

**ESTABLISHMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABILITY
CROSS PARTY MEMBER WORKING GROUP**

Head of Service/Contact:	Damian Roberts, Chief Operating Officer, Gillian McTaggart, Head of Policy, Performance & Governance
Urgent Decision?(yes/no)	No
If yes, reason urgent decision required:	
Annexes/Appendices (attached):	Annexe 1 – terms of reference for Environment & Sustainability Working Group
Other available papers (not attached):	Decision of full Council 23 July 2019

Report summary

To agree to the establishment of a cross party Member working group to oversee the development of the Council's new Climate Change Action Plan.

Recommendation (s)

That the Committee:

- (1) Approves the terms of reference for the working group as attached in Annexe 1**
- (2) Agrees the appointment of members to the working group and a Chairman as set out in para 3.2 of this report.**

1 Implications for the Council's Key Priorities, Service Plans and Sustainable Community Strategy

- 1.1 The Council's Strategy and Action Plan on climate change will contribute directly to the delivery of the long-term vision for Epsom and Ewell as a Green and Vibrant place, and the delivery of the Council's Corporate Plan 2020-2024 currently in development.

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2 Background

- 2.1 Epsom and Ewell Borough Council, at its full Council meeting on the 23 July 2019, agreed unanimously to a motion to establish its own climate change action plan with targets to cut the Council's environmental impact and take steps to become carbon neutral.
- 2.2 The Council agreed to ensure that the plan was provided to the Environment and Safe Communities Committee and subsequently ratified by Full Council within the next 6 months

3 Proposals

- 3.1 To help ensure that this commitment is achieved, a cross party working group of Members should be established to support the development of the Council's new Climate Change Action Plan.
- 3.2 The terms of reference for the group are attached in Annex 1. The group will consist of seven Members, a chair, three representatives from the majority party, the Residents Association, and one each from the minority parties, Labour, Liberal Democrats and Conservative.

4 Financial and Manpower Implications

- 4.1 There are no financial or manpower implications.
- 4.2 **Chief Finance Officer's comments:** none for the purposes of this report.

5 Legal Implications (including implications for matters relating to equality)

- 5.1 The UK Climate Change Act 2008 sets a statutory target to reduce UK greenhouse gas emissions by 80% from 1990 by 2050. In May 2019 the UK Committee on Climate Change recommended that the UK Government increase the statutory target to Net-Zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. This has now been formally adopted.
- 5.2 The UK Parliament declared a climate change emergency in May 2019
- 5.3 **Monitoring Officer's comments:** None arising from the content of this report.

6 Sustainability Policy and Community Safety Implications

- 6.1 This report contributes directly and significantly to improving the Council's sustainability practice. It also contributes to community safety in areas such as tackling air quality.

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7 Partnerships

- 7.1 The Council makes use of a range of different partnerships to support its priorities and the delivery of local services. This includes its partnerships with other statutory agencies such as the police, working alongside other independent bodies such as the Business Improvement District, its partnerships with local voluntary sector organisations in receipt of grant funding and more formalised contracts such as the Council's Rainbow Leisure Centre.
- 7.2 The Climate Change Action Plan will include specific actions to promote wider understanding and action through the variety of relationships the Council has with other organisations operating in the borough including those that are subject to formal contracts

8 Risk Assessment

- 8.1 The establishment of this working group will support the delivery of the Council's climate change commitment to establish a climate change action plan with targets to cut its environmental impact and steps to become carbon neutral.
- 8.2 Officers are working to carry out an audit and report on what is currently being done to reduce the Council's carbon footprint.

9 Conclusion and Recommendations

- 9.1 The Environment and Safe Communities Committee are asked to agree to the establishment of the working group, its terms of reference and agree to the nominated membership and a Chairman

Ward(s) affected: (All Wards);