

|                         |                             |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>CABINET</b>          | <b>AGENDA ITEM No. 6</b>    |
| <b>23 FEBRUARY 2021</b> | <b>SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT</b> |

|                                |  |                  |
|--------------------------------|--|------------------|
| Report of:                     | Steve Cox, Executive Director Place & Economy, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough |                  |
| Cabinet Member(s) responsible: | Cllr Marco Cereste, Cabinet Member for Waste, Street Scene and the Environment |                  |
| Contact Officer(s):            | Charlotte Palmer - Group Manager Highways and Transport                        | Tel.01733 453538 |

## **PETERBOROUGH CITY COUNCIL'S RESPONSE TO THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY, 2021**

| <b>RECOMMENDATIONS</b>   |   |
|--|---|
| <b>FROM:</b> Cabinet Member for Waste, Street Scene and the Environment  | <b>Deadline date:</b> Full Council - 3 March 2021 |
| <p>It is recommended that Cabinet:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Endorses the Council's Carbon Management Action Plan (CMAP) and recommends to Council that it adopts the Council-CMAP at its meeting on 3 March 2021.</li> <li>2. Notes the Council's intention to commence a period of public engagement to ascertain actions that should be included within a City-wide Carbon Management Action Plan which will be presented to Council by December 2021.</li> <li>3. Supports the work of the Climate Change Cross Party Working Group to identify mechanisms to enable the Council to significantly increase tree canopy cover across the city over the next ten years and to present detailed proposals within a maximum 12 months detailing how this can be achieved.</li> <li>4. 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.</li> </ol> |   |

### **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 carbon management 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. The report details the Council's intention to engage the public in the development of a City-wide carbon management action plan, as decided by Council in March 2020. The trees related recommendation is brought to Cabinet following the Council's instruction (in October 2020) to conduct an audit of Council owned land and produce a revised tree planting target by March 2021.

### **2. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT**

2.1 The purpose of this report is to:

1) 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) seek Cabinet endorsement to commence a period of public engagement to ascertain actions that should be included within a new City-wide Carbon Management Action Plan which will be presented to Council in December 2021.

3) support the work of the Climate Change Cross Party Working Group to identify mechanisms to enable the Council to significantly increase tree canopy cover across the city over the next ten years and to present detailed proposals within a maximum of 12 months detailing how this can be achieved.

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? | <b>YES</b>          | If yes, date for Cabinet meeting   | <b>23 February 2021</b> |
| Date for relevant Council meeting           | <b>3 March 2021</b> | Date for submission to Government Dept. <i>(Please specify which Government Dept.)</i> | <b>N/A</b>              |

### 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-CMAP in March 2020. Council agreed to update this action plan annually and create a city-wide carbon management action plan. This report delivers on the first of these commitments and provides details of how the second will be undertaken.

4.1.2 In October 2020, Full Council instructed the cross-party Climate Change working group and relevant officers to research and recommend much more ambitious tree planting targets for planting on Council land. This report details proposals for the next steps required to achieve this

#### ***Council-CMAP (Appendix 1)***

#### 4.2

The Council-CMAP (2021) is an update to the first Council-CMAP approved and adopted in March 2020. It details the Council's emissions produced in the financial year 2019-2020 and discusses projects which aim to achieve further decarbonisation.

#### 4.2.1

The CMAP introduces 21 commitments for 2021; with major activities in engagement, procurement and decarbonisation of our buildings and vehicles.

#### 4.2.2

4.2.3 Using the methodology created previously, it was calculated that the Council emitted 9,613 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e in the year 2019/20; this is a 17% reduction from the 2018/19 baseline. The decrease is due to decarbonisation of the national electricity grid and reduced consumption, largely owing to efficiencies in building space and street lighting programmes. Emissions from our street lighting reduced by 32.5% from the previous financial year. This analysis allows the climate change programme to focus on prioritising the decarbonisation of our largest emitters.

4.2.4 The Council has already committed to delivering a number of projects to reduce the Council's carbon footprint, which we hope to expand over the following year/s. These include the street light dimming programme and engagement with staff and councillors. In the future the Council proposes projects such as exploring the opportunities to reduce carbon emissions within Council-owned buildings, engagement with our tenant farmers, leasing of the Town Hall building, reviewing options for a low carbon gas tariff and supporting Skanska, Aragon and NPS to adopt low carbon practices. From April 2021, the local highway Services contract with Skanska will be delivered by M Group. The current contract will transfer and therefore it is not anticipated that any of these elements will change significantly.

4.2.5 The action plan details financing options that will be explored as well as the steps involved with project identification, initiation, monitoring and reporting. The paper finishes by discussing the methods of engagement with various stakeholders.

4.2.6 Cabinet is asked to consider the attached Council-CMAP. If supportive, Cabinet may recommend the Council-CMAP for adoption by Council on 3 March 2021.

### 4.3 ***Draft City-wide CMAP***

4.3.1 Every resident, business, organisation and community group will need to play a role in supporting Peterborough to become a net-zero carbon city. The Climate Change Working Group have established a detailed breakdown of local emissions, generating an understanding of areas where actions will be needed in order to achieve the net-zero target.

4.3.2 The Working Group have also identified a number of potential activities individuals can take to reduce their own carbon footprint as well as existing projects being delivered by the Council. The Working Group have also identified a number of ideas for potential city-wide projects that could be undertaken. This work provides the background for engagement with local partners, to ensure that local expertise and views are reflected in emerging plans.

4.3.3 A collaborative approach to developing Peterborough's finalised carbon management action plan will ensure that it is owned by everyone in the city. As such Officers intend to commence a period of public engagement to capture local ideas ahead of developing a City-CMAP, by December 2021, that will include a roadmap to net-zero carbon with projects costed and assessed for their potential impact on carbon savings. Once the City-CMAP is created, it will be brought to Council to be formally adopted. The City-CMAP will be updated with new projects and the latest emissions data to track our progress in the future.

4.3.4 Cabinet is asked to note the Council's intention to commence a period of public engagement ahead of the production of a City-CMAP by December 2021.

### 4.4 ***Tree planting motion***

4.4.1 At a meeting of Full Council in October 2020, Council instructed the cross-party Climate Change working group and relevant officers to:

*"1. Carry out an audit of council owned land in the city to identify possible planting opportunities*

*2. Research and recommend much more ambitious tree planting targets for planting on Council land and to submit to Full Council not later than March 2021 amendments to the Trees and Woodland Strategy and the Carbon Management Plan to include the proposed new targets."*

4.4.2 Unfortunately there was insufficient time and resources to conduct an audit of Council owned land and speak to relevant external experts in the time frame set by Council. As such the Working Group seek the support of Cabinet to undertake further work to identify mechanisms to enable

the Council to significantly increase tree canopy cover across the city over the next ten years and to present detailed proposals within a maximum 12 months detailing how this can be achieved.

## 5. CONSULTATION

5.1 *The Council carbon management action plan, proposals for development of a City-wide carbon management action plan and considerations following the tree planting motion were taken to the cross-party Climate Change working group on the 18<sup>th</sup> January and 16<sup>th</sup> February 2021. The Councillors made the following recommendations:*

*1) Council carbon management action plan – This paper was unanimously supported by the Climate Change working group.*

*2) City-wide carbon management action plan – The working group unanimously support the proposal to commence a period of public engagement ahead of developing a City-CMAP, by December 2021, that will include a roadmap to net-zero carbon with projects costed and assessed for their potential impact on carbon savings.*

*3) Tree planting targets – The working group unanimously support the proposal to undertake further work to identify mechanisms to enable the Council to significantly increase tree canopy cover across the city over the next ten years and to present detailed proposals within a maximum 12 months detailing how this can be achieved.*

## 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, support the proposal to commence a period of public engagement to develop a City-CMAP to enable wider engagement to take place and endorse the proposed further work of the Working Group to significantly increase tree canopy cover across the city over the next ten years.

## 7. REASON FOR THE RECOMMENDATION

7.1 The Council has previously committed to the actions of preparing an updated Council-CMAP and preparing a City-CMAP. Council requested that officers and the cross-party Climate Change working group present an updated tree planting target.

The document for consideration 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 **Council-CMAP**

The option of not preparing a Council Carbon Management 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.

### **Draft City-CMAP**

The option of not preparing a City-wide Carbon Management Action Plan is dismissed, because Council has already committed to its preparation.

An alternative option would be to present a draft plan to Council for consideration but this has been ruled out in favour of prioritising public engagement to ensure that the emerging plan captures the views of local people.

### **Trees Motion**

Whilst it is feasibly possible to present a revised target there has not been sufficient time to comprehensively undertake this work and therefore it is recommended that this is undertaken before a target is presented.

## **9. IMPLICATIONS**

### **Financial Implications**

- 9.1 The decision to adopt the Council-CMAP and commence public engagement to develop a City-CMAP has no financial implications. However, the Council-CMAP 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. 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 or City-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 Carbon Impact Assessments have been produced for the Council CMAP: All projects with defined outcomes have, or will have, project specific CIAs completed and approved. It is therefore expected that the action plan itself will have no direct impact on carbon emissions. For those projects in areas such as engagement, education and data collection where outcomes on the environment are less well defined, the development of a CIA is not considered appropriate.

## **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-CMAP, March 2020  
Trees Motion, October 2020

## **11. APPENDICES**

- 11.1 *Appendix 1: Council-CMAP 2021*

This page is intentionally left blank