

CABINET	AGENDA ITEM No. 5
14 MARCH 2022	PUBLIC REPORT

Report of:	Adrian Chapman, Executive Director Place & Economy, Peterborough City Council	
Cabinet Member(s) responsible:	Cllr Nigel Simons, Cabinet Member for Waste, Street Scene and the Environment	
Contact Officer(s):	Hannah Swinburne, Principal Climate Change Officer	Tel. 01733 453479

2022 Council Climate Change Action Plan
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RECOMMENDATIONS	
FROM: Cabinet Member for Waste, Street Scene and the Environment	Deadline date: N/A
<p>It is recommended that Cabinet:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Endorses the Council Climate Change Action Plan and recommends to Council that it adopts the Council Climate Change Action Plan. 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 documents associated with this report prior to publication, provided such amendments do not materially amend the content of the documents. 	

1. ORIGIN OF REPORT

1.1 The report is submitted to Cabinet and presents details of the Council's response to the climate emergency. The Council's climate change action plan follows the commitment to present an annual update on the Council's greenhouse gas emissions and the plans to meet our target of becoming a net-zero Council by 2030.

2. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT

2.1 The purpose of this report is to:

- 1) seek Cabinet endorsement of a Council Climate Change Action Plan and seek Cabinet approval to recommend the Council Climate Change Action Plan to Council for adoption.
- 2) seek approval to delegate authority to the Executive Director for Place and Economy to undertake any presentational, factual or other minor amendments to the documents associated with this report prior to publication, provided such amendments do not materially amend the content of the documents.

2.2 This report is for Cabinet to consider under its Terms of Reference No. 3.2.9, '... [To make] recommendations to Council about proposed changes to the Council's major policy and budget framework.'

3. TIMESCALES

Is this a Major Policy Item/Statutory Plan?	YES	If yes, date for Cabinet meeting	14 March 2022
Date for relevant Council meeting	June 2022	Date for submission to Government Dept. <i>(Please specify which Government Dept.)</i>	N/A

4. BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 On 24 July 2019, Full Council declared a climate emergency, the council then approved and adopted the first council carbon management action plan in March 2020. Council agreed to update this action plan annually. This report is the 3rd edition of a climate change action plan to reduce emissions across the council.

4.2 ***Council Climate Change Action Plan (Appendix 1)***

4.2.1 The 2022 Climate Change Action Plan is an update to the 2021 Council Carbon Management Action Plan. It details the council's emissions produced in the financial year 2020/21, provides a progress update on commitments made within the previous version of the action plan and makes commitments for the upcoming year.

4.2.2 The council's carbon footprint for the year 2020/21 was 14,789 tonnes CO_{2e}. This is a significant increase on the council's carbon footprint from 2019/20. The largest contributor to this increase is the new inclusion of emissions from materials and sub-contractors within the Peterborough Highways Services contract. The increased carbon footprint is due to improved data collection rather than worse environmental impacts. Should the procured emissions be omitted, as was the case in the previous year's carbon footprint, there would have been a 917 tonne CO_{2e} decrease in emissions from 2019/20 and a 2,911 tonne CO_{2e} decrease in emissions from the baseline year 2018/19. This is partially explained by a decrease in the carbon factor of the national electricity grid. It should also be acknowledged that the 2020/21 year saw disruption to ways of working, closures of buildings and likely increased heating demands from buildings that required increased ventilation. Therefore, observations seen here may not be representative of future emissions.

4.2.3 In April 2020, the council started to purchase electricity using a green electricity tariff for the majority of electricity meters. The green tariff electricity is certified by Ofgem under the Renewable Energy Guarantee of Origin scheme. The electricity purchased under this tariff can be matched to zero carbon renewable sources, and this reduction in emissions can be considered to calculate the net emissions of the council. The council's net carbon footprint is 12,076 tonnes CO_{2e}.

4.2.4 This analysis allows the climate change programme to focus on prioritising the decarbonisation of our largest emitting activities.

4.2.5 The action plan features 25 commitments to reduce carbon emissions in 2022: with major activities in embedding climate change consideration into service design, low carbon fuel and setting low carbon materials as default choices within the council's highways contract.

4.2.6 The commitments contained in the action plan require no additional funding and can be completed within existing staffing resource.

4.2.7 Cabinet is asked to consider the attached Council Climate Change Action Plan. If supportive, Cabinet may recommend the document for adoption by Council in June 2022.

5. CONSULTATION

- 5.1 The cross-party Climate Change Working Group discussed the recommendations made by the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Independent Commission on Climate as well as proposals suggested by officers and elected members. These discussions resulted in the development of 25 unanimously supported climate change actions for inclusion in the Council Climate Change Action Plan. A draft of the Council Climate Change Action Plan was shared with the Climate Change Working Group and discussed at its meeting in February.

Members of the Climate Change Working Group made the following recommendations:

- 1) Members of the working group unanimously recommend that Cabinet endorses the council climate change action plan and recommend that Council adopts the action plan.

6. ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES OR IMPACT

- 6.1 It is anticipated that Cabinet will endorse the attached Council Climate Change Action Plan and recommend it to Council for adoption.

7. REASON FOR THE RECOMMENDATION

- 7.1 The Council has previously committed to the actions of preparing an updated Council Climate Change Action Plan.

The document for consideration has been developed by officers, working with the Climate Change 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 *Council-CMAP*

The option of not preparing a Council Change 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 for the next 12 months.

9. IMPLICATIONS

Financial Implications

- 9.1 The commitments contained in the action plan require no additional funding and can be completed within existing staffing resource.

Legal Implications

- 9.2 There is no legal requirement to produce a Council Climate Change Action Plan and there is no legal requirement for the council to achieve 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 The council climate change action plan contains 25 commitments to reduce the council's carbon emissions. The action plan contains no activities which will increase carbon emissions. Activities listed in the plan are expected to reduce carbon emissions from transport, purchases and waste and increase carbon capture through tree planting. There are a number of commitments which aim to empower staff and councillors to develop carbon reduction projects. Additional projects will likely be brought forward which have not yet been identified.

10. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

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

- 10.1 Peterborough City Council's declaration of a climate emergency, July 2019
Council Carbon Management Action Plan, March 2020
Council Carbon Management Action Plan, March 2021

11. APPENDICES

- 11.1 Appendix 1: Council Climate Change Action Plan 2022