

**ITEM NO. 12**

**REPORT TO THE COUNCIL MEETING OF 16<sup>th</sup> December 2019**

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**Meeting:** Council  
**Date:** 16<sup>th</sup> December 2019  
**Subject:** Update from the Climate Emergency Working Group  
**Report of:** Climate Emergency Working Group  
**Portfolio Holder:** Cllr J Bateman  
**Status:** For note  
**Relevant Ward(s):** All

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1 Purpose Report

1.1 To provide members with an update of the work towards the development of an action plan following the declaration of a Climate Emergency.

2 Recommendations:

2.1 **It is recommended that Council notes the progress made on the development of an action plan, following the declaration of a Climate Emergency at the Council meeting 24<sup>th</sup> June 2019.**

3 Summary of Reasons for the Recommendations

3.1 At the Council meeting of the 24<sup>th</sup> June 2019, members approved the declaration of a Climate Emergency with the aim to make Harborough District Council activities as far as practical carbon neutral by 2030.

3.2 Members also approved at the same meeting that a Climate Change working group would be established to look at the development of an action plan to ensure all Council functions and decision making is in line with the shift to carbon neutral by 2030. The final draft action plan will be brought back to Council within 12 months of the declaration for approval and implementation.

4 Impact on Communities

4.1 The impact of climate change is a global issue however to minimise the local impact, the Council leads by example and works with all stakeholders to work towards reducing carbon emissions.

## 5 Key Facts

- 5.1 The Council has already demonstrated its commitment to tackling climate change by signing the Climate Local Commitment in 2013 and developing an action plan. The latest annual report on the progression of the Climate Local Action Plan was considered by the Cabinet committee on the 7<sup>th</sup> October 2019. Since the 2008 baseline data was established, emissions from the council's own estate have reduced by over 41% (2018/19 emission inventory).
- 5.2 Whilst the Council has reduced carbon emissions from its own activities, it does recognise that it must continue to work towards a carbon neutral target by 2030. Following the declaration of the Climate Emergency, a cross party member working group has been established to review the current Climate Local Action plan and to develop this document further to work towards the 2030 target.
- 5.3 The review of the action plan is still in progress; however work to date is focussing on six key commitments:
- The Council commits to demonstrate political and corporate leadership in acting on climate change.
  - 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.
  - 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.
  - 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.
  - The Council commits to ensuring that new development is designed to mitigate emissions and be resilient to the impacts of climate change.
  - The Council commits to working in partnership to promote resilient natural systems that will help to reduce the impacts of climate change.
- 5.4 The latest version of the draft action plan can be found in Appendix A. Any comments and recommendations arising from this meeting will be considered by the officer and member working groups and the final action plan will be considered by Council in the summer of 2020.

## 6 Legal Issues

- 6.1 There is no legal requirement for the Council to declare a "Climate Emergency" and to develop an action plan.

## 7 Resource Issues

- 7.1 There is no specific budget for this piece of work and the development of the action plan will be undertaken within existing resources. However, the implementation of some of the actions set out in the final action plan may require investment or have budgetary implications and the final action plan will identify any resource implications for the implementation of specific actions.

## 8 Equality Implications

- 8.1 None identified through this report, however an equality assessment will be undertaken as part of the development of the action plan.

## 9 Impact on the Organisation

- 9.1 The officer Climate Change working group is made up of representatives from all service areas and the member working group is cross party and this ensures there is opportunity for all strategic decisions, budgets and policies to be developed and implemented with a shift towards the carbon neutral target by 2030.

- 9.2 The draft action plan covers many cross-cutting business and operational priorities including:

- Keeping the District a great place to live
- Support Vulnerable People
- Stronger Communities
- Quality homes for all.

## 10 Community Safety Implications

- 10.1 None identified in this report.

## 11. Carbon Management Implications

- 11.1 The declaration of a Climate Emergency in June 2019 has set out the Council's continued commitment to reducing emissions from its own activities. The development and implementation of the action plan will set out the Council's approach to working towards carbon neutral status by 2030.

## 12. Risk Management Implications

- 12.1 Following the declaration of a Climate Emergency in June 2019, whilst there is no legal duty to declare such an emergency, having done so, there is a reputational risk to the Council if it is felt that its actions are not in line with the shift to being as far as possible carbon neutral by 2030.

### 13 Consultation

- 13.1 No consultation was carried out with regards to this update report. However, engagement with stakeholders will be required as the action plan is developed further.
- 13.2 The member working group is looking at methods of consultation and communication with relevant stakeholders and it is anticipated that this will commence in early 2020.

### 14 Options Considered

- 14.1 As this is an interim report to update members on the progress of the development of the action plan, no other options have been considered as part of the writing of this report.

### 15 Background Papers

- 15.1 Details of the Council's Climate Local Plan and annual updates are available on the Council's website

[https://www.harborough.gov.uk/directory\\_record/1163/climate\\_change\\_action\\_plan](https://www.harborough.gov.uk/directory_record/1163/climate_change_action_plan)

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**Previous report(s): Council Meeting 24<sup>th</sup> June 2019 – Declaration of a Climate Emergency.**

**Information Issued Under Sensitive Issue Procedure:**

**Ward Members Notified:**

**Appendices:**

**Appendix A – the draft climate emergency action plan**