



B O S T O N

B O R O U G H C O U N C I L

REPORT TO:	ENVIRONMENT & PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE
DATE:	5 NOVEMBER 2020
SUBJECT:	CLIMATE CHANGE
PORTFOLIO HOLDER:	COUNCILLOR PAUL SKINNER
REPORT AUTHOR:	MADAM CHAIRMAN OF THE CLIMATE CHANGE WORKING GROUP
EXEMPT REPORT?	NO

SUMMARY

To progress the Council resolution to consider environmental and other implications associated with climate change and report back with an action plan within the requested timeframe.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Environment and Performance Committee (E&P) consider the update and information contained within this report for onward referral to Council at the meeting to be held on 16 December.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

To progress the Council resolution.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

None.

1.0 REPORT

- 1.1 The Council agenda at the 15 July meeting included two “climate” motions. As a result members voted on a procedural motion. The effect of the procedural motion is to seek E & P consideration and detailed reporting for referral back to Full Council.

1.2 The Council resolution in full is as follows:-

RESOLVED that noting the many impacts on the Council and our partners, it is proposed all aspects and issues referred to in both Motions on the agenda be referred to the next available meeting of the Environment and Performance Committee for detailed consideration and an action plan. An interim report to be submitted to full Council in November 2019 and a final report to Council in January 2020.

2.0 WORKING GROUP

- 2.1 This Committee at the meeting held on 30 July established a Working Group to progress this activity.
- 2.2 The Working Group meets informally and reports findings and recommendations to the Environment and Performance Overview and Scrutiny Committee (E&P). The Working Group considers all 'aspects and issues' referred to in both 'Motions on Notice' submitted to the meeting of the Council held 15 July 2019.
- 2.3 The Group provided a verbal update to the 24 September E&P Committee and this report provides a summary update to support an interim report to the 16 December Council meeting. Final draft recommendations will be reported to the 7 January E&P Committee, which will then make recommendations to the 20 January 2020 Council meeting.
- 2.4 The Working Group comprises of five Elected Members including the Portfolio Holder, eight members of staff and one co-opted member of the public.
- 2.5 There have been four meetings to date with further meetings scheduled to the end of the year.
- 2.6 Formal Terms of Reference have been agreed by the Group and these are appended to the report (Appendix 1).
- 2.7 Work to date:-
- ❖ Reviewed previous and ongoing BBC carbon reduction activity and the Carbon Management Plan.
 - ❖ Collated all BBC environmental and climate change activity (Air Quality, Homes Energy Conservation Act, Private Sector Enforcement, etc.)
 - ❖ Taken on the Local Government Association good practice advice for Councillors.
 - ❖ Reviewed other council approaches and best practice publications.
 - ❖ Collated a list of external invitees with expertise and insight.

- ❖ Agreed an intent to be clear about the differences required for BBC to become carbon net neutral and “leading/championing” others within the Borough geography.
- ❖ Begun to explore carbon offsetting potential/opportunities.
- ❖ Begun collating a list of “quick-wins” to include in the final action plan recommendations to E&P.
- ❖ Attended the “Ashden” Local Authority Climate Change Toolkit launch in October.
- ❖ Attended the Western Power event - Transition to a Zero Carbon Economy.
- ❖ Consider relevant proposals contained in the Environment Bill published 15 October.
- ❖ Draft suggested and costed action plan and implementation timetable for consideration at the 7 January Committee meeting.

3.0 CONCLUSION

- 3.1 Councils are well placed to drive and influence action on climate change through the services they deliver, their regulatory and strategic function and their roles as community leaders, major employers, large-scale procurers and social landlords.
- 3.2 Action on climate change can deliver many local benefits, including lower energy bills, economic regeneration and creation of local jobs, reductions in fuel poverty and improved air quality. Furthermore, increasing resilience to climate change risks can result in avoided costs from flood damage to buildings, infrastructure and services, enhances green spaces and improved health.
- 3.3 However, making a commitment to declare a Climate Change Emergency is multi-faceted and members will want to be well sighted on the policy, process, financial and other considerations such as a timetable in making environmental commitments.
- 3.4 The Working Group has made excellent progress and is well placed to report formally and meet the timetable established at Full Council.
- 3.5 Between now and Christmas the focus of the Working Group activity will be to develop and produce a series of recommendations for the Council to consider. Whilst it is currently premature to provide specific detail, the following areas are likely to form the basis of potential future recommendations:-
- A climate change declaration which is aspirational and deliverable in the soonest possible time range.
 - All Council policies and practices to consider environmental impacts.

- Lobby for additional resources and support to deliver the carbon neutral agenda.
- A commitment to show geographical and community leadership.
- Recognise and acknowledge the excellent achievements of the Council since 2008.
- Council buildings and asset audits and action plans.
- Recommendations for the Council's procurement practices.
- Potential for climate champion(s), Citizens Assembly and Climate Expo.
- Others!!!

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

At this point it is not yet established what financial commitment or not the Council will be required to make. The Working Group is asked to consider such matters in determining any recommendations. Officers will support the process, however additional resource and expertise may be required to undertake its work and seek any approvals as necessary.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

The UK Climate Change Act of 2008 was the first piece of legislation to legally mandate a nation to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emission - in this case by 80% of 1990 levels by 2050. Many countries have subsequently introduced their own equivalent legislation and in 2015, the Paris Agreement was signed by 197 countries with the aim of limiting "the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and pursuing efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels". The 2018 Special report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) on the impact of a 1.5°C rise in global temperatures above pre-industrial levels further highlighted the urgency with which GHG emissions must be reduced to avoid the worst impacts of climate change.

In May of 2019, the UK Government declared a non-legally binding Climate Change Emergency declaration.

ANY OTHER IMPLICATIONS

None.

CONSULTATION

No consultation undertaken.

APPENDICES

Appendices are listed below and attached to the back of the report: -

APPENDIX 1

Climate Change Working Group - Terms of Reference

BACKGROUND PAPERS

No background papers as defined in Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the production of this report.

CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY OF THIS REPORT

A report on this item has not been previously considered by a Council.

CLIMATE CHANGE WORKING GROUP

Scope:

As a Working Group (The Group) reporting to the Environment and Performance Overview and Scrutiny Committee (E&P), to consider all 'aspects and issues' (The Task) referred to in both 'Motions on Notice' submitted to the meeting of the Council held 15 July 2019 and deliver the resolution of the Council held 15 July 2019.

These motions are attached as Appendix 1.

Terms of Reference:

To establish a meeting frequency, resources and working methodology to progress the task.

To agree membership of the group drawn from the Council member and officer core.

To call additional external individuals and parties to join the Group.

To determine whom to call to provide information, support, expertise and assistance.

To provide an update to the 24 September 2019 and 5 November 2019 E&P.

To support E&P in providing an interim report to the 16 December 2019 Council meeting.

To submit final recommendations to the 7 January 2020 E&P.

To support E&P in providing a final report and recommendations to the 20 January 2020 Council meeting.

Specific Actions contained in the task:

1. Commit to endeavour to make the Council's activities carbon neutral by 2030/2050/??
2. Commit to working in partnership with, but not exclusively, the LGA, County, District and Parish Councils in Lincolnshire, local businesses and community groups with the aim of making Lincolnshire carbon neutral within the same timescale.
3. Call upon central government to provide the necessary powers and resources to achieve or better a 2050 target.

4. Note the progress this Council has made in reducing carbon emissions.
5. Declare a 'Climate Emergency'.
6. Produce an action plan with annual monitoring and review.
7. Formally acknowledge the impacts of climate change and the serious exponential damage caused around the world each year by CO2 and temperature rise.
8. Recognise that limiting global warming may still be possible with ambitious action from national and sub-national authorities, civil society and the private sector and "the duty" we all have to act, now.
9. Acknowledge that strong policies to cut emissions also have associated health, wellbeing and economic benefits.
10. Recognise what others are doing and that a growing number of UK local authorities have already passed 'Climate Emergency' motions.
11. Ensure that all strategic decisions, budgets and approaches to planning decisions are in line with a shift to zero carbon by an agreed date.
12. Embed this work in all areas to reduce as rapidly as possible the carbon emissions from the Council's activities.
13. Ensure that ALL council reports include climate change implications.
14. Take steps to proactively include young people in the process, ensuring that they have a powerful voice in shaping the future.
15. Request that the Portfolio holder with responsibility for Climate Change convene a Citizens' Assembly in 2019 in order to involve the wider population of the Borough.

1. This Council:

1. Commits to make the Council's activities carbon neutral by 2050.
2. Commits to working in partnership with, but not exclusively, the LGA, County Council and Parish Councils in Lincolnshire, local businesses and community groups with the aim of making Lincolnshire carbon neutral within the same timescale.
3. Calls on central government to provide the necessary powers and resources to achieve or better the 2050 target.
4. Notes the progress this Council has made in reducing carbon emissions.
5. Notes the declaration of a 'Climate Emergency'.

6. Will receive an update on policy, details of action taken, an action plan, this will include annual reviews for the period up to 2030.

2. This Council notes:

That the impacts of climate breakdown are already causing serious damage around the world and as each year passes, we experience it.

That the 'Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5 degC', published by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in October 2018;

- (a) Describes the enormous harm that a C02 average rise in global temperatures is likely to cause compared with a 1.5 degC rise, and;
- (b) Confirms that limiting Global Warming to 1.5 degC may still be possible with ambitious action from national and sub-national authorities, civil society and the private sector.

That all governments (national, regional and local) have a duty to act, and local governments that recognise this should not wait for their national governments to change their policies.

That we are not experts in this field, but that is no excuse for inaction.

That collectively as a local community, we need guidance, education, support, encouragement and structure in order to effect change.

That strong policies to cut emissions also have associated health, wellbeing and economic benefits; and

That recognising this, a growing number of UK local authorities have already passed 'Climate Emergency' motions.

This Council therefore commits to:

Declare a 'climate emergency' that requires urgent action.

Endeavour to make the Council's activities net-zero carbon by 2030.

Endeavour to achieve 100% clean energy across the Council's full range of functions by 2030.

Ensure that all strategic decisions, budgets and approaches to planning decisions are in line with a shift to zero carbon by 2030.

Support and work with all other relevant agencies towards making the entire area zero carbon within the same timescale.

Ensure that elected members together with officers embed this work in all areas and take responsibility for reducing as rapidly as possible, the carbon emissions resulting from the Council's activities, ensuring that any new recommendations are fully costed and that the Cabinet and Scrutiny committees review council activities taking account of production and consumption emissions and produce an action plan within 12 months, together with budget actions and a measured baseline.

Wherever possible, work with, influence and inspire partners across the district, county and region to help deliver this goal through all relevant strategies, plans and shared resources by developing a series of meetings, events and partner workshops.

Request that the Council and partners take steps to include proactively young people in the process, ensuring that they have a powerful voice in shaping the future.

Request that the Portfolio holder with responsibility for Climate Change convenes a Citizens' Assembly in 2019 in order to involve the wider population of the Borough in this process. This group would help develop their own role, identify how the Council's activities might be made net-zero carbon by 2030, consider the latest climate science and expert advice on solutions and to consider systematically the climate change impact of each area of the Council's activities. It will also recommend ways to maximise local benefits of these actions in other sectors such as employment, health, agriculture, transport and economy.

Report on the level of investment in the fossil fuel industry that our pensions plan and other investments have, and review the Council's investment strategy to give due consideration to climate change impacts in the investment portfolio.

Ensure that all reports in preparation for the 2020/21 budget cycle and investment strategy will take into account the actions the council will take to address this emergency.

Call on the UK Government to provide the powers, resources and help with funding to make this possible, and ask our local MP to do likewise.

To review this motion annually in order to keep clear track of progress and to make adjustment as necessary.

**EXTRACT FROM THE DRAFT MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF FULL
COUNCIL
HELD - 15 JULY 2019**

Motions on Notice - Climate Change

Two Motions on Notice had been received in respect of climate change, and the Council's response to those issues.

RESOLVED that noting the many impacts on the Council and our partners, it is proposed all aspects and issues referred to in both Motions on the agenda be referred to the next available meeting of the Environment and Performance Committee for detailed consideration and an action plan. An interim report to be submitted to full Council in November 2019 and a final report to Council in January 2020.