

## **NORTH NORTHAMPTONSHIRE SHADOW AUTHORITY**

### **SHADOWOVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**28<sup>TH</sup> January 2021**

<b>Report Title</b>	<b>Progress report by the Climate Change Task and Finish Group</b>
<b>Report Author</b>	<b>Martin Hammond, Executive Director, Kettering BC, <a href="mailto:martin.hammond@kettering.gov.uk">martin.hammond@kettering.gov.uk</a></b>

#### **List of Appendices**

**None**

#### **1. Purpose of Report**

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- 1.1 To update the committee on the work of the task and finish group so far and to seek an extension to the timetable for completing its report.

#### **2. Executive Summary**

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- 2.1 This report sets out that the task and finish group are part way through their evidence gathering and consideration of the issues inherent in devising a climate change strategy, and they need more time to complete the task. A revised timetable is set out for the Committee's consideration. The report also summarises the work that has been done so far, and proposes an outline shape for the strategy itself.

#### **3. Recommendations**

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- 3.1 That the committee is recommended:-
- a) To agree the new timetable with a final report due to be submitted to this Committee on 11<sup>th</sup> March and to the shadow Executive on the 25<sup>th</sup> March
  - b) To note the progress made to date and the likely shape of the strategy

## **4. Report Background**

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- 4.1. The Climate Change Task and Finish Group was established at the October meeting of this committee, at the request of the Shadow Executive. It comprises 8 members and is chaired by Cllr Lora Lawman. It has met seven times so far. It has been supported by a small team of officers drawn from sovereign councils and the Joint Planning unit and has drawn on expertise within the local government family to provide evidence. The original intention was that it would report back to this meeting with a draft strategy for the committee to consider and which, if agreed, could be sent onto the Executive Committee and subsequently for public consultation.
- 4.2. Since October, changes have been made to the overall meetings timetable, to better accommodate the budget consultation process, and this means that the earliest opportunity for the strategy to be submitted to the Executive Committee will be 4<sup>th</sup> March, which, in turn, means it was unlikely that any consultation could sensibly be launched before purdah comes into effect on the 24<sup>th</sup> March.
- 4.3. More critically however, the Task and Finish Group has found the task greater than anticipated. The subject areas covered have elicited more discussion and taken more time than planned, so not all subject areas have been covered at the time of writing. Furthermore, it has proven difficult to secure subject matter expert time to attend meetings, which has further slowed down progress. In January, the twin impacts of lockdown and local flooding has also taken officer and subject expert time away from evidence provision.
- 4.4. The task and finish group have therefore agreed to seek further time to complete their work. Further meetings have been timetabled in for 4<sup>th</sup> February and 18<sup>th</sup> February, with a final session after that to agree the wording of the strategy. If this committee is happy to agree this timetable, then a report here on the 11<sup>th</sup> March can be achieved.

## **5. Evidence gathered and format of the Strategy**

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- 5.1. The Task and Finish Group has, to date, had input on a range of subjects as follows
  - corporate leadership and ambition
  - housing standards
  - asset management
  - procurement and social value
  - public health and inequalities
  - planning, infrastructure and the built environment
- 5.2. More sessions on education, economic development, skills, transport and movement, and the natural environment are to be held.
- 5.3. The task and finish group also set up an email address, inviting the public to make proposals and suggestions which potentially could be accommodated

within the strategy – over 100 submissions have been received and these are being summarised for the group to work through.

- 5.4. The Task and Finish Group have agreed that the strategy should be constructed as follows, with an expectation that it would be a relatively concise summary of what needs to be done, so as to make it easier to consult on and be understood by a wider audience. Some flexibility may still need to be applied to this structure in the light of evidence yet to be heard and the results of the public feedback being received through the “ideas” email address.

1. Introduction

Explains local context, some information about activities which generate climate risks in the area, how the task and finish group addressed the questions posed by the Centre for Public Scrutiny Framework.

2. Leadership and ambition Overall statement of how the Council will drive this forward and embed it within the authority.

3. Procurement Describes the principles behind procurement by the Council of goods and services and what will be expected of suppliers, particularly looking at energy supply

4. Management of the Council’s resources, fleet, property and housing estate Describes how the Council invests in its assets, including its housing estate, and all its other resources, how it can use technology to reduce travel, the footprint of office and other accommodation etc

5. Planning, infrastructure and the environment

- a. Planning policy aims and objectives – management of the growth agenda
- b. Travel and transportation
- c. Housing standards – new and existing
- d. Management of the natural environment
- e. Waste

6. Education, skills and economic development This will cover how ongoing education and awareness is delivered, how engagement is achieved as well as how skills and jobs in the low carbon sector can be built

7. Health, social care and vulnerable communities This will look at the intersection between health and well-being and a low carbon economy and environment

8. Partnership and actors This will look at how the Council works with other agencies and interests to extend its “reach” as an organisation into the wider community and business sectors.

## Appendices

- The CPS Framework questions
- Examples of projects already underway which ought to be continued by the new council
- Examples of new projects which the unitary should be asked to consider implementing
- Governance and monitoring arrangements

## **6. Implications (including financial implications)**

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### **6.1 Resources and Financial**

At this stage there are no additional resource implications.

### **6.2 Legal**

There are no legal implications arising from the proposals.

### **6.3 Risk**

There is a small risk that delaying the report will slow down the consultation on the strategy itself, but it was always intended that the strategy would be ready for the new Council to consider adopting early in its existence, once consultation had been carried out.

If the election day is moved from May 2021, there will be a need to revisit the overall timetable.

### **6.4 Consultation**

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

### **6.5 Climate Impact**

The subject matter of this report.

### **6.6 Community Impact**

The strategy will have a significant impact on the community,

## **7. Background Papers**

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