	REPORT TO THE PLACES AND FUTURES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE **TO BE HELD ON 30 JUNE 2021**	
	Topic	**Climate Change**
	Task Group	***Climate Change***
Corporate Aims **Better Lives, Better Homes, Better Places, Brighter Futures**	**Cabinet Portfolio Holder**	**Cllr Michelle Donohue-Moncrieff**

REPORT OF: CHIEF EXECUTIVE – 21/104

WARDS AFFECTED: All

SUBJECT: CLIMATE CHANGE REVIEW GROUP – FINAL REPORT

REASON(S) REPORT REQUESTED:

To consider the final report of findings of the Climate Change Task and Finish Group.

PURPOSE OF REPORT:

To outline the findings and recommendations of the Climate Change Task and Finish Group and provide opportunity for comment on the associated Draft Climate Change Strategy prior to its consideration by Cabinet in July 2021.

RISK ISSUES:

There are clear and various environmental risks associated with not taking action on climate change from local to global scale.

There is a clear risk of reputational damage if the Council does not act to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions of its operations and of the wider Borough.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 In a meeting of the Council in January 2019, a motion to declare a 'Climate Emergency' was passed. This motion resolved the Council to pledge to do everything within its power to make the Borough of Scarborough carbon neutral by 2030.

1.2 In October 2019, the Overview and Scrutiny Board resolved to establish the Climate Change Task and Finish Group to focus on how the Council can deliver the climate change aspirations set out in the January 2019 motion. The cross-party Task and Finish Group comprises Councillors Phil Trumper (Chair), Will Forbes, Clive Pearson, Paul Riley, Neil Robinson, Michael Stonehouse and Sue Tucker, with additional support from Councillor Theresa Norton. The purpose and objectives of the group were to:

- To identify how the Council can engage with and support the community and local environmental groups to deliver these aspirations across the Borough and to ensure that the local community has an opportunity to shape the development of the Council's climate change strategic plan.
- To develop a set of strategic climate change objectives to deliver on the Council's climate change aspirations.

1.3 The work of the Task and Finish Group was temporarily interrupted due to the impact of the Coronavirus pandemic in 2020, but was given added impetus and support through the appointment of the Climate Change and Carbon Reduction Officer, Harry Baross in early 2021. Initial consultation events with both Council staff and external stakeholders took place in January and February 2020. A final consultation session on the draft Climate Change Strategy was arranged with public and third sector partners earlier this month.

1.4 This report sets out the work of the Climate Change Task and Finish Group in achieving these objectives and to obtain any feedback on the resulting Climate Change Strategy prior to its submission to Cabinet for consideration in July 2021.

2. CORPORATE AIMS

2.1 Tackling climate change has the opportunity to support all of the Council's corporate aims.

- Better Lives – reducing environmental harms, promoting and enabling green and healthy lifestyles
- Better Homes – supporting the retrofit of homes
- Better Places – developing a green environment
- Brighter Futures – growing a strong green and circular economy

3. BACKGROUND AND ISSUES

3.1 Climate change is widely recognised as a severe threat to the Borough and the global community both today and for decades to come. Risks include higher sea levels, stronger storms, and more potent heatwaves.

3.2 Actors at local and global scales are committing to climate action with the ambition to limit global temperature rise by the end of the century to no more than 1.5°C, thus limiting some of the most dangerous impacts of climate change. In 2019, the UK government put into law a target of achieving net zero emissions by 2050.

3.3 Greenhouse gas emissions per capita in the Borough of Scarborough are lower than the national average, much lower than the Yorkshire and Humber average, and have been falling consistently for the past decade and a half. However, the Borough is not currently on track to reach carbon neutrality by 2030, or even 2050.

4. ASSESSMENT

4.1 The Council is seen to have a significant role to play in reducing greenhouse gas emissions in the Borough. The Council has significant control over its own operational emissions and measures can be taken to reduce the emissions from our fleet and equipment, energy use, commuting and business travel, and the procurement and consumption of goods and services. The Council can also act to aid the decarbonisation of the wider Borough with actions and policies to reduce emissions associated with transport, energy use, and land use.

4.2 Public and third sector partners in the community were consulted at the key stages of initiation and resolution of the Task and Finish Group to provide evidence of their own work on decarbonisation, their future strategies, and opportunities for partnership. These consultations showed similar work was being done elsewhere to decarbonise fleets and estates, and that regional strategies supported the areas of focus of the Council.

4.3 The work of the Group has resulted in the production of a Draft Climate Change Strategy (Appendix A), outlining strategic objectives and an initial set of action plans.

4.4 The five strategic objectives, with associated actions, to reduce the Council's operational greenhouse gas emissions proposed are:

- Decarbonise the Council's fleet and equipment through a planned electric and hydrogen transition
- Decarbonise the Council estate through energy efficiency measures and utilising green energy
- Promote zero emission transport in staff business travel and commuting
- Minimise emissions embedded in the procurement and consumption of goods and services
- Embed net zero thinking into every aspect of the Council's culture.

4.5 The four strategic objectives, with associated actions, proposed to reduce the emissions of the Borough are:

- Minimise and decarbonise the energy use in properties within the Borough
- Encourage active and public transport to be the primary modes of movement in the Borough and promote the use of EVs where car use is necessary
- Grow a greener Borough with more land used for carbon sequestration
- Develop a strong green and circular economy that builds upon a community that understands and cares about climate change

4.6 Subject to any feedback and commentary from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, the draft Climate Change Strategy will be submitted to Cabinet for their consideration in July 2021.

5. IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Policy

This report provides a new draft Climate Change Strategy for the Council to be considered.

5.2 Legal

There are no legal implications arising from this report.

5.3 Financial

While the report and Strategy do not include specific financial recommendations, the strategic objectives and associated actions will have financial implications if they are to be enacted with their full intention.

It is likely that grant funding can be utilised to enact some elements, such as utilising further rounds of the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme to retrofit Council buildings, or utilising Green Homes Grant Local Authority Delivery Scheme funding to decarbonise low-income homes.

Actions to embolden the report and Strategy, such as increasing the available money to procure electric or hydrogen vehicles, would require future Cabinet/Council approval.

5.4 Equalities and Diversity

Climate change mitigation will serve to reduce harmful environmental impacts across every part of our community. It is noted that some sections of our community will find it harder to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions and so actions in the Strategy are aimed at enabling the most vulnerable to take action, such as focussing on those living in hard-to-decarbonise homes and in fuel poverty.

5.5 Communications

The development of this report has seen two external consultation sessions with key public and third sector partners to receive evidence and communicate the Strategy. A communications plan will be put in pace to publicise this Strategy. The Strategy also recognises the importance of communicating our acts of decarbonisation as exemplars to the community and celebrating climate action by individuals and communities.

5.6 Environmental Implications

By its nature, this report seeks to reduce the environmental damage that will result from future climate change by reducing the emissions of greenhouse gasses by the Council and across the Borough.

5.7 I have considered whether the following implications arise from this report and am satisfied that there is no identified implication that will arise from this decision: Staffing, Planning, Crime and Disorder, Health and Safety.

Mike Greene
CE

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Background Papers:
Please give details of all publicly accessible (non private) background papers applicable to the report.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUERIES ABOUT THIS REPORT OR WISH TO INSPECT ANY OF THE BACKGROUND PAPERS, PLEASE CONTACT THE AUTHOR.