

CABINET	AGENDA ITEM No. 8
18 NOVEMBER 2019	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):	Richard Kay – Head of Sustainable Growth Strategy Charlotte Palmer – Group Manager Transport and Environment	Tel. 863795 Tel. 453538

CROSS PARTY CLIMATE CHANGE MEMBER WORKING GROUP

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: N/A
<p>It is recommended that Cabinet:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Notes the Actions taken to date in respect of meeting the Climate Change Motion passed by Council on 24 July 2019. Agrees to the setting up of a cross party Climate Change Member Working Group, in accordance with the Terms of Reference set out at Appendix A. 	

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 main purpose of this report is to seek approval from Cabinet for the setting up of a cross-party Climate Change Member Working Group, with the purpose of that Group to help the Council formulate proposals, and monitor actions, in relation to the recently declared 'climate emergency'.
- 2.2 The report also takes the opportunity to update Cabinet on actions delivered to date, since the declaration.
- 2.3 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 well-being of the area."

3. TIMESCALES

Is this a Major Policy Item/Statutory Plan?	NO	If yes, date for Cabinet meeting	N/A
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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 also agreed a number of specific actions which should take place.
- 4.3 Whilst part of the purpose of this Report is to provide an update on progress with meeting the Motion, one of the clear outcomes to date as a consequence of officers commencing actions to meet the Motion, is that it has become apparent that a new Member Working Group would be extremely beneficial, so as to create a forum for Members to debate and recommend how the council should respond to the Motion in the most effective and timely way possible.
- 4.4 **Progress to date**
- We have commenced the process of developing a Carbon Management Plan for the Council's activities including identifying key officers who will support the process. This document will detail the Council's emission scope, baseline carbon emissions and actions that could be undertaken to reduce emissions to net zero by 2030. It is intended that this document will progress through the relevant democratic processes ahead of consideration by Full Council in March 2020.
- 4.5 A trial is underway so that going forward all decisions taken by the Council will be subject to a Carbon Impact Assessment (CIA). This involves lead officers undertaking a review of their project/decision and considering what impact it will have on the Council's target to achieve net-zero carbon emissions. A summary of their CIA will be included in the governing report with the full assessment available on request.
- 4.6 Our Communications and Marketing team are in the process of developing an interim communications and marketing plan. This is likely to include activities such as:
- Updating the Council's website to provide details of the Motion and links to further information to support residents wishing to take direct action themselves.
 - Coordinating a series of 'lunch n learns' for Council staff and Members. This involves showing a short topical film and then hosting a brief discussion about the implications and where feasible actions that the Council could take to address the film subject.
 - Meeting with the 'Change Champions' and discussing ideas for how they could lead this change across the organisation.
- 4.7 Officers have met with local representatives of Extinction Rebellion and due to meet with Peterborough in Transition amongst others. We have also attended a meeting of the Youth Council and agreed that this should remain a standing monthly item on their agenda. In November we will undertake a personal carbon footprint exercise so that they can each understand their personal impacts and ways in which this can be reduced.
- 4.8 The Council has amended the response it made to the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authorities (CPCA) Local Transport Plan consultation as a result of this Motion. Amongst other things the response called upon the CPCA to follow the Councils lead and declare an emergency.
- 4.9 The Council's Minerals and Waste Local Plan was also adjusted in a number of ways, prior to it receiving support at both Cabinet (September) and Full Council (October).
- 4.10 We are working across borders, in particular with Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC), where sharing of resources and expertise is already taking place across a wide range of functions. CCC similarly declared a climate emergency earlier in 2019. The joint Director for Economy and Place, Steve Cox, has been given responsibility to coordinate actions to deliver both climate emergency declarations, thus ensuring a joined-up approach will take place across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.
- 4.11 **Proposed Climate Change Member Working Group**

The Motion put forward by the Leader of the Council was supported unanimously by Members of Full Council. In introducing the Motion, the Leader made it clear that he sought cross-party support for the Motion. In that same spirit, it is recommended that a cross-party Working Group be set up, with representation on it drawn equally from all parties.

4.12 The Working Group would not be decision making. Instead, it would receive regular updates and options from officers (and potentially external bodies on an invite basis), with the aim of reaching a consensus as to how the council should move forward to meet the challenges set by the Motion. Where decisions are needed arising from the Working Group, then these would be met via the normal existing channels (such as Cabinet and Full Council), with the ability for a Scrutiny Committee to scrutinise such decisions as considered necessary.

4.13 Meetings would be on an as required basis, but probably held once every two months. The first meeting is scheduled for late November, provided Cabinet approve the recommendations as presented today. That first meeting intends to:

- Establish the detailed working of the Group, based on the Terms of Reference approved by Cabinet today.
- Consider an informal 'working strategy', which provides proposed actions coming up over the coming months.
- Considers an early 'skeleton' of what a Carbon Management Action Plan should contain (such an Action Plan being required by the Motion to be presented to Full Council on 4 March 2020)
- Provide guidance on the setting up of city-wide Partnership Group and Citizens Assembly, both of which were actions required by the Motion.
- Receive information on presently available baseline data, so that Members can see areas of potentially greatest impact.

4.14 Future meetings will very much depend on the evolution of the programme, but in essence the Working Group would be expected to consider the evidence which is gathered, consider options for action and make recommendations accordingly. The Group would also review whether actions proposed have taken place and have had the desired effect.

4.15 It is possible that, on occasions, a joint meeting with a similar Member Working Group of Cambridgeshire County Council could take place, to share best practice and consider whether any joint actions would deliver more effective results.

4.16 A proposed Terms of Reference is set out at Appendix A.

5. CONSULTATION

5.1 The purpose of this report and recommendation is to form part of a wider package of 'consultation' arrangements that are being put in place to meet the requirements set out by the Motion. No specific consultation has yet taken place. The Working Group will have an important role to guide the form and timing of consultation.

6. ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES OR IMPACT

6.1 It is anticipated that Cabinet will approve the setting up of the Working Group, and in so doing so will assist in the delivery of actions required by the 'climate emergency declaration' Motion approved by Full Council.

7. REASON FOR THE RECOMMENDATION

7.1 The setting up of a Working Group will greatly assist Member engagement on delivering the unanimously agreed Motion of this Council, and will help ensure officers, working with Members, deliver the most effective package of measures to meet the requirements of the Motion.

8. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 8.1 The alternative of not setting up a Working Group has been rejected because to do so would limit the ability of Members of all parties to engage in a collaborative way to help deliver the Motion. By declaring an 'emergency', this implies time is of the essence, whereas a lack of a Working Group could slow down consideration of proposals and options.

9. IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 **Financial Implications.** On the basis that the Working Group has no decision making powers, there are no direct financial implications arising from the recommendations. Members (and officers) which sit on the Group will not be entitled to any form of additional allowance or remuneration.
- 9.2 **Legal Implications.** On the basis that the Working Group has no decision-making powers, there are no direct legal implications arising from the recommendations.
- 9.3 **Equalities Implications.** On the basis that the Working Group has no decision-making powers, there are no direct legal implications arising from the recommendations.
- 9.4 **Climate Change Implications.** Slightly negative impact - but this is outweighed by the positive action of the Working Group that it is hoped will facilitate the progression of actions which will, directly or indirectly, have the intention of positive implications on climate change.

10. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

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

- 10.1 Minutes of Full Council on 24 July 2019:
<https://democracy.peterborough.gov.uk/documents/g4347/Printed%20minutes%2024th-Jul-2019%2018.00%20Council.pdf?T=1>

11. APPENDICES

- 11.1 Appendix A – Proposed Terms of Reference for the Climate Change Member Working Group