

CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION PLAN: REVIEW & PROGRESS UPDATE

Head of Service:	Victoria Potts, Head of Place Development
Wards affected:	(All Wards);
Urgent Decision?(yes/no)	No
If yes, reason urgent decision required:	N/A
Appendices (attached):	Climate Change Action Plan

Summary

This report provides a review and update on the progress of the Council's Climate Change Action Plan

Recognising the Council's role in helping address the serious and accelerating impact of climate change on the environment and people's lives, the Council approved an ambitious climate change action plan at its meeting on 20 January 2020.

The plan was agreed as a living document that would be updated and reviewed annually.

This review has included the following amendments:

- Moving 8 actions, that are out of the direct control of the Council, to an Annex.
- Adding 7 new actions (highlighted blue in the plan).
- Prioritising 9 actions which have the greatest potential for reducing carbon emissions (highlighted pink in the plan).
- Providing estimated costs for actions which will require additional finance to deliver (highlighted green in the cost column of the plan).
- Updating timescales and removing the breakdown by year

And the latest update on the progress of each action has also been included.

The updated Action Plan is provided in Appendix 1.

Recommendation (s)

The Committee is asked to:

- (1) **Agree the changes to the Climate Change Action Plan**
- (2) **Consider the progress made on the delivery of the Council's Climate Change Action Plan over the year to date**

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1 Reason for Recommendation

- 1.1 A review of the Climate Change Action Plan has not taken place since its adoption in January 2020. The plan was agreed as a living document that would be updated and reviewed annually, as a minimum.
- 1.2 Reviewing and updating the plan ensures the actions it contains remain relevant and deliverable by the Council, and continues to support the Council's carbon neutral commitment.

2 Background

- 2.1 A cross party task and finish group was established to oversee the development of the Council's first Climate Action Plan. This was approved by this Committee and full Council on 20 January 2020 alongside the approval of the target, that the Council would be carbon neutral by 2035.
- 2.2 The Climate Change Action Plan details objectives to be completed over a 4-year period in order to combat climate change. The Council aims to be net carbon neutral by 2035 and this is proposed through a number of themes:
 - Theme 1 - Council Leadership and influencing others
 - Theme 2 – Improvements to the environment
 - Theme 3 - Council buildings and energy use
 - Theme 4 - Tackling and minimising waste
 - Theme 5 - Council transport & switching to lower polluting vehicles
 - Theme 6 - Use of technology & information system
- 2.3 An annual update on the actions was provided to the Committee on January 2021 and January 2022 but the plan has not been comprehensively reviewed since it was approved in January 2020 and therefore its review is overdue.
- 2.4 This review has identified a number of changes to be made which are set out in the following points (2.5-2.11). The updated plan is provided in Appendix 1.
- 2.5 8 actions were identified as outside of the direct control of the Council to deliver. These actions have been moved to an Annex at the end of the plan.

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- 2.6 7 new actions have been added to the plan (highlighted blue in the plan). The new actions are taken from best practice examples from other local authority climate change plans and cover areas not previously addressed in the plan. For example implementing opportunities to reduce energy consumption in leased properties (action 23). The new actions will support the Council in achieving its Climate Change targets.
- 2.7 9 actions have been identified as a priority in the immediate term. These actions are those that have been prioritised in the Annual Plan or through delivery can make a significant contribution to reducing carbon emissions for the Council's operations and the Borough (highlighted pink in the plan). For example the action 'Reduce CO2 emissions caused by gas and other fossil fuel powered heating systems' (action 19) could reduce the Council's operational carbon emissions by up to a quarter.
- 2.8 The timescales for delivery of each action have been updated and the breakdown of actions per year removed. This is due to many actions having an ongoing nature or are to be delivered over a longer time period than a single year and this is captured better within individual timescales for each action.
- 2.9 The Annual Plan 2022/23 includes an action for the Climate Change Action Plan to be costed. Whilst many of the actions within the plan can be delivered through existing officer time/budget or are cost neutral, significant investment will be required to deliver others. For those that will require additional financing an estimated cost to deliver has been included but these items will be subject to separate business cases and some are linked to other Council work programmes. It should be noted these are estimated costs based on some known costs, best practice examples and information collated from neighbouring authorities.
- 2.10 Assumptions have been made on how the action could be delivered. For example decarbonising the vehicle fleet (action 27) has been costed based on full electrification with current technology. As hydrogen technology develops it may be considered a more viable option for larger vehicles. Another example is that an assumption has been made on the amount of Solar PV that could be installed on Council owned land and assets (action 21).
- 2.11 The outline cost of delivering these actions is currently estimated to be £12-15m (excluding the new action relating to leased properties which has yet to be costed). As feasibility studies and business cases are developed for specific costed actions, more accurate costs, including grant funding options will be determined.
- 2.12 To support the delivery of the plan a cross party Members Climate Change Working Group (CCWG), and an officer level Climate Change Action Group (CCAG) were set up in early 2022. The updates made to the plan have been shared and provisionally agreed with both working groups.

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3 Risk Assessment

Legal or other duties

3.1 Equality Impact Assessment

3.1.1 None arising from this report

3.2 Crime & Disorder

3.2.1 There are no implications in terms of crime and disorder

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 Paragraph 2.11 identifies an estimated cost to deliver plan actions of £12-15m. More accurate costs will be determined as feasibility studies and business cases are developed for specific costed actions.

4.2 **Section 151 Officer's comments:** Each business case will be assessed once a fully costed proposal has been worked up and potential funding options identified.

5 Legal Implications

5.1 None arising from this report

5.2 **Legal Officer's comments:** None arising from this report.

6 Policies, Plans & Partnerships

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

6.1.1 Green & Vibrant and supports the delivery of the Four Year Plan.

6.2 **Service Plans:** The matter is included within the current Service Delivery Plan.

6.3 **Climate & Environmental Impact of recommendations:**

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6.3.1 Climate Change is key priority throughout the Action Plan with targets included to support reducing emissions throughout EEBC

6.4 **Sustainability Policy & Community Safety Implications:**

6.4.1 Sustainability considered in all targets – positive implications only

6.5 **Partnerships:**

6.5.1 Surrey Environment Partnership; District & Borough Climate Change Officers Group (Surrey wide)

7 **Background papers**

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

Previous reports:

- E&SC Committee: Climate Change Action Plan - Update 25 January 2022
- E&SC Committee: Climate Change Action Plan Update 26 January 2021
- Full Council Climate Change Action Plan 20 January 2020

Other papers:

- Climate Change motion to full Council 23 July 2019