



ADUR & WORTHING
COUNCILS

Joint Strategic Committee
9 July 2019
Agenda Item 10

Key Decision [~~Yes~~/No]

Ward(s) Affected: All

Climate Emergency ... Becoming Carbon Neutral by 2030

Report by the Director for Digital and Resources

Executive Summary

1. Purpose

- 1.1 This encourages members to consider reports from the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) which urge radical action to combat the causes of climate change.
- 1.2 Growing numbers of local authorities are declaring the 'Climate Emergency' and pledging to work towards becoming carbon neutral.
- 1.3 Adur & Worthing Councils are making good progress on carbon reduction towards their 2050 target. This target could be brought forward to 2030 in light of the catastrophic impacts predicted if global warming continues at its current rate.

2. Recommendation

It is recommended that the Joint Strategic Committee:

- 2.1 Declare a 'Climate Emergency';
- 2.2 Go beyond the previously set 2050 target adopted by Adur & Worthing Councils in 2018 and work towards becoming carbon neutral by 2030;
- 2.3 Call on the government to provide the powers and resources to make the 2030 target possible;
- 2.4 Continue to work with partners across the County and region to deliver

this goal; and

- 2.5 Request production of an outline strategy on how the Councils will work towards the carbon neutral target. The strategy to be produced by January 2020 at the latest

3.0 Context

- 3.1 On 8th October 2018, the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) released a [report](#) on the impacts of 1.5°C global warming above pre-industrial levels. It warned there are just 12 years to act to limit catastrophic climate change.
- 3.2 Beyond 1.5°C far reaching, catastrophic climate change impacts are predicted, increasing risks of extreme heat, drought, floods and poverty. These would expose millions to coastal flooding; create irreversible species loss and extinction; and result in climate-related risks to health, livelihoods, food security, water supply, human security, and economic growth.
- 3.3 Currently the world is on track to overshoot the Paris Agreement's 1.5°C limit possibly as early as the 2030's. The IPCC warns that urgent and unprecedented action is required to avoid overshoot through reducing greenhouse gas emissions, particularly carbon.
- 3.4 The October IPCC publication was joined by numerous further national and international warnings on the state of the environment, and the need for radical changes to prevent irreversible climate damage to ecosystems as a result of human activity. These include:
 - 3.4.1 *WWF Living Planet Report 2018* indexing decline in global wildlife populations of 60% in just over 40 years;
 - 3.4.2 the Environment Agency Chief Executive (2019) warning that climate impacts will lead to the 'jaws of death': inadequate water to supply our needs in 20-25 years;
 - 3.4.3 *2019 UN International Panel on Biodiversity & Ecosystems Report's* alert of *nature's dangerous decline* at rates unprecedented in human history; species extinction accelerating; and grave impacts on people around the world.
- 3.5 Local Authorities (LAs) are responding, being well placed to show leadership, drive change, and set targets for emissions reductions associated with council estates and services. Numbers of LAs to declare Climate Emergency and pledge action increased from 34 to 93 in England between 1st May - 6th June (appendix 1) and in May, Parliament itself made the declaration.
- 3.6 In February West Sussex 'noted' the Climate Emergency; pledging to pursue carbon neutrality by 2030, and setting up a Task and Finish Group. Lancing is

the first West Sussex parish to make the declaration (May 2019). If Adur & Worthing declare the Climate Emergency, they will be the first West Sussex District and Borough to do so.

4.0 Issues for consideration: Progress is being made

- 4.1 Adur & Worthing Councils are making good progress on the carbon reduction agenda. *Stewarding our Natural Resources* is a core principle of the strategic vision in *Platforms for our Places*.
- 4.2 Strong commitments have been made in *Sustainable AW* to reduce carbon emissions; including signing up to the *UK100 Cities Pledge* to achieve *100% Clean Energy by 2050* and the government's voluntary *Emissions Reduction Pledge 2020*, to report on annual energy use and emissions;
- 4.3 Council action is succeeding in reducing emissions¹. Recent action includes:
 - 4.3.1 creating a Strategic Sustainability Manager post in 2016 to shape and drive this agenda;
 - 4.3.2 reducing council carbon emissions by 30% over the period 2012-19;
 - 4.3.3 LED upgrades to the lighting in Buckingham Road and High Street multi-storey car parks save 98 tonnesCO₂ a year.
 - 4.3.4 solar PV arrays of 40kW at Portland House and 20kW at Shoreham Centre save 32 tonnes a year;
 - 4.3.5 work is underway to produce a Carbon Reduction Action Plan for the councils to identify further carbon savings; actions to achieve these; and a monitoring programme.
 - 4.3.6 allocating over £400,000 for renewable energy and energy efficiency improvements to council stock, delivering long term savings and carbon reductions (see paragraph 8);
 - 4.3.7 producing a staff Travel Action Plan to support greater active travel and business travel and commuting other than by car;
 - 4.3.8 launching easitADUR & WORTHING to encourage greater use by council staff and local businesses of public transport, cycling and low emissions vehicles;
 - 4.3.9 increasing provision of electric vehicle charge points and preparing to replace council fleet with electric vehicles;
 - 4.3.10 working on the draft Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan to help make cycling and walking safer and easier;

¹ These CO₂ reductions relate to gas and electricity use. Emissions from transport will be calculated under the Carbon Reduction Plan and monitored from summer 2019 onwards.

- 4.3.11 setting up the bike hire scheme “Donkey Bikes” in Worthing;
- 4.3.12 working with the county on the £40m Innovate UK *Smarthubs project* to deliver smart clean transport, heat and power.

5.0 Working towards being carbon neutral by 2030

- 5.1 The recommendations at 2.1 - 2.4 echo commitments made by other LAs declaring the Climate Emergency. As previously recognised climate change is rapidly gaining as a public concern and as a political issue. The UK Parliament and an increasing number of Local Authorities are declaring a Climate Emergency and agreeing to work towards Carbon Neutrality by 2030. The declaration is more than a token act, used well it can become a catalyst for our Councils to become carbon neutral earlier than we are currently planning.
- 5.2 Declaring the Climate Emergency is in accordance with, but would trigger strengthening current policy; comfortably progressing the *Sustainable AW and Platform 3* agenda. Policy exists to work towards ‘clean energy’ by 2050: an enhanced target will require accelerated work, but maintains policy direction.
- 5.3 The production of a Carbon Reduction Plan (with actions) is already in the councils work programme. It will provide the outline strategy referred to in Recommendation 2.5, plus a robust monitoring methodology.
- 5.4 The extent of actions necessary for the councils to become carbon neutral by 2030 will need to be modelled but will include by 2030:
 - 5.4.1 virtually eliminating carbon emissions from council energy and transport use through almost entirely ceasing fossil fuel use;
 - 5.4.2 improvements to energy efficiency and significant increase in renewable energy on council buildings and land;
 - 5.4.3 shift to electric vehicles; use of smartgrids and battery storage
- 5.5 The Councils have already committed finance to deliver work in accordance with these types of projects (see paragraph 8, Finance).

6.0 Benefits

- 6.1 Working towards being carbon neutral brings key benefits:
 - 6.1.1 reducing the Councils’ contribution to climate change;
 - 6.1.2 reducing the Councils’ energy and transport fuel bills to help manage budget deficits and protect against rising energy prices;
 - 6.1.3 developing future income streams to support public service delivery;

- 6.1.4 reducing the impact on air quality of council service delivery;
- 6.1.5 providing future energy security, affordability and resilience;
- 6.1.6 delivering against the *UK100 Cities Clean Energy and BEIS 2020 Emissions Reduction Pledges* already made.

7.0 Engagement and Communication

- 7.1 There is clearly significant community interest in expediting our work towards carbon neutrality. Extensive consultation has been carried out with, and by, council officers over energy efficiency, renewable energy projects, energy efficiency, transport emissions reduction, SALIX funding and the Smarthubs project.
- 7.2 Consultation with Sustainability Officers at County, Districts and Borough levels on Climate Emergency and carbon reduction progress.
- 7.3 Consultation with local community partners and stakeholders on climate action.

8.0 Financial Implications

- 8.1 There is currently £735,680 allocated to deliver energy efficiency and renewable energy improvements within the 2019/20 capital programme.

£325,000 <i>Adur DC</i>	<i>Rolling programme of installation of solar panels and other energy efficiency measures.</i>
£410,680 <i>Worthing BC</i>	<i>Solar Renewable Energy Projects and other Environmental Improvements.</i>

The budgets have been included on an ‘invest to save’ basis and each proposal should be generate a saving over the life of the investment. Each scheme is subject to a business case and approved by the Executive Member of Resources prior to spend.

- 8.2 The Carbon Reduction Plan to be produced in 2019 will identify prioritised interventions to deliver cost effective carbon reduction and long term cost savings (energy efficiency, renewable energy and transport projects).
- 8.3 Worthing Borough Council lowered energy costs by 63% in two Worthing car parks by investing LED lights. Savings have also been made in the cost of lighting Worthing Promenade. Portland House solar PV provides approximate energy costs of £5000 a year; these savings will increase as mains electricity costs increase.

- 8.4 The full cost of working towards carbon neutrality is unknown, but an estimation will be produced as part of the Carbon Reduction Plan. The cost of producing the Carbon Reduction Plan is £15,000 and this is being funded from the business development budget.
- 8.5 The cost of investing in energy efficiency measures could be reduced by setting up a [SALIX revolving fund](#) with BEIS through their Clean Growth Funds. These are match-funded, ring fenced budgets to support long-term, holistic plans for improving energy efficiency. A meeting with the government's SALIX team has been set up with officers for July 3rd.

9.0 Legal Implications

- 9.1 The Climate Change Act 2008 is the basis for the UK's approach to tackling and responding to climate change. It requires that emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases are reduced and that climate change risks are prepared for.
- 9.2 Section 111 of the Local Government Act 1972 enables the Council to do anything that is calculated to facilitate, or which is conducive or incidental to, the discharge of any of their functions.

Background Papers

- *JSC Report 06.11.18: Stewarding our Environment Framework*
- *Platforms for our Places: Platform 3, Stewarding our Natural Resources*
- *SustainableAW*
- *Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, 2018, Global Warming of 1.5 °C Report*
- *May 2019 UN International Panel on Biodiversity and Ecosystems Report*
- *Reducing UK emissions – 2018 Progress Report to Parliament, Climate Change Committee, June 2018*
- *Net Zero – The UK's contribution to stopping global warming, Climate Change Committee, May 2019*
- *Emissions reduction pledge 2020: emissions reporting in public and higher education sectors, BEIS 2018*

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Sustainability & Risk Assessment

1. Economic

- With catastrophic climate change there is predicted by the IPCC to be damage to property and infrastructure, sea-level rise, floods, droughts, heatwaves, wildfires, and extreme storms requiring extensive repair of essential infrastructure such as homes, roads, bridges, railroad tracks, airport runways, power lines, dams, levees, and seawalls. Lost productivity is expected to follow with disruptions in daily life, lost work and school days and harm to trade, transportation, agriculture, fisheries, and energy production. The cost of addressing the causes of climate change are evaluated to be far less than the cost of inaction.

2. Social

2.1 Social Value

- Some of the potential social value co-benefits of mitigating climate change include: The immediate benefits of avoided GHG emissions: less adverse effects from local air pollution on health & agriculture productivity; greater energy security and lower vulnerability of trade balance to oil price volatility; an acceleration of technological change when early investments in low-carbon technologies deliver. The short-term knock-on effects and long-term development benefits of a well-conducted low carbon transition include: redirecting savings toward productive investments; strengthening industrial fabric through investing in low-carbon technologies and local resources; reduced poverty through higher growth, higher employment, and better access to modern energy, transport, and housing infrastructures

2.2 Equality Issues

- The negative impacts of climate change are disproportionately borne by persons and communities already in disadvantageous situations owing to geography, poverty, gender, age, disability, cultural or ethnic background, among others, that have historically contributed the least to greenhouse gas emissions. In particular, persons, communities and even entire States that occupy and rely upon low-lying coastal lands, tundra and Arctic ice, arid lands, and other delicate ecosystems and at risk territories for their housing and subsistence face the greatest threats from climate change.

2.3 Community Safety Issues (Section 17)

- Climate change is predicted by the IPCC to cause mass migrations, impacts on human health, infrastructure, and transportation systems, as well as energy, food, and water supplies. With damage to infrastructure and systems currently relied on, risks of the breakdown of social structures and so community safety may follow.

2.4 Human Rights Issues

- The IPCC report sets out how climate change phenomena directly and indirectly threaten the full and effective enjoyment of a range of human rights by people throughout the world, including the rights to life, water and sanitation, food, health, housing, self-determination, culture and development.

3. Environmental

- See paragraph 1. Economic, above.

4. Governance

- Declaring Climate Emergency and adopting the 2030 target progresses Sustainable AW and Platform 3 policy direction.

Appendix 1

List of councils which have passed motions relating to a climate emergency and/or targets from the [Campaign Against Climate Change website](#) (at 06.06.19)

Bath and North East Somerset
Bedford Borough Council - aspiring for carbon neutral by 2030
Bradford Metropolitan District Council - (90% reduction in carbon emissions compared to 2005 levels by 2030)
Brighton Hove City Council - (carbon neutral by 2030)
Bristol City Council - (carbon neutral by 2030)
Calderdale (no fixed target date)
Cambridge City Council
Carlisle (net zero carbon by 2030)
Carmarthenshire (zero carbon by 2030)
Cheltenham (carbon neutral by 2030)
Cheshire West and Chester (aspires to carbon neutral by 2030)
Cornwall County Council (carbon neutral by 2030)
Devon County Council
Dorset
Durham County Council
Forest of Dean District Council (carbon neutral by 2030)
Gwynedd County Council
Hastings Borough
Herefordshire - 'aspiration to be carbon neutral by 2030' (motion p79) -
Isles of Scilly
Kirklees Metropolitan District Council (carbon neutral in line with IPCC carbon targets)
Lancashire
Lancaster City Council (carbon neutral by 2030)
Leeds City Council (carbon neutral by 2030)
Leicester City Council (carbon neutral by 2030)
Lewes D.C.
Greater London Authority
London Borough of Haringey - carbon neutral by 2030
London Borough of Greenwich
London Borough of Hackney (declared by Mayor of Hackney)
London Borough of Lambeth (carbon neutral by 2030)
London Borough of Lewisham (carbon neutral by 2030)
London Borough of Newham - carbon neutral by 2030
London Borough of Southwark carbon neutral by 2030
London Borough of Tower Hamlets - carbon neutral by 2025
Maidstone
Manchester City Council (carbon neutral by 2038)
Medway
Mendip District Council (carbon neutral by 2030)
Milton Keynes - (carbon neutral by 2030)
Newcastle - carbon neutral by 2030
North Somerset Council (net zero carbon by 2030)
Norwich
Nottingham City Council (carbon neutral by 2028)
Oxford City Council (carbon neutrality target TBC)

Oxfordshire County Council - carbon neutral by 2030
Plymouth (carbon neutral by 2030)
Portsmouth - carbon neutral by 2030
Powys County Council (carbon neutral eventually)
Preston
Reading Borough Council (to pursue zero carbon by 2030)
Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council - aiming for zero
Reigate and Banstead B.C.
Richmond
Rushcliffe
Scarborough Borough Council (carbon neutral by 2030)
Sheffield City Council (carbon neutral asap)
Shropshire (carbon neutral 2030)
Somerset
Somerset West and Taunton - carbon neutral by 2030
South Cambridgeshire (target date of 2050)
South Lakeland District Council - no fixed date
Suffolk
Sunderland City Council - carbon neutral by 2030, subject to public consultation
Stroud District Council (carbon neutral by 2030)
Teignbridge District Council (carbon neutral by 2025)
Trafford Council - (carbon neutrality target TBC)
Vale of White Horse
Wiltshire County Council - carbon neutral by 2030
Wirral
City of York - carbon neutral by 2030

Parish and town councils

Alnwick Town Council - (carbon neutral by 2030)
Bideford Town Council - carbon neutral by 2030
Caister Parish Council
Dartington Parish Council
Feock Parish Council
Frome Town Council - (carbon neutral by 2030)
Glastonbury Town Council - (carbon neutral by 2030)
Hebden Royd Town Council - carbon neutral as soon as possible
Holme Valley Parish Council - carbon neutral by 2030
Ide Parish Council
Kendall Town Council - carbon neutral by 2030
Ladock Parish Council - (carbon neutral by 2030)
Lancing Parish Council - (carbon neutral by 2030)
Langport Town Council - (carbon neutral by 2030)
Machynlleth Town Council - (carbon neutral asap)
Oswestry Town Council - (carbon neutral by 2030)
Shrewsbury Town Council
Stithians Parish Council - (carbon neutral by 2030)
Totnes Town Council - (carbon neutral by 2030)
Trowbridge Town Council
Tywyn Town Council - (carbon neutral asap)