



REPORT TO:	ENVIRONMENT AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE
DATE:	26 OCTOBER 2021
SUBJECT:	DRAFT CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY
KEY DECISION:	No
PORTFOLIO HOLDER:	COUNCILLOR PAUL SKINNER
REPORT AUTHOR:	CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENT MANAGER
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	N/A
EXEMPT REPORT?	No

## **SUMMARY**

This report provides background to the accompanying draft Climate Change Strategy for the geographical area covered by the new South and East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership (SELCP). This document is the next step in our Climate Change aspirations, moving beyond the confines of our own carbon footprint and emissions to look at the wider issues for Climate Change in our local communities. South and East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership cannot deliver this strategy in isolation and a new South and East Lincolnshire Climate Action Network (SELCAN) will be established to bring together all relevant partners and ensure delivery at all levels as we work towards a net zero ambition.

Cabinet was asked to agree the draft document to go out for public consultation this autumn, when they met on 20 October.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

Environment and Performance Committee is asked to consider the draft Climate Change Strategy and provide feedback.

## **REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

To ensure Members are familiar with the content of the draft strategy prior to wider stakeholder engagement and to give an early opportunity to provide feedback.

## **OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

None.

## **REPORT**

### **1. Background**

- 1.1. Since establishing Climate Change as a priority within the Corporate Strategy, Boston Borough Council has been working to understand its own impact in terms of carbon emissions and commissioned the Carbon Trust to produce a Carbon Reduction Plan. This is currently in progress and due to be presented to Cabinet in December 2021. As part of that process, the Council has also committed to reduce carbon emissions to net zero in advance of the UK Government whose target is to be net zero by 2050.
- 1.2. The development of a Climate Change Strategy for the Borough as a whole was identified as the next step in the Climate Change and Environment Team work programme to take a wider view.
- 1.3. In 2019, Environment and Performance Committee established the Climate Change Working Group and their resulting nine recommendations were adopted by Council in January 2020. Those recommendations included identifying that a citizen's assembly should be established. Planning is now underway for a Climate Action Network which will take ownership of the Climate Change Strategy and lead delivery with the support of the Council.

### **2. Overview of the Strategy**

- 2.1. Climate Change presents one of the biggest challenges facing our world today and action requires commitment and investment from all levels of society.
- 2.2. The scope of emissions which is in the direct control of the Council is relatively limited but as a local authority it has an important role to play in driving forward and influencing the efforts required to ensure a sustainable future for our communities.
- 2.3. This draft Climate Change Strategy is for South and East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership (SELCP) and seeks to provide an overarching framework to reduce emissions as a whole across Boston, East Lindsey and South Holland. It identifies the strategic themes that are central to helping achieve the carbon reduction ambitions not just of the three Councils but of the UK as a whole as the nation seeks to be net zero by 2050.
- 2.4. The inclusion of South Holland within the strategy has been taken very recently and so this current draft is 'light touch' at this time in terms of information relating to South Holland. As the consultation period progresses and further discussions are held, additional context will be added to ensure the document is as balanced as possible for the three Councils. The three-way approach will give greater strength in drawing down necessary funding as efforts can be shown to be based on a clear strategic need.

- 2.5. It is envisaged that delivery of the Strategy will be the responsibility of a new South and East Lincolnshire Climate Action Network (SELCAN), with the support of SELCP. SELCAN will bring together stakeholder representatives from across the area including relevant authorities, business leaders, non-governmental organisations and communities. Careful thought will be given to managing this successfully given the geographical scale of the area it covers.
- 2.6. The Strategy has used currently available data alongside recognised local priorities as the rationale for a number of key themes relevant to our area: Transport; Built Environment; Energy/Renewables; Business; Agriculture/Food; Water (Flood Risk and Drought) and Natural Environment. Under each theme, the key challenges and opportunities have been identified together with a series of strategic actions that need to be taken forward. These will form the basis of the delivery plan which it is intended SELCAN will coordinate once established.
- 2.7. It is important to note that while the Strategy focuses on driving down carbon emissions, it also seeks to promote a more sustainable approach which as well as helping to address Climate Change issues, will bring wider benefits for our local communities including improved health and wellbeing outcomes, economic prosperity and social value.

### **3. Consultation and next steps**

- 3.1. It is important if this Strategy is to succeed that it reflects the aspirations of our local area and engagement in its development is therefore key.
- 3.2. In order to achieve this, it is intended a period of public consultation on the draft Strategy will be held in November/December 2021. Stakeholder workshops will also be arranged with attendees tasked at looking at the individual themes in detail and given the opportunity to bring forward anything they feel has been missed.
- 3.3. Following the consultation period, a revised Climate Change Strategy will be compiled and brought back to Cabinet in early 2022 seeking recommendation of its approval to Council.
- 3.4. Once Council has approved the document, the newly established SELCAN will be asked to adopt the Strategy and move forward with the delivery plan.

### **CONCLUSION**

By taking the lead on developing a Climate Change Strategy for South and East Lincolnshire, the Councils of Boston, East Lindsey and South Holland are sending a clear message both locally, and nationally, that they are committed to playing their part in tackling the challenges Climate Change presents. Success cannot be achieved in isolation and in fostering new relationships and strengthening existing ones, the three Councils will promote a coordinated and collaborative approach to addressing a global issue. Successful delivery of this Strategy will ultimately lead to more vibrant, cohesive and healthier communities which appreciate the importance of a balanced, sustainable future in delivering multiple benefits for everyone.

#### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no immediate financial implications for the Council arising from approval of this draft strategy. A small cost outlay will be required to deliver the public consultation/stakeholder engagement but this can be managed within existing budgets.

**LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

Local authorities have a legal responsibility to agree plans and targets in line with the provisions of the Climate Change Act 2008. Not doing so could leave the Council open to legal challenge.

**RISK IMPLICATIONS**

None.

**CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

The Climate Change Strategy will not only have a positive impact on driving down carbon emissions across the Borough of Boston but it will deliver outcomes that support all four key themes of the Council's adopted Environment Policy to protect and enhance our natural environment, adapt and mitigate to climate change, enhance our built environment and ensure a sustainable approach to waste and resource management.

Annual emissions figures for the Borough are compiled by the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy and continual reductions need to be achieved as we all play our part in achieving the UK's commitment to be net zero by 2050.

**EQUALITY AND SAFEGUARDING IMPLICATIONS**

None.

**OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

None.

**CONSULTATION**

Consultation has been undertaken with the relevant Portfolio Holder and Cabinet was asked to agree the draft strategy for consultation at its meeting on 20 October. Corporate Management Team and Service Managers have also been given the opportunity to provide initial feedback on the document.

Informal discussions have also been held with the Cabinet members at South Holland District Council.

As outlined in the report, consultation on the document will continue throughout 2021 to ensure maximum engagement and buy-in to the Strategy both internally and externally.

<b>APPENDICES</b>	
<i>APPENDIX A</i>	Draft Climate Change Strategy

<b>BACKGROUND PAPERS</b>	
Background papers used in the production of this report are listed below: -	
<b>Document title</b>	<b>Where the document can be viewed</b>
Environment Policy	<a href="https://www.mybostonuk.com/environment-policy-2021/">https://www.mybostonuk.com/environment-policy-2021/</a>
<b>CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY OF THIS REPORT</b>	

<b>REPORT APPROVAL</b>	
Report author:	Sarah Baker Climate Change and Environment Manager
Signed off by:	Christian Allen AD Regulation
Approved for publication:	Cllr Paul Skinner Leader and Portfolio Holder

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