

NORTH NORTHAMPTONSHIRE SHADOW AUTHORITY

SHADOW EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

THURSDAY 25th MARCH 2021

Report Title	Climate Change Framework for North Northamptonshire
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List of Appendices

Appendix A – The Proposed Climate Change Framework

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To submit the report of the Climate Change Task and Finish Group and its proposed framework.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 The attached framework is submitted for the Shadow Executive Committee's approval as the basis for the authority's focus and approach to tackling climate change. It has been developed by a task and finish group established by the Shadow Overview and Scrutiny Committee and agreed by that committee at its meeting on 11th March 2021.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 The Shadow Overview and Scrutiny Committee recommends:-

- a) That the Shadow Executive committee approves and endorses the Climate Change Framework, attached as Appendix A to this report, as the basis for implementing recommendations by the new Council after 1st April 2021, and for appropriate consultation.
- b) Determines what consultation it would like to undertake in relation to this framework after May 2021.

- 3.2 Reason for Recommendations – To fulfil the request of the Shadow executive Committee in asking Scrutiny to consider proposing a strategy for tackling climate change for the new North Northamptonshire Authority.

4. Report Background

- 4.1. The Climate Change Task and Finish Group was established at the 8th October 2020 meeting of the Shadow Overview and Scrutiny committee, at the request of the Shadow Executive at its meeting of 24th September 2020. The Task and Finish Group comprised 8 members and is chaired by Cllr Lora Lawman. It has met ten times, to gather evidence on climate change issues and interventions and to formulate the attached framework. It has been supported by a small team of officers drawn from sovereign councils and the JPDU and has drawn on expertise within and beyond the local government family to provide evidence.
- 4.2 The terms of reference for the task and finish group was to-
- Identify best practice in environmental enhancement within local authorities locally and nationally
 - Identify areas in which the new authority can demonstrate environmental enhancement
 - Develop an environmental framework which North Northamptonshire Unitary Authority (NNC) can use to guide its decision making, policy development and service delivery in relation to environmental enhancement and Climate Emergency commitments.
- 4.3. The group went beyond the environmental themes within these headings, to look at how tackling climate change also provides a solid foundation to enhance the environment but link this to service delivery, decision making and policy development.
- 4.4. It is worth emphasising that the task and finish group was also sighted on work already being undertaken by authorities covering the north of the county and a summary of that work has been included as an appendix to the report. The task and finish recommend that these actions are maintained by the new Council as a minimum.

5 Evidence gathered and format of the Framework

- 5.1 The Task and Finish Group has had input on a range of subjects as follows
1. corporate leadership and ambition
 2. procurement and social value
 3. housing standards and asset management
 4. planning, transport, infrastructure, natural and built environment
 5. Economic development, jobs and skills
 6. public health and inequalities
 7. Public engagement, partnerships & actors

and the report is arranged accordingly.

- 5.2 The task and finish group also set up an email address¹, inviting the public to make proposals and suggestions which potentially could be accommodated within the framework – 110 submissions have been received and these were summarised for the group to work through and to agree which proposals should feature in the report. For the sake of transparency, appendix four to the report lists those ideas which were submitted, and highlights those included in the framework as priority actions. Some actions are not within the Council's powers to do, and others will be picked up anyway either as a result of national policy changes or ongoing work by the new Council. Those left unmarked should still be worthy of attention in the future and have been included therefore as matters to attend to in the longer term.
- 5.3. The framework, whilst aiming to be comprehensive in its coverage, is intended to highlight those actions members felt were a priority and which should be attended to by the new Council urgently. Members recognised it is not feasible or affordable to take every potential action simultaneously, and that the new Council needed to understand which actions would generate the most impact for the investment before taking decisions.
- 5.4. As the framework says, the Council can have an impact on mitigating and adapting to climate change and this and this should be at the heart of the Council's plans and activities. However, this is a global challenge in which the work of the Council is but a part. As a user of resources and a provider of services, the Council will only have a marginal impact, but it can also demonstrate leadership, leading by example and by lobbying and advocacy to ensure that all sectors of the community are working in the same direction.
- 5.5 Further technical work and engagement is required to turn the draft framework into a clear strategy and workstreams. For that reason, the task and finish group has not felt able to set targets to, for example, achieve a net nil carbon growth by a particular date, this is something the new Council can do when it has marshalled its resources to that end and can be realistic.
- 5.6. The attached framework has not yet been consulted on. Should the Shadow Executive Committee agree the framework, they will be asked to determine what consultation should take place and when. Members should also note those recommendations which outline the need for ongoing engagement with the community over the long term, both formally and as part of other initiatives.

6 Implications (including financial implications)

6.1 Resources and Financial

- 6.1.1 At this stage there are no additional resource implications, but the framework will require the new Council to identify resources to drive the action plan and to invest in new measures, including those which will have a pay back in financial terms (as well as quality of life terms)

¹ <https://futurenorthantsnorth.org/acting-on-climate-change-in-north-northamptonshire-give-your-views/>

6.2 Legal

6.2.1 There are no legal implications arising from the proposals.

6.3 Risk

6.3.1 The risk for the council and the community is in doing nothing which will mean carbon impacts increase to the detriment of the quality of life, and bio-diversity.

6.4 Consultation

6.4.1 Public feedback and ideas were captured in the process and it is intended that the draft strategy would be subject to consultation in the spring.

6.5 Climate Impact

6.5.1 The subject matter of this report.

6.6 Community Impact

6.6.1 The strategy will have a significant impact on the community.

6.7 Equality Impact

6.7.1 There are no discernible equality impacts arising from the proposals within this report.

7 Background Papers

7.1 Agendas and notes from each of the meetings of the Task and Finish Group

Reports to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 11th March 2021 and 28th January 2021.