

FAREHAM

BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report to the Executive for Decision 02 March 2020

| | |
|------------------------------|--|
| Portfolio: | Policy and Resources |
| Subject: | Climate Change and Carbon Reduction |
| Report of: | Director of Planning and Regeneration |
| Corporate Priorities: | Protect and Enhance the Environment |

Purpose:

To report to the Executive the scope of the climate change and carbon reduction work to be progressed by the Climate Change Working Group.

Executive summary:

At the 26 September Executive Meeting the Executive Leader pledged the commitment to carbon neutrality by 2030 and established the Climate Change Working Group (CCWG). This report outlines the priorities for the Working Group.

The initial priority will be to quantify the Council's carbon footprint to establish a baseline for the development of the Council's Carbon Reduction Plan.

The Working Group will identify and develop proposals for inclusion within the Plan, reporting to the Council's Policy and Resources Scrutiny Panel, prior to Executive decision.

This paper also seeks approval on the principle of commissioning the Greening Campaign to work with communities. This work enables the community to lead itself in understanding, mitigating and building resilience to climate change.

Approval is requested for the inclusion of climate change and carbon reduction impacts in Committee Reports and Executive Decisions in the new municipal year.

Recommendation:

It is recommended that the Executive notes the content of the report and approves:

- (a) the scope of works to be undertaken on climate change and carbon reduction by the CCWG, as set out in the Executive Briefing Paper;
- (b) the principle of commissioning the Greening Campaign to work with communities within the borough;
- (c) a working budget of £10,000, funded from revenue reserves, to support the work needed to deliver the initial actions and projects proposed; and
- (d) the inclusion of climate change and carbon reduction impacts in Committee Reports and Executive Decisions in the new municipal year.

Reason:

To progress the Council's commitment to carbon neutrality in the delivery of its services by 2030.

Cost of proposals:

To be confirmed once the carbon footprint has been established and a Carbon Reduction Plan has been developed. Further details are set out later in this report.

There will be small scale revenue costs associated with the first actions and projects recommended for the next financial year; for example, the work proposed with the Greening Campaign. Approval of a working budget of £10,000 to cover these costs is therefore requested, funded from revenue reserves.

Appendices:

A: Climate Change Working Group Agreed Terms of Reference

FAREHAM

BOROUGH COUNCIL

Executive Briefing Paper

| | |
|---------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Date: | 02 March 2020 |
| Subject: | Climate Change and Carbon Reduction |
| Briefing by: | Director of Planning and Regeneration |
| Portfolio: | Policy and Resources |

INTRODUCTION

1. The consequences of climate change are gaining traction on the international agenda. The UK is at the forefront of action, hosting COP26 this year and bringing forward change through legislation such as The Climate Change Act (2008). This Act is the basis for the UK's approach to mitigating the effects of climate change, it establishes a framework to reduce carbon emissions by at least 100% of 1990 levels by 2050.
2. At the 26 September Executive Meeting the Executive Leader pledged the commitment to carbon neutrality by 2030 and established a Climate Change Working Group (CCWG).
3. At the 24 October Council Meeting the Executive Member for Streetscene provided an update on the CCWG, outlining the members and the priorities of the group. It was confirmed that the immediate priority will be identification of the Council's carbon footprint before developing a Carbon Reduction Plan for the delivery of the Council's services. The importance of carbon reduction initiatives by other groups in the community was also highlighted as a key area of focus, in relation to the Borough's wider footprint.

PROJECTS TO DATE

4. The Council has a good track record of delivering environmental projects. One of the key projects to date was the review of the Council's use of single use plastics (SUP) and the successful 'Give Plastic the Push' campaign.
5. At its 6th January Meeting, the Executive approved the principle of the detailed design for the remodelled Ferneham Hall. The planning application has now been submitted, detailing designs for thermal efficiency and incorporating green technologies. The approach to the new venue is underpinned by a robust sustainability strategy embracing low & zero carbon technologies to minimise energy use.
6. Individual departments within the Council have also recognised their role in tackling climate change. For example, at the 16th December Executive the Fareham Housing

Greener Policy was approved. The policy sets out the principles of the greener measures that Fareham Housing has already started to deliver such as implementing solar panels in the development at 123 Bridge Road.

7. The Council has delivered several important projects with its partners, the Eastern Solent Coastal Partnership is one such approach. It is a team of specialist coastal officers managing the coastline along the Borough and the length of the three adjacent coastal authorities.
8. In December 2017 the Eastern Solent Coastal Partnership completed a new promenade and replaced the sea wall Hill Head. This project, funded by the Council, was undertaken because of beach erosion and seawall deterioration. The increase in storms in recent years, a feature attributed to climate change, amplified the need for improved sea defences and improve climate resilience.

CLIMATE CHANGE WORKING GROUP

9. At the September Executive meeting the Leader established the CCWG. This Working Group was formed to examine the services across the Council and identify improvements to meet the zero carbon commitment. The members were announced as; the Executive Member for Streetscene, who will lead the Working Group, the Council's Directors and the Head of Streetscene.
10. In January 2020, the Council appointed a Climate Change Officer. The Climate Change Officer will co-ordinate proposed works, undertake any research and act as a bridge between interested parties and the CCWG.

GOVERNANCE

11. Where required, the CCWG will report to the Executive for decisions on the progression, approval, and implementation of the Council's Carbon Reduction Plan. The Council's Policy and Resources Scrutiny Panel will review these reports before they are progressed to the Executive for decision.
12. At the 3 March 2020 meeting, the Resources and Scrutiny Panel will be invited to comment on this Briefing Paper. On this occasion the meeting has been held one day after the Executive Meeting due to the arrangement of the municipal calendar. Members comments will be fully noted.
13. At the 24 October 2019 Council Meeting a Motion was carried setting out a series of aspirations for the CCWG. It was also noted that the CCWG would determine its own terms of reference, objectives and goals, taking into account the aspirations raised. The terms of reference can be found at Appendix A to this report.
14. Any financial, budgetary and resourcing impacts of potential carbon reduction measures within the Council's Carbon Reduction Plan will be included in the reports.

SCOPE

15. The initial priority will be to establish the Council's current carbon footprint. This will enable a 'carbon baseline' against which the impact of carbon reduction actions can be measured. This work is expected to be reported to the Executive by the summer.
16. Once the Council's footprint has been calculated, the CCWG will principally be focused on the preparation of the Council's Carbon Reduction Plan. This plan will set out the

actions and initiatives required so that the Council achieves carbon neutrality by 2030, centred around carbon reduction, elimination and mitigation. Carbon reduction includes actions such as the implementation of energy saving measures. Elimination looks at using renewable energy that does not produce any emissions. Mitigation enhances carbon 'sinks', such as trees or soil, that accumulate and store gases. The Carbon Reduction Plan is expected to be reported to the Executive by the end of the year.

17. Work will also be undertaken with each of the Council's departments to expedite projects already identified and bring forward carbon savings. There will be a review and audit of the Council's position in relation to climate change resilience and adaptation, exploration of partnership working, a drive to improve staff awareness and outlining a consistent approach for the Council services.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

18. A major part of the wider scope will be community engagement. The CCGW will lead on any proposals, seeking views and feedback on the measures to be included in the Council's Carbon Reduction Plan. The Communications Team will be essential in effective community engagement and will play a key part of progression of the plan.
19. As the Council has a prominent community leadership role, the Working Group will also oversee approaches from, and engagement with, business, youth groups and community groups across the Borough. Particular focus will be on their carbon reduction initiatives, but more general climate change matters will also be covered.
20. In order to maximise the potential for carbon savings, other resources will be explored. One option is partnership working with The Greening Campaign across the Borough. The Greening Campaign works with communities to educate and lead themselves to tackle adapting to a changing climate, implement behavioural change and encourage community sustainability. As the neighbourhood is leading itself, the actions are uniquely tailored to the area.
21. The Greening Campaign runs as a long-term project in seven phases. The Greening Campaign has worked with over 200 communities and has pulled together all the lessons learnt to form a support pack available to all who take part.
22. The Greening Project is also working with Hampshire County Council to deliver change across Hampshire as part of their 'Hampshire 2050' vision. HCC works as a facilitator to roll out the campaign and provide infrastructure, where needed. The cost is approximately £300 per authority for the first phase, paid to the Greening Campaign. Should the Council wish to work separately, the cost will be around £2,000 per phase, dependant on the number of campaigns funded.

BEST PRACTICE

23. Other Local Authorities across the country are responding to climate change in a variety of ways. Some have already published a Carbon Reduction Plan and are underway with the actions, others are yet to calculate their carbon footprint. Several authorities have also mooted the inclusion of climate change and carbon reduction impact assessments in Committee Reports, ensuring that the potential effects are understood prior to any decision. The CCWG seeks to include these impact assessments in the new municipal year and will explore other authorities' actions to learn from best practice.
24. The CCWG will be liaising with Hampshire County Council (HCC) as its Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan will cover all of Hampshire. HCC are seeking to identify areas

where they can offer support to Local Authorities, working with them to deliver projects effectively.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

25. There will be small scale revenue costs associated with the first actions and projects recommended for the next financial year; for example, the work proposed with the Greening Campaign. Approval of a working budget of £10,000 to cover these costs is therefore requested, to be funded from revenue reserves. Any further funding resources will be reviewed as part of the revised budget process in the new financial year.
26. There will be further financial implications of carrying out the changes needed to become carbon neutral. These will become clearer once the carbon footprint calculation has been confirmed and a baseline set, and the carbon reduction, elimination and mitigation proposals are understood. Subsequent funding requirements will then be reported to Members for approval. It is expected that grant funding will become available to help Local Authorities meet their commitments. The CCWG will actively explore all funding that becomes available and work with the Council's partners to maximise opportunities.

CONCLUSION

27. Meeting the commitment to carbon neutrality is a priority for the Council. The CCWG has been established to calculate the Council's carbon footprint to inform a Carbon Reduction Plan. The Plan will describe how the Council will become carbon neutral by 2030 through the work with its partners and across its departments.
28. Members are invited to approve the scope of the works and the principle of commissioning the Greening Campaign to work with communities within the Borough.
29. It is recommended that Members approve the inclusion of climate change and carbon reduction impacts in Committee Reports and Executive Decisions in the new municipal year.

Enquiries:

For further information on this report please contact Fleur Allaway (Ext 4303)