.

9. IMPLICATIONS

Financial Implications

- 9.1 Directly, the decision to adopt this Council-CMAP has no financial implications. However, it is stating that a number of activities will take place over the coming 12 months, some of which will have a financial cost. The implementation of each such activity will be subject to separate decision making processes, to ensure value for money etc. Capital funding of £100k will be made available in 2020/21 to support the delivery of the plan. Other sources of funding will be a mix of existing budgets and external grants (where feasible). Options will also be explored with other local authorities, the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authorities Parish Councils and other partners.

Legal Implications

- 9.2 There is no legal requirement to produce a Council-CMAP, and no legal requirement for the council to hit specific carbon saving targets. However, the council is under a general duty to have regard to the environment in all decisions it makes, and national government has set a legally binding target to reduce national carbon emissions to net-zero by 2050.

Equalities Implications

- 9.3 There are no known implications, positive or negative

Carbon Impact Assessment

- 9.4 Overall the Council-CMAP is expected to have a positive impact on the Council's emissions and its ability to achieve net-zero carbon emissions by 2030. There are a number of projects contained within the plan that are expected to directly reduce emissions alongside a process whereby further projects will be brought forward on a case by case basis. The plan also commits to the development of further plans which will support emissions reductions across the city.

10. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Used to prepare this report, in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

- 10.1 *Motion approved available via the Minutes of July 2019 meeting, available here:*
<https://democracy.peterborough.gov.uk/documents/g4347/Printed%20minutes%2024th-Jul-2019%2018.00%20Council.pdf?T=1&txtonly=1>

11. APPENDICES

- 11.1 Nil

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