

COUNCIL
16 January 2020

Report of the Head of Regulatory Services

CLIMATE CHANGE WORKING GROUP – YEAR 1 ACTION PLAN

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To inform the Council of the work undertaken by the Derbyshire Dales Members' Climate Change Working Group in developing a Year 1 Action Plan, following the production of the road map in September 2019.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Year 1 Action Plan produced by the Climate Change Working Group is approved.

WARDS AFFECTED

All

STRATEGIC LINK

Addressing the issue of climate change links with all three of the District Council's aims to be clean, safe and thriving.

BACKGROUND

At its full Council meeting on 30 May 2019 Derbyshire Dales District Council resolved to declare a climate emergency, to make Derbyshire Dales District Council carbon neutral by 2030, to call upon the UK Government to provide the powers and resources to make the 2030 target possible, to work with partners across the county and region to deliver this new goal through all relevant strategies, and to report back to Council within six months with the actions the Council will take to address this emergency.

On 26 September 2019 Council received a report setting out a 'road map', which identified those areas of Council work and influence that the Climate Change Working Group believed were most relevant to this subject. Since that time the Group has concentrated on setting out those action that support the 4 priorities identified in the road map, which they believe can be delivered, or initiated by 31 March 2020.

1 REPORT

1.1 Since the Council meeting in September the Members' Working Group has been considering which actions they believe they Council can take by the end of the 2019/20 year that would support the four priority areas identified in the road map. These priorities are:

- Transport;
- Estates;
- Planning Policy;

- Housing Policy.

In broad terms these areas of priority can be considered as examining the carbon footprint of the District Council as an organisation and looking at how 2 of the Council's policy areas can produce a positive impact in the wider district.

- 1.2 The actions which have been put forward by the Group are set out in Appendix 1 to this report and can be seen to support the priority areas, although it is worth noting that the heading 'Estates' is now termed 'Council Owned Buildings'. As suggested in paragraph 1.1 above, the first two sets of actions are broadly inward looking, whilst the latter two look outside the organisation's operations to a large degree, into its wider sphere of influence.
- 1.3 It is recognised that the actions are limited at this stage, but they are intended to set a baseline in terms of the Council's carbon footprint and to commence work on both Planning and Housing guidance.
- 1.4 Outside of the structure of the Climate Change Working Group, the Council is also engaged with Derbyshire County Council and the other Derbyshire district and borough councils, through an officer level group. As part of this work it is proposed that the Derbyshire Environment and Climate Change Framework that was originally developed by Derbyshire County Council will be rolled out across all the authorities, with a view to directing how all public authorities will engage with the wider community in relation to climate change issues. A copy of the Framework document is attached as Appendix 2 to this report.
- 1.5 One key area of work being considered by the countywide officer group is how this issue should be resourced. It is recognised that currently most of the Derbyshire authorities do not have dedicated officer resource to progress this important work. The issue of climate change is one that has been recognised through the countywide work on non-structural reform, as one that would be ideal to share resources and it is hoped that a model approach can be developed by the Group. The next meeting of the Group is on 14 January 2020, so it should be possible for a verbal update on this work to be reported at the Council meeting. If it is not possible to identify a collaborative model of working in this way then it will become necessary for Derbyshire Dales District Council to consider how it will resource this workstream in the future.

2 RISK ASSESSMENT

2.1 Legal

At this stage the work of the Climate Change Working Group has not committed the District Council to any legal risks.

2.2 Financial

The financial implications of any commitment to further work in respect of climate change have not yet been evaluated. If any of the items in the Climate Change Action Plan exceed current budgetary provision, a report will be presented to the appropriate policy committee with a request for Council to approve the additional revenue budget; financial risks will be assessed at that time.

Should a request be received before this meeting for a contribution towards resourcing the countywide officer group, an amount could be included in the revenue spending proposals to be considered by Council on 5 March.

3 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.

4 CONTACT INFORMATION

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5 ATTACHMENTS

Appendix 1: Year 1 Climate Change Action Plan
Appendix 2: Derbyshire Environment and Climate Change Framework