

**HARBOROUGH DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**REPORT TO THE COUNCIL MEETING OF 13<sup>th</sup> December 2021**

**PUBLIC REPORT: Y**

**EXEMPT REPORT: N**

<b>Report Title</b>	Climate Emergency Action Plan
<b>KEY DECISION</b>	Not applicable
<b>Report Author</b>	Cllr Jonathan Bateman – Cabinet Member and Chairman of the Climate Emergency Working Group
<b>Purpose of Report</b>	To update members on the climate emergency action plan following the consultation process
<b>Reason for Decision</b>	<p>The Climate Emergency Action Plan should be linked and approved in line with the Council's Corporate Plan.</p> <p>The draft Corporate Plan is being considered by members at this meeting to seek approval prior to going out to public consultation.</p>
<b>Portfolio (holder)</b>	Cllr Jonathan Bateman
<b>Corporate Priorities</b>	Environment and sustainability
<b>Financial Implications</b>	<p>Many areas of work identified within the plan are ongoing and will be undertaken within existing budgets, however it is recognised that some of the potential works to our own assets and operations will require funding if they are to proceed.</p> <p>There is the recognition that without Central Government investment and funding there may be issues in attaining the local carbon neutral target.</p>
<b>Risk Management Implications</b>	As set out in the financial implications section above, without the necessary external funding, the aspirational aims of the action plan may not be achievable which runs the reputational risk of the council.
<b>Environmental Implications</b>	<p>Harborough District Council recognises the risks associated with climate change. It has committed to action through Climate Local, which was a Local Government Association initiative; set up to inspire local authority action on climate change.</p> <p>The Council signed the Climate Local Commitment on 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2013 in recognition of the important role local authorities have in tackling climate change. The Council</p>

	<p>published its first action plan in 2015 and has reported annually on progress against the objectives identified in the action plan.</p> <p>The Council has already implemented several changes in its own operations and since 2008 has reduced emissions from its own estate by over 49%.</p> <p>Details of the Council's emissions inventory is available on the <a href="#">Council's website</a></p> <p>The Council declared a Climate emergency in June 2019. The Council committed to reducing the Council's own emissions to net zero, as far as practical by 2030. To achieve this the council committed to producing a Climate Emergency Action Plan</p> <p>The draft action plan has identified six key commitments where the Council can act to work towards the net zero target:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Council commits to demonstrate political and corporate leadership in acting on climate change</li> <li>2. The Council commits to managing its own assets and services, with the aim of reducing carbon emission to net zero by 2030, as far as practical</li> <li>3. The Council commits to working with residents and communities to support their actions in reducing emissions and help them increase their resilience to the impacts of climate change</li> <li>4. The Council commits to working with businesses to support their actions in reducing emissions and help them increase their resilience to the impacts of climate change</li> <li>5. The Council commits to ensuring that new development is designed to mitigate emissions and be resilient to the impacts of climate change</li> <li>6. The Council commits to working in partnership to promote resilient natural systems that will help to reduce the impacts of climate change.</li> </ol> <p>The impact of climate change is a global issue however to minimise the local impact, whilst a large proportion of local emissions are outside the direct control of the Council, it is important that the Council leads by example and engages with all stakeholders to work towards reducing carbon emissions whilst also aiming to reduce emissions as far as possible from its own activities.</p>
<b>Legal Implications</b>	There is currently no legal requirement for the Council to declare a "Climate Emergency".

<b>Equality Implications</b>	An equality assessment has been completed as part of the consultation process and development of the action plan.
<b>Data Protection Implications</b>	None associated with this report.
<b>Consultation</b>	The draft action plan has undergone external consultation and the details of this are set out in the body of the report.
<b>Options</b>	No options were considered as part of this report.
<b>Background Papers</b>	Appendix A: Draft Climate Emergency Action Plan  Appendix B: Climate emergency consultation feedback
<b>Recommendation</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. That members approve and adopt the Climate Emergency Action Plan set out in Appendix A;</li> <li>2. Subject to approval of 1 above that the Climate Emergency Action Plan is embedded in the Council's Corporate Plan to ensure ongoing monitoring and oversight;</li> <li>3. That the Climate Emergency Working Group is formally dissolved and thanked for its work in developing the Action Plan to enable the Council to progress its commitment to reducing its emissions to net zero.</li> </ol>

## 1. Key Facts

- 1.1. The Council declared a Climate emergency in June 2019. The Council committed to reducing the Council's own emissions to net zero, as far as practical by 2030. To achieve this the council committed to producing a Climate Emergency Action Plan.
- 1.2. Following the declaration of the Climate Emergency, a cross party member working group was established to develop the action. The draft Climate Emergency Action Plan was presented to Council in December 2019, with agreement to go out to wider community consultation.
- 1.3. The Consultation took place between 31<sup>st</sup> May and 31<sup>st</sup> July 2021. The communications plan was designed to ensure wide engagement with the pandemic in mind. Web pages were designed with a link to an online consultation page. The consultation was publicised in council newsletters, social media and press releases. Cllr Bateman also appeared on BBC Radio

Leicester and HFM. Posters were also prepared and sent round the district and secondary schools and interested parties were contacted.

- 1.4. 131 responses to the consultation were received online, in addition 3 written responses were received from groups. A workshop took place on-line using Teams with representatives of interested groups. 15 representatives of different groups took part.
  - 1.5. The analysis of the responses indicated that over 75% of respondents (71 of 102 who answered) agreed with our Climate Emergency commitments. The responses were split almost equally between male and female. There were responses from a range of age groups, but the group of 65 plus had the highest number of responses at almost 29%. Only 4% of responses came from those under 18.
  - 1.6. The responses to the questions were collated and reviewed in the light of council activity. Appendix B is a summary of the consultation and the council's responses.
  - 1.7. The draft Climate Emergency Action Plan was updated in the light of the consultation and the council's response. The updated document is included as Appendix A.
  - 1.8. The Council is considering the draft Corporate Plan as a separate report to this meeting. It is proposed that the Climate Emergency Action Plan forms part of the Corporate Plan moving forwards and as such will be embedded as part of the Councils vision for the future and its implementation will be monitored as part of the Council performance management process, which includes quarterly updates to the Cabinet and also reporting to the Scrutiny Commission.
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