

Extract from the draft minutes of the Cabinet meeting on 29 January 2020

411. Climate Emergency Action Plan

The Assistant Director for Environment submitted a report a copy of which had been circulated to each Member together with the recommendation from the Scrutiny Panel meeting of 28 January 2020.

Rory Doyle, Communities Group Manager, presented the Climate Emergency Action Plan to the Cabinet. He highlighted that the Carbon Trust had praised the Council for its previous track record. The Council had achieved a 40.8% decrease in carbon dioxide emissions since 2008 and reached the target in its 2016-19 Local Authority Carbon Management Plan a year early. The Action Plan incorporated a number of the Carbon Trust's recommendations. It also showed how the Council would work with the local community and other stakeholders to address the Climate Emergency. The Action Plan proposed to aim for a net carbon zero target in respect of emissions within the Council's direct control (Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions) and some Scope 3 emissions. However, it was proposed that the Council should collect available data and measure further relevant Scope 3 emissions, and then report back to Cabinet when this further information was available.

Councillor Davies, Chairman of the Scrutiny Panel, attended and addressed the Cabinet to introduce the recommendations from the Scrutiny Panel. The Panel had stressed the need for the targets in the Action Plan to be measurable. The Panel were also keen to see the introduction of a Supplementary Planning Document that would require the installation of electric vehicle charging points in all new homes, and believed that other authorities had introduced such a policy. The Panel had noted the comments about Leisure World and felt it would be useful to benchmark Leisure World against a similar facility of a similar age. The scale of the change required to deal with the Climate Emergency must not be underestimated and conservation and environmental sustainability issues had to be at the heart of everything the Council did.

Councillor Cory, Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Strategy, thanked the Conservation and Environmental Sustainability Task and Finish Group and officers for their work on the Action Plan. The comments of the Scrutiny Panel in respect of SMART targets would be considered further by the Task and Finish Group when the Action Plan was reviewed. In respect of the installation of electric vehicle charging points, it was not possible to make this mandatory at this stage and the Council's policy was as strong as it could be in the circumstances.

Councillor King, Portfolio Holder for Business and Resources, accepted there was a need for cultural change. However, progress was being made and all decision making reports were now required to address the conservation and environmental sustainability implications of the decision.

RESOLVED that:-

- (a) The findings set out in the Climate Action Planning Report prepared by the Carbon Trust (Appendix A of the Assistant Director's report) be noted.
- (b) The recommendations from the Conservation, Environment and Sustainability Task and Finish Group, as set out below, be approved.
 - (a) *The Climate Emergency Action Plan be approved, subject to the inclusion and clarification of Scope 3 elements to the section entitled "Scope of the Carbon Emission Target".*
 - (b) *The Climate Emergency Action Plan be kept under review and that the Council commit to a target in respect of additional Scope 3 emissions once measurement of this wider carbon footprint has been undertaken.*
- (c) The Climate Emergency Action Plan be *RECOMMENDED* to COUNCIL to note in accordance with terms of the motion on the Climate Emergency agreed in July 2019.
- (d) The recommendations from the Scrutiny Panel be noted.

REASONS

The Council has declared a climate emergency in recognition of the urgent need to take action to address global warming and the crisis being created by unavoidable climate change.

In declaring a climate emergency, the Council has made tackling climate change a New Strategic Priority and our initial Climate Emergency Action Plan (Appendix B) reflects this.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

No alternative options were proposed, but it was open to Cabinet not to approve the recommendations from the Task and Finish Group.