

ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY CROSS-PARTY MEMBER WORKING GROUP

Head of Service:	Clare Lawrence, Director of Environment, Housing & Regeneration
Wards affected:	(All Wards);
Urgent Decision?	No
If yes, reason urgent decision required:	
Appendices (attached):	Appendix 1: Terms of reference for the Environment and Sustainability Member Working Group

Summary

This report recommends the establishment of a cross-party Member Working Group to oversee the implementation of the Council's Climate Change Action Plan.

Recommendation (s)

The Committee is asked to:

- (1) Approve the terms of reference for the Working Group as set out in Appendix 1.**
- (2) Agree to the appointment of members to the Working Group and a Chair as set out in paragraph 2.5 of the report.**

1 Reason for Recommendation

- 1.1 The establishment of the proposed Member Working Group will support the delivery of the Council's commitment to addressing climate change.

2 Background

- 2.1 At the meeting of full Council on 23 July 2019, it was unanimously agreed that a climate change action plan would be put in place with targets to reduce the Council's environmental impact with a view to it becoming carbon neutral by 2035. It was also agreed that this plan was to be provided to the Environment and Safe Communities Committee and subsequently ratified by full Council within six months.

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- 2.2 On 22 October 2019, the Environment and Safe Communities Committee resolved to establish an Environment and Sustainability Cross-Party Member Working Group to support the development of the Council's Climate Change Action Plan.
- 2.3 The Council's Climate Change Action Plan was subsequently agreed by the Environment and Safe Communities Committee and ratified by full Council on 20 January 2020. The Environment and Sustainability Cross-Party Member Working Group therefore came to an end.
- 2.4 To help ensure that the objectives set out in the Climate Change Action Plan are achieved, a cross-party working group of members should be re-established.
- 2.5 The proposed terms of reference for the group are set out in Appendix 1. The group will comprise seven members and a chair, with three representatives from the majority political group, the Residents' Association, and one each from the minority groups, Labour, Liberal Democrat and Conservative.

3 Risk Assessment

Legal or other duties

3.1 Impact Assessment

- 3.1.1 The establishment of the Working Group will support the delivery of the Council's commitment to addressing climate change.

3.2 Crime & Disorder

- 3.2.1 None arising from this report.

3.3 Safeguarding

- 3.3.1 None arising from this report.

3.4 Dependencies

- 3.4.1 None arising from this report.

3.5 Other

- 3.5.1 None arising from this report.

4 Financial Implications

- 4.1 The modest additional cost of administering the Working Group would be borne by existing budgets.

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- 4.2 **Section 151 Officer's comments:** Any proposed projects requiring capital investment should be submitted through the annual capital programme cycle and will be assessed against the agreed criteria for schemes consistent with the Council's Climate Change Action Plan.

5 Legal Implications

5.1 The 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 **Legal Officer's comments:** none arising from the content of this report.

6 Policies, Plans & Partnerships

6.1 **Council's Key Priorities:** The following Key Priorities are engaged:

- Work with partners to reduce our impact on the environment and move closer to becoming carbon neutral.

6.2 **Service Plans:** The matter is included within the Annual Plan and a key Council priority is to address Climate Change.

6.3 **Climate & Environmental Impact of recommendations:** The proposed Working Group will help to monitor progress on achieving the objectives set out in the Climate Change Action Plan.

6.4 **Sustainability Policy & Community Safety Implications:** The establishment of the Working Group will contribute directly and significantly to improving the Council's sustainability practice. It will also contribute to enhancing community safety in areas such as tackling poor air quality.

6.5 **Partnerships:** The Climate Change Action Plan includes specific actions to promote wider understanding and action through the variety of relationships that the Council has with other organisations operating in the Borough, including those that are subject to formal contracts.

7 Background papers

7.1 The documents referred to in compiling this report are as follows:

Previous reports:

- [Report to the meeting of the Environment and Safe Communities Committee on 22 October 2019 on the Establishment of an Environment and Sustainability Cross-Party Member Working Group.](#)

Other papers:

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- [Climate Change Action Plan, January 2020](#)
- [Climate Change Action Plan Update \(report to the Environment and Safe Communities Committee meeting on 26 January 2021\)](#)
- [Motion to Council in support of the Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill \(19 July 2021\)](#)