



## Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council

Forward timetable of consultation and decision making

Council 14 July 2020

Wards affected: All Wards

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### Climate Change Strategy

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Report of Director (Community Services)

#### **1. Purpose of report**

1.1 To present the Council's Climate Change Strategy for approval.

#### **2. Recommendation**

2.1 Council:

2.1.1 Approves the Climate Change Strategy and acknowledge the further work to take place during the next 12 months.

2.1.2 Approves the setting up of an expenditure budget of £100,000 funded from the Reserve agreed at February Budget Council to support actions needed to implement the Council's Climate Change Strategy.

#### **3. Background to the report**

3.1 In July 2019 the Council declared a Climate Emergency and agreed to bring back a Climate Change Strategy which details the work to be undertaken to move towards Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council becoming carbon neutral by 2030, along with detailing the Council's leadership role in promoting community, public, business and other Council partnerships to achieve the carbon neutral position throughout the borough.

3.2 Following on from the declaration, work was undertaken across the Council to understand what activity already took place which contributes to the Climate Change work, along with what activity and action could take place. This work included exploring ways the Council works with statutory partners, local businesses, schools and residents to promote climate issues. Discussions

also took place with local schools, young people and the Employment and Skills Task Force, along with some key organisations in the Borough such as Twycross Zoo.

3.3 This work culminated in the development of the attached Climate Change Strategy and high level action plan (appendix A). The focus of the Strategy is under four headings:

- Leadership
- Regulation
- Estate and operations
- Procurement and finance.

3.4 Consultation on the Climate Change Strategy was launched at the Rural Conference in early March. Consultation was due to take place with a number of groups, but due to the COVID 19 pandemic these did not happen. An online survey was undertaken, where along with a series of questions, people were asked to provide details of work they were doing on climate change, either individually, though a business or community group and to give their ideas around work that could be done.

3.5 Through the online consultation 56 responses were received. In summary:

- 69.7% of those who responded agreed we had captured the key issues and challenges in the draft Climate Change Strategy
- 76.8% agreed with the four priority themes
- 75% said they'd like to be more involved in action to tackle climate change,
- 75% had suggestions on how we can involve more local people in tackling climate change.

3.6 One of the outcomes of the COVID 19 epidemic has been the positive impact on climate change through behaviour change and the reduction in emissions as a result of lock down. We must ensure that we capitalise on these changes and encourage sustained behaviour change to continue the positive trends. Climate change considerations need to run through all of our recovery plans and to be reflected in the ongoing work connected to the Climate Change Strategy.

3.7 Next Steps

The suggestions made by people in response to the Climate Change Strategy consultation will be further analysed and be included in ongoing consultation with residents and businesses. An officer working group will progress actions within the Climate Change Strategy, working with the Cross Party Member Working Group. It was envisaged that this Climate Change Strategy would be updated in 12 months time and be informed by the work to be undertaken, in particular the ongoing consultation with residents and the review of internal operations of the Council. This work will now be further influenced by the

COVID 19 Recovery Plan and associated work both internally and externally with partners and residents.

**4. Exemptions in accordance with the Access to Information procedure rules**

4.1 None

**5. Financial implications [AW]**

5.1 The Council approved an Environmental Action Reserve of £100,000 at the February 2020 council meeting. Therefore any expenditure due to the implementation of the Council's Climate Change Strategy can be funded out of that reserve as needed, and if not spent in the financial year it will be carried forward as needed. This will mean there is no impact on the in year general fund position due to this expenditure.

**6. Legal implications [MR]**

6.1 None

**7. Corporate Plan implications**

7.1 Contributes to the Corporate Plan Place priority.

**8. Consultation**

8.1 Middle managers within the Council were consulted. Meetings have taken place with young people and with organisations such as Midlands Energy Hub and the National Forest. The Climate Change Strategy was launched at the Rural Conference where Parish Councils were consulted. Online resident consultation has taken place.

**9. Risk implications**

9.1 It is the council's policy to proactively identify and manage significant risks which may prevent delivery of business objectives.

9.2 It is not possible to eliminate or manage all risks all of the time and risks will remain which have not been identified. However, it is the officer's opinion based on the information available, that the significant risks associated with this decision / project have been identified, assessed and that controls are in place to manage them effectively.

9.3 The following significant risks associated with this report / decisions were identified from this assessment:

Management of significant (Net Red) risks		
Risk description	Mitigating actions	Owner
Due to COVID 19 the engagement activity planned for the spring/summer which would inform the Climate Change work cannot take place.	Look at alternative ways of engagement using virtual forums	Sharon Stacey
Capacity required to drive work forward and deliver	Budget identified to enable capacity to be put in place	Sharon Stacey

## 10. Knowing your community – equality and rural implications

10.1 Climate change affects all communities and areas of the Borough.

## 11. Climate implications

11.1 The Climate Change Strategy will lead the way for climate activity across the council and identifies the way the council will work with communities, businesses and schools to develop and deliver on the work.

## 12. Corporate implications

12.1 By submitting this report, the report author has taken the following into account:

- Community safety implications
- Environmental implications
- ICT implications
- Asset management implications
- Procurement implications
- Human resources implications
- Planning implications
- Data protection implications
- Voluntary sector

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Background papers: Climate Change Strategy

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