

COUNCIL
25 JULY 2019

Report of the Head of Corporate Services

CLIMATE CHANGE TASK GROUP

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To agree terms of reference for the formation and operation of a Climate Change Task Group, to further the decision taken by Council in declaring a Climate Emergency.

RECOMMENDATION

1. That the Terms of Reference set out in the Appendix to the report are approved.
2. That the political group leaders be invited to nominate members to serve on the Group until the next Annual Meeting of the Council, on the basis of political proportionality.
3. That attendance at formal meetings of the Task Group is classified as an Approved duty in terms of the Scheme of Members Allowances.

WARDS AFFECTED

All

STRATEGIC LINK

The District Council's commitment to the Climate Emergency will have an impact on the Council objectives and pending Corporate Plan. The Group will be instrumental in scoping the impact and measures required to deliver upon the Council's ambition.

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 At its meeting on 30 May, 2019, Council made the following decision:

"Climate change is an existential threat. Extreme weather events have caused damage and destruction in this country and have led to deaths and displacement of thousands of people worldwide. Natural habitats, wildlife and biodiversity are in peril, not only from climate change, but they are being adversely affected by human intervention, which in turn is enhancing the effects of climate change.

Scientists are warning that we have a little over a decade to implement urgent action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions before we reach a global tipping point.

Action is required at international, national, local and individual level to achieve the carbon reduction levels needed.

This Council pledges to:

- Declare a Climate Emergency
- Make Derbyshire Dales District Council carbon neutral by 2030
- Call on the UK Government to provide the powers and resources to make the 2030 target possible
- Work with partners across the county and region to deliver this new goal through all relevant strategies

Report back to Council within six months with the actions the Council will take to address this emergency.”

2. **PROPOSED TASK GROUP**

- 2.1 A Task Group is proposed to act as an advisory body to Council, to develop the District Council’s thinking and actions required to deliver upon the resolution. Terms of Reference for that Group are attached.
- 1.3 The Group is designed to be a non-decision making advisory body with a remit which directs the Group to focus on the District Council becoming carbon neutral by 2030 and to the development of policy and initiatives that may impact on the District as a whole. The Group has the ability to call upon external expertise and may co-opt members to assist in that regard.
- 1.4 Reporting lines are to Council on a quarterly basis. Meetings of the Group can be a mixture of formal and informal and the requirement to publish agenda and make meetings open to the public is not a requirement. The Group can therefore work in a more dynamic environment and include discussions between Group members taking place at ‘same time, different place’. Full transparency will be achieved by the requirement for the Group to report to Council on its findings and for all recommendations to be formally approved.
- 1.4 As a non-decision making Group, political proportionality is not a statutory requirement, but is recommended in this case to ensure cross Council input and support. A Group of 6 elected members would have the following makeup (rounded to include all political groups):

Conservative	3
Labour	1
Liberal Democrat	1
Green/Independent	1

3. **RISK ASSESSMENT**

3.1 Legal

The terms of reference are for a non-decision making body. Full decision making on climate change will rest with the Council itself and the rules of political proportionality do not apply in this case. The legal risk is therefore low.

3.2 Financial

The mileage payments for the Group as an Approved Duty can be contained within the existing budget allocation. As the Group is designed to be a non-decision making advisory body, it will not have the authority to approve expenditure; that decision rests with Council. The financial risk is therefore low.

4. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

In preparing this report, the relevance of the following factors has also been considered: prevention of crime and disorder, equalities, environmental, climate change, health, human rights, personnel and property.

5. CONTACT INFORMATION

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6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

7. ATTACHMENTS

Appendix 1 – Terms of Reference



Climate Change Task Group Terms of Reference

1. Background

The District Council has agreed to embark upon an exciting mission towards making Derbyshire Dales District Council carbon neutral by 2030. By resolution on 30 May, 2019, the District Council pledged to:

- *Call on the UK Government to provide the powers and resources to make the 2030 target possible*
- *Work with partners across the county and region to deliver this new goal through all relevant strategies*
- *Report back to Council within six months with the actions the Council will take to address this emergency”*

Success of the mission depends on strong leadership, support, direction and collaborative working with partners and interest groups. The District Council has established a Climate Change Task Group to be its primary advisor in meeting this pledge.

2. Terms of Reference

To advise and report to meetings of the Council on measures -

- To scrutinise the development of new carbon emissions reduction targets for the District Council's operational activity.
- To raise, working with partners, awareness and capacity in the communities of the Derbyshire Dales on the impacts of climate change and potential actions across the District Council area
- To consider the effectiveness of planned activities to meet the District Council's 2030 carbon neutrality commitment.
- To propose new actions and policy to achieve the above, drawing out budgetary and other resource implications for the Council.
- To suggest oversight and review mechanisms in order to ensure progress towards targets.
- To collate and consider good practice from other local authorities from the UK.

3. Membership

Membership of the Task Group will comprise 6 elected Members of the District Council based on the rules of political proportionality to ensure cross council support. Elected Members will be nominated by their respective group leader on inception and will serve until the Annual Meeting of the Council.

The Task Group may co-opt up to 3 lay members in an advisory role, who have climate change knowledge and expertise, with desirable skills and assets that can support the Task Group.

4. Chair

The Chair of the Task Group will be appointed by the Task Group at its first meeting. In the absence of the Chair, the remaining members present shall elect one of themselves to chair any formal meetings of the Group.

5. Officer Support

The Head of Regulatory Services will be the lead officer of the District Council in terms of providing professional advice and support to the Task Group. The Business Support Team will provide administrative support to the Group in terms of setting up meetings and recording decisions.

6. Resources and Budget

Members of the Task Group will provide the resources as required. There is no budget established for this Task Group. Attendance at formal meetings of the Group is classified as an Approved Duty to allow the payment of travel expenses to elected and co-opted Members.

7. Accountability and Reporting

The Chair or a representative shall report on a quarterly basis to meetings of the Council on its proceedings and for decision on its recommended actions.

Meetings – the Working Group will meet formally at for times a year at the offices of the District Council and informally as required. All decisions of the Group will be taken at formal meetings and an agenda will be forwarded to each member of the Working Group and any other person required to attend, at least 3 working days before the date of the meeting. The Chair shall set the agenda and prepare the note style minutes. Minutes should be distributed within 10 working days of the meeting and be available for all members of the Council to see.

Decision Making – the Task Group will make decisions in the form of recommendations to Council and based on a majority of one. The quorum for formal meetings of the Group will be 3 elected Members.

8. Work Plan

The Task Group will prepare a workplan for Council's approval which will outline the expectations, deliverables and timelines required to deliver on the Group's Terms of Reference.