

# **POLICY AND PERFORMANCE SCRUTINY PANEL**

**7 DECEMBER 2020**

## **CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENTAL EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN UPDATE**

### **Report of the Climate Change Manager**

---

#### **Recommendation(s)**

**It is recommended that Policy & Performance Scrutiny Panel:**

- (1)** note the contents of this report and make recommendations as appropriate.
- 

#### **Summary**

On 7 November 2019 the Council approved a Climate and Environmental Emergency Action Plan, in response to the Emergency declaration on the 18 July 2019. This report sets out mid 20/21 progress against many of the actions in the plan.

#### **Statutory Powers**

Local Government Act 2001

#### **Strategic Implications**

1. Climate breakdown and negative environmental impacts are the biggest challenge facing the long-term future of residents and businesses of Eastleigh. There is a direct link to all areas of the Corporate Plan. The achievement of the Action Plan appended to this report will directly support the Council's environmental objectives such as tackling congestion and creating an Excellent Environment for All. Responding to the Climate Emergency is critical to secure the long-term health and wellbeing for residents and the local economy.

#### **Introduction**

2. The climate breakdown is widely considered to be the greatest threat to global health in the 21st century. In response to the October 2018 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report stating that there was less than 12 years to respond to this emergency a cross-party motion was unanimously agreed at the 18 July 2019 Full Council to address the issue locally.

3. The declaration sets out the Council's aim to be carbon neutral by 2025 and to support communities and businesses across the Borough to achieve carbon neutrality by 2030.
4. This report sets out mid-year progress during 2020/21.

### **Progress on the Action Plan**

5. The Council approved the updated action plan in June 2020. This report highlights areas of progress alongside additional actions added to the plan. (see Appendix A for further details).
6. The Climate Change Manager has been recruited and is now in post and will work with the Climate change and Environmental Emergency Action Board to oversee delivery of the action plan. This Board mirrors the other Project Boards which the Council has and will be attended by Councillor Kyrle as the Environment Portfolio holder.
7. Delivery towards some actions in the plan have experienced delays due to COVID19, these include:
  - **Communications:** Prior to the first national lockdown the Council launched a public engagement programme, which was subsequently put on hold as it was felt the timing was not right to run a large campaign during the pandemic. Environmental messaging has continued as usual and there are plans in place to relaunch the campaign once the timing is appropriate.
  - **Estates:** The Facilities team has been significantly involved in the operational response to the COVID19. Moving forwards additional resources have been placed in the team, recruitment will shortly take place for a Green Energy Manager and the Council is in the processes of bidding for grant funding to accelerate the energy efficiency programme.
  - **Sustainable Travel:** The Sustainable Travel Manager has been spearheading council efforts to support Eastleigh Town Centre during COVID19, this has led to an unforeseen delay in strategic work. As the town centre programme moves into a new phase the strategic programmes can be taken forwards.
8. Update on Progress:
  - **Communications:** The behaviour change campaign supporting the Climate and Environment Emergency was paused due to Covid-19. Environmental tips and positive actions such as the Recycle More campaign and Green Homes Grant scheme continues to be promoted. South East Climate Alliance recently reviewed Local Authority websites and declared Eastleigh Borough Councils to be the best in the region.

- **Ecology:** In November 2020 the scope was agreed for the Biodiversity Action Plan.
- **Estates:** Energy Audits of two sites carried out, funding bid submitted to carry out audits across most of the Council's estate.
- **Operational Equipment:** Over 50 petrol powered hand-held tools replaced with electric variants.
- **Pollution:** In October 2020 the scope was agreed for Pollution Strategy and Action Plan.
- **Trees:** The creation of a tree nursery was agreed by Cabinet in July. Site now established at Horton Heath and first trees have been planted.
- **Trees:** In September 2020 the scope was agreed for Tree Strategy, Policy, SPD and Action Plan and further developed by P&P working Group.
- **Waste and Fleet:** In July 2020 a new Waste Policy was agreed at Cabinet.

9. New Actions:

- **Estates:** Action around PV business cases completed, a new action to continue this programme has been added to the plan (Action 39).
- **External:** Promotion of Green Homes Grant (up to £5k/household), plus joining scheme to provide Local Authority Delivery Funding (up to £10k/household) for residents in Fuel Poverty.
- **External:** Review of Grants available to maximise environmental potential.

## Financial Implications

10. The Climate Officer role has been funded through a £60K growth in the Environment Portfolio budget. The Green Energy Manager will be funded through revenue savings.
11. Most of the activities set out in the action plan are either being carried out through existing allocated resources or require further investigation before funding is to be allocated. Where additional resource is required a business case will be drawn up and approval obtained before commencement.
12. It is clear that there will need to be significant investment for the Council to meet its operational Carbon Neutral target and put actions in place to support the borough towards reaching neutrality by 2030. As the activities in the action plan are further developed detailed businesses cases, including sources of funding will need to be developed too.

## **Risk Assessment**

13. There are significant risks should the Council fail to mitigate climate change and ensure that the residents, businesses and the natural environment are able to adapt to the future climate.

## **Equality and Diversity Implications**

14. The Equality Act is relevant to the decision in this report as the decision relates to eliminating discrimination, advancing equality of opportunity, or fostering good relations between different people in the following ways: the various impacts and responses to climate change are likely to disproportionately impact on people with protected characteristics.
15. An Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) was carried out to support the Climate and Environmental Programme in November and this has been used to refine the approach set out. In summary the EqIA shows that care will be needed to ensure that actions to mitigate climate change do not lead to discrimination and that opportunities to reduce existing inequality are maximised. As the action plan is further developed there will need to be further engagement with key stakeholders and representatives of protected groups to ensure that actions are compliant and where possible reduce existing inequality
16. Actions linked to the review of procurement policy and increased training will support the Council's efforts to eliminate Modern Slavery. All activities considered in the action plan will need to take Modern Slavery into account.
17. Expanding upon the core equality considerations, this report further refines the approach for the Council to respond to the challenge of climate and environmental degradation to support the wellbeing of future generations.

## **Climate and Environment Implications**

18. Climate Change and the environment is relevant to the decision in this report as the decision relates to activities that release Greenhouse Gases, resilience to environmental impacts or impacting on ecology in the following ways: The report is further refining the Council's Strategy for reducing its contribution to climate change and negative environmental issues, providing a programme of activity towards Carbon Neutrality for the Council and a framework for borough wide activity.

## **Conclusion**

19. The Climate and Environmental Emergency presents significant risk to residents and businesses. This report provides further detail on the Action Plan that will enable the Council to respond effectively to this emergency.

ANDY BRENNAN  
CLIMATE CHANGE MANAGER

Date: 7 December 2020  
Contact Officer: Andy Brennan  
Tel No: 023 8068 8077  
e-mail: andy.brennan@eastleigh.gov.uk  
Appendices: 1 - Mid 2020/21 Action Plan

### **LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 - SECTION 100D**

The following is a list of documents which disclose facts or matters on which this report or an important part of it is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. This list does not include any published works or documents which would disclose exempt or confidential information.

None.