

Full Council 28th July 2021

Report Title	Tackling Climate Change in North Northamptonshire	
Report Author	George Candler, Executive Director of Place and Economy	
Lead Member	Cllr. Harriet Pentland – Portfolio Holder for Climate & Green Environment	
Contributors/Checkers/Approvers		
North MO		
North S151	Janice Gotts	Director of Finance
Other Director/SME	Rob Bridge	Chief Executive

List of Appendices

Appendix A – Climate Change Framework for North Northamptonshire.

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1. To show clear leadership in tackling the climate emergency, as an exemplar for others, and ensuring that an awareness of and determination to tackle climate change is embedded throughout the organisation.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1. On 25th March 2021, the North Northamptonshire Shadow Executive approved a report of the Climate Change Task and Finish Group and its proposed framework as the basis for the authority's focus and approach to tackling climate change following vesting day.
- 2.2. Two of the specific recommendations contained in the report were:
- Declare a Climate Emergency at the first opportunity in the life of the Council
 - Develop a plan for the first five years of the life of the new Council which sets out intended climate change reduction activities.

- 2.3. This report seeks to build on the work already undertaken by the Shadow Authority and North Northamptonshire Council by establishing future steps in the Council's efforts to tackle the causes and impacts of climate change.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1. It is recommended that Council:
- a) Joins the growing number of councils in declaring a 'Climate Emergency'.
 - b) Endorses the Climate Change Framework previously established by the Shadow Authority for North Northamptonshire;
 - c) Requests the Executive brings a Climate Change Action Plan to Council as soon as is reasonably practicable, setting out the earliest date that North Northamptonshire Council and the area as a whole can be carbon neutral, and establishing targets to meet that date;
 - d) Informs North Northamptonshire MPs, local councils in North Northamptonshire and the Secretary of State for the Business and Energy and Industrial Strategy of its commitments to tackle climate change.
- 3.2. *(Reason for Recommendations – In this important year of COP26, as a new unitary authority we are well placed to build on the national momentum and locally within North Northamptonshire to be a leader in driving forward efforts in partnership with residents and businesses, and in supporting regional and national commitments to tackle climate change.)*

4. Report Background

- 4.1. The UK Government will be hosting COP26, the December 2021 United Nations climate change conference, looking to build upon the importance of the Paris Agreement of 2015 from which every country agreed to work together to limit global warming to well below 2 degrees and aim for a limit of 1.5 degrees above pre-industrial levels.
- 4.2. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)'s Special Report, published in October 2018, states that we have just twelve years to limit global warming to a 1.5°C. This can only be achieved with ambitious action from national and local government, the private sector and local communities, and requires that CO2 emissions fall from their 2010 levels by 45% by 2030, reaching net zero by 2045.
- 4.3. All governments (national, regional and local) have a duty to limit the negative impacts of climate breakdown, for the benefit of the population for which they are responsible. Therefore, UK Councils need to pursue ambitious reduction targets and seek to achieve carbon neutrality as quickly as possible.
- 4.4. On 25th March 2021, the North Northamptonshire Shadow Executive approved a report of the Climate Change Task and Finish Group and its proposed

framework as the basis for this Council's focus and approach to tackling climate change following vesting day. A copy of the framework is attached to this report, marked as 'Appendix A'.

- 4.5. The framework sets out a series of high-level recommendations of how North Northamptonshire should tackle the causes and impacts of climate change, around three key aspects:
- Reducing emissions to lessen the causes of climate change;
 - Adapting to the current and future impacts of climate change; and
 - Raising awareness in communities to the causes and impacts of climate change.
- 4.6. It goes on to set out a series of recommendations around the following subjects:
- - 4.6.1. Leadership and Ambition
 - 4.6.2. Procurement and Finance
 - 4.6.3. Resource Management and own Housing
 - 4.6.4. Planning, Transport, Energy, Natural & Built Environment
 - 4.6.5. Education, Skills and Economy
 - 4.6.6. Health, Social Care & Vulnerable Communities
 - 4.6.7. Engagement, Partnership & actors
- 4.7. The framework, whilst aiming to be comprehensive in its coverage, is intended to highlight those actions considered a priority and which should be attended to by the Council urgently.

5. Issues and Choices

- 5.1. In the face of clear scientific evidence and international and national leadership, there are few choices facing the Council other than facing head on the challenge of tackling climate change. The Council is a community leader and as such leads by example. By declaring a climate change emergency and putting in place an action plan to progress the Climate Change Framework prepared on its behalf by the Shadow Authority will place North Northamptonshire in a strong position to play its part in reducing global warming and looking after the local environment for generations to come.

6. Implications (including financial implications)

6.1. Resources and Financial

- 6.1.1 At this stage there are no additional resource implications **but** progressing the framework will require the 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).

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 biodiversity.

6.4. Consultation

6.4.1 Public feedback and ideas were captured in the process in preparing the Climate Change Framework and it is intended that further policies and procedures will also be subject to consultation.

6.5. Consideration by Scrutiny

6.5.1. None for this report although the wider action plan will need to be considered by scrutiny in due course

6.6. Climate Impact

6.6.1 Whilst this is the subject matter of this report, the wider action plan will provide the detail on how we can effectively impact and reduce emissions that will have an overall benefit to the climate.

6.7. Community Impact

6.7.1. The Climate Change Framework and ensuing Climate Change Action Plan will have a significant impact on the community and will be clearly measured so progress can be tracked to ensure we meet our proposed outcomes outlined in the Action Plan.

7. Background Papers

7.1. None.