

<b>CABINET</b>	<b>AGENDA ITEM No. 8</b>
<b>20 SEPTEMBER 2022</b>	<b>PUBLIC REPORT</b>

Report of:	Adrian Chapman, Executive Director Place & Economy	
Cabinet Member(s) responsible:	Cllr Marco Cereste, Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Planning, Housing and Transport	
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## **CLOSURE OF THE CLIMATE CHANGE WORKING GROUP AND THE CYCLING AND WALKING WORKING GROUP**

<b>RECOMMENDATIONS</b>	
<b>FROM:</b> Climate Change and Environment Scrutiny Committee	<b>Deadline date:</b> N/A
<p>It is recommended that Cabinet:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Agree to close the Climate Change Working Group</li> <li>2. Agree to close the Cycling and Walking Working Group</li> </ol>	

### **1. ORIGIN OF REPORT**

- 1.1 The Climate Change and Environment Scrutiny Committee resolved to recommend to Cabinet to close the existing Climate Change Working Group and also resolved to recommend to Cabinet to close the Cycling and Walking Working Group.

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

- 2.1 The Climate Change and Environment Scrutiny Committee has recently been established. This report seeks support to close the Climate Change Working Group, to ensure duplication does not occur. The report also seeks support to close the Cycling and Walking Working Group as the Climate Change and Environment Scrutiny Committee agreed the formation of a time-limited cross party Cycling and Walking Scrutiny Task and Finish Group. The Task and Finish Group will now aid the development of the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan as well as a rural cycling strategy. Closure of the Cycling and Walking Working Group will ensure that duplication of work does not occur.
- 2.2 This report is for Cabinet to consider under its Terms of Reference No. 3.2.7, '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?	<b>No</b>	If yes, date for Cabinet meeting	<b>N/A</b>
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### **4. BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES**

- 4.1 The Climate Change Working Group was established by Cabinet in November 2019 in response to the Council declaring a climate emergency. It was set up with the purpose of aiding greater understanding of the key issues which the council must consider, and the reasonable options that exist to address those issues.

The Climate Change Working Group has performed some key roles in its co-development and scrutiny of each of the council's annual climate change action plans. This steer was invaluable in strengthening the commitments recommended for adoption and ensuring cross-party support.

The Climate Change Working Group have also discussed and subsequently given policy steers on many topics including tree planting, the Council's approach to electric vehicle charging infrastructure and regional transport policies.

In recognition that climate change is one of the Council's key priorities, a Climate Change and Environment Scrutiny Committee has been established to, amongst other items, ensure that delivery of the climate change programme is scrutinised. It is proposed that the Climate Change Working Group should cease, to ensure that efforts are not duplicated between the two groups.

Following discussion at the Climate Change and Environment Scrutiny Committee, it was resolved to recommend to Cabinet that the Climate Change Working Group is closed.

- 4.2 In 2017, the Government published its first Cycling and Walking Investment Strategy. Within the strategy, Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans (LCWIPs) were outlined as a new, strategic approach to identifying cycling and walking improvements required at the local level. They enable a long-term approach to developing local cycling and walking networks, ideally over a 10-year period, and form a vital part of the Government's strategy to increase the number of trips made on foot or by cycle.

While the preparation of LCWIPs is non-mandatory, Local Authorities who have LCWIPs will be well placed to make the case for future investment.

At the Cabinet meeting held on 12 July 2021, it was agreed to form a cross-party Cycling and Walking Working Group to support the development of the LCWIP for Peterborough. A meeting was held on 29 March 2022. Terms of Reference and Governance for the Working Group were discussed and agreed.

At the Climate Change and Environment Scrutiny Committee Annual Work Programming meeting, it was recommended that the cross-party Cycling and Walking Working Group should cease. It was recommended that a cross-party Cycling and Walking Task and Finish Group is formed in its place to support the development of the LCWIP and associated rural cycling strategy. Both projects are definitive pieces of work, and therefore a Task and Finish Group is considered a more suitable method for members to support and input into these projects.

The Climate Change and Environment Scrutiny Committee resolved to establish a time-limited cross party Cycling and Walking Scrutiny Task and Finish Group. The Scrutiny Committee also resolved to recommend that Cabinet closes the Cycling and Walking Working Group, as the tasks of aiding the development of the LCWIP and a rural cycle strategy will now be completed by the Task and Finish Group.

## **5. CONSULTATION**

- 5.1 The Climate Change and Environment Scrutiny Committee discussed the proposal to close the Climate Change Working Group and resolved to support its closure. The Scrutiny Committee also resolved to ask Cabinet to close the Cycling and Walking Working Group.

## **6. ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES OR IMPACT**

- 6.1 It is anticipated that Cabinet supports the recommendation from the Climate Change and Environment Scrutiny Committee to close the Climate Change Working Group.

It is anticipated that Cabinet will agree to the closure of the Cycling and Walking Group.

## **7. REASON FOR THE RECOMMENDATION**

- 7.1 It is recommended that the Climate Change Working Group close as the function will now be covered by the newly established Climate Change and Environment Scrutiny Committee. It is recommended that the Cycling and Walking Working Group close, as the function will now be covered by the newly established Cycling and Walking Task and Finish Group.

## **8. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 8.1 The alternative option is to not cease the Climate Change Working Group, however this was rejected as this would lead to duplication between the working group and scrutiny committee.

The alternative option is not to cease the Cycling and Walking Working Group. The time-limited Task and Finish group was resolved to be the most appropriate mechanism to discuss the LCWIP and rural cycling strategy by the Climate Change and Environment Scrutiny Committee. Beyond these projects, there are no future programme of projects that will require input from a working group and so it is proposed that Cabinet close the Cycling and Walking Working Group.

## **9. IMPLICATIONS**

### **Financial Implications**

- 9.1 There are no financial implications.

### **Legal Implications**

- 9.2 There are no legal implications.

### **Equalities Implications**

- 9.3 There are no equalities implications.

### **Carbon Impact Assessment**

- 9.4 There are no carbon impacts associated with this proposal. The Climate Change and Environment Scrutiny Committee will continue to scrutinise climate change activities, thus ensuring that the climate change programme continues to be held to account. The Cycling and Walking Task and Finish Group will work on the development of the LCWIP and rural cycling strategy and so aid the promotion of cycling and walking across the city.

## **10. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

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

- 10.1 Climate Change Working Group Terms of Reference  
[Cabinet paper - establish cross party climate change member working group](#)  
[Cabinet paper – establish cycling and walking member working group](#)  
[Climate Change and Environment Scrutiny Committee report](#)

## **11. APPENDICES**

- 11.1 None.

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