

Environment Scrutiny Committee	
Report Title	<i>Responding to the Climate Emergency: Gloucestershire Draft Climate Change Strategy 2019/20 to 2024/25</i>
Meeting Date	17 th July 2019
Presenting Officer	Peter Wiggins, Outcome Manager – Community Infrastructure
Purpose of Report	To seek members' views on the draft Climate Change Strategy and proposed engagement approach
Key Dates	<p>15 May Council declares climate emergency (Motion 836)</p> <p>21 May Climate Change Summit</p> <p>Jun-Jul Draft Climate Change Strategy and engagement plan</p> <p>17 Jul Environment Scrutiny Committee – briefing on approach and engagement plan</p> <p>18 Jul Corporate Management Team – draft Climate Change Strategy & engagement plan, inc indicative likely resource implications</p> <p>23 Jul Air Quality & Health Partnership – draft Climate Change Strategy and potential joint working</p> <p>24 Jul Cabinet – Climate Change Strategy & Engagement Plan; information report, Cabinet Member for Planning and Environment</p> <p>Jul-Aug Public consultation inc Youth Climate Panel recruitment</p> <p>Sep Consultation analysis & draft Cabinet report</p> <p>13 Nov Cabinet – Climate Change Strategy, for approval</p> <p>19 Dec Leadership Gloucestershire – Climate Change Strategy, for adoption</p>
Background Documents	<p>Corporate Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan: Responding to Climate Change, July 2008, Gloucestershire County Council</p> <p>Air Pollution Scrutiny Task Group, Cabinet, 6 June 2018, Gloucestershire County Council</p> <p>Gloucestershire Sustainable Energy Strategy, January 2019, GFirst Local Enterprise Partnership</p> <p>Motion 836 – Carbon action plan motion, County Council minutes 15 May 2019, Gloucestershire County Council</p> <p>Gloucestershire Climate Change Summit, notes and presentations, 21 May 2019, Gloucestershire County Council</p>
Appendices	<p>Annex 1 – Motion 836</p> <p>Annex 2 – Youth Climate Panel, draft Terms of Reference</p>

Background

On 15 May 2019 the council joined central government and 80+ other local authorities in declaring a Climate Change Emergency ([Annex 1](#)). The council committed to reduce its own corporate carbon emissions by at least 80 per cent by 2030; with the remaining being offset, resulting in a “net zero” organisation. These include carbon emissions from:

- Council buildings and estate
- Street lighting, park & ride sites lighting, signs, signals and bollards
- Fleet fuel use
- Staff and member business travel

At the Full Council meeting, the council committed to follow scientific advice of the Committee on Climate Change, and deliver a carbon neutral county (Gloucestershire) by 2050, and work with partners to identify what measures would be needed to deliver a stepped target of 80 per cent carbon reduction by 2030 to reflect the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report on climate change.

The council jointly hosted a Climate Change Summit on 21 May with GFirst Local Enterprise Partnership. Around 120 passionate and innovative people from across the county joined the discussion at the University of Gloucestershire to talk about taking action on climate change. The summit welcomed speakers from a variety of different points of view, including representatives from the planning, infrastructure, and construction industries, Public Health, young people and sustainable energy experts. The day looked at how everyone in the county can contribute to creating a sustainable future, calling on communities to help deliver the ambitions of the [Gloucestershire Sustainable Energy Strategy](#). This included a presentation on development of the Air Quality & Health Strategy, where there is a lot of cross-over with climate change issues and opportunities. Notes, presentations and other information from the day can be found [here](#).

Developing the Climate Change Strategy

The council now needs to revise its Climate Change Strategy, in consultation with partner organisations, residents, and businesses. The council needs young people to inform the updated strategy, and will be forming a Youth Climate Panel alongside asking schools to engage their students on this important issue. The council’s Monitoring Officer and Head of Democratic Services have been consulted on the draft Terms of Reference for the Youth Climate Panel, which are attached for comment ([Annex 2](#)).

Following the consultation engagement, the campaign needs to raise awareness of the work the council is doing to tackle climate change/carbon emissions. The campaign also needs to use this as an opportunity to influence behaviours of all audiences, demonstrating these points.

There is a very tight timeline (see [Key Dates](#)) over which to draft, consult on and amend the Climate Change Strategy in time to be considered alongside the council’s budget setting process. The draft budget will be approved for public consultation by cabinet in December, for agreement by County Council in February 2020.

Presentation

The presentation at this meeting of Environment Scrutiny will include:

- Climate Change Summit, outcomes summary
- What the council has done already
- Draft climate change strategy for public consultation, summary
- Engagement plan, summary

Contact Officer

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GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL COMMITS TO BECOMING CARBON NEUTRAL BY 2030 (Motion 836: 15.05.19)

Gloucestershire County Council will play its part in global carbon reduction following a motion on climate change, which was unanimously supported at Full Council on 15th May 2019.

As part of the motion, councillors agreed to:

- Welcome and endorse on behalf of Gloucestershire the declaration of a climate change emergency by parliament on behalf of the UK and urge other countries to do the same.
- Commit towards an 80 per cent reduction in the council's corporate carbon emissions no later than 2030, striving towards 100 per cent with carbon offsetting by the same date.
- Commit the council to following the scientific advice of the Committee on Climate Change, and deliver a carbon neutral county by 2050, and work with partners to identify what measures would be needed to deliver a stepped target of 80 per cent carbon reduction by 2030 to reflect the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report on climate change.
- To call on Central Government to provide additional powers and resources to support local and national action towards this 2030 target.
- Lobby national government to commit to 100 per cent carbon neutrality by 2050.
- Consider contracts going forward to oblige all contractors to report their carbon emissions and to place a 'carbon/environmental cost' on competing bids.
- Do all in the council's power to adopt, implement and strengthen the Gloucestershire Sustainable Energy Strategy.
- Ensure that the council's major plans, such as the local transport plan, have clearly identified strategies to reduce carbon emissions.
- Work with district and borough councils to reduce the districts' carbon footprint within their corporate strategies.
- Provide an annual report to the Environment Committee, with a performance update on a quarterly basis to the relevant committees including details of the resources required to meet the council's 2030 carbon neutral target.

It was also agreed that this Council notes:

- That humans have already caused irreversible climate change, the impacts of which are being felt around the world.
- That global temperatures have already increased by 1°C from pre-industrial levels and atmospheric CO₂ far exceeds levels deemed to be safe for humanity.
- The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) special report on global warming of 1.5°C, published in January 2019, which tells us that limiting Global Warming to 1.5°C may still be possible with ambitious action from national and sub-national authorities, civil society, the private sector, indigenous peoples and local communities.
- That the world is on track to overshoot the Paris Agreement's 1.5°C limit before 2050.
- That the consequences of global temperature rising above 1.5°C are so severe that preventing this from happening must be humanity's number one priority.

And that the Council further notes that:

- The UK is responsible for 1% of the world's CO2 emissions, and whilst we have reduced those emissions more than any other developed country, this council notes that without global action we will not succeed.
- New Zealand, France, Belgium, Denmark, France, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Portugal, Spain and Sweden have all committed to zero carbon by 2050.
- This is the recommended position of the independent Committee on Climate Change.
- This is the position of parliament, as first laid out by Alex Chalk MP, and later supported by Jeremy Corbyn MP in an opposition day debate last month.
- The IPCC has acknowledged that we must immediately reduce the amount of carbon emissions by 2030.
- Gloucestershire County Council recently appointed a Cabinet Member with specific responsibilities tied to climate change.
- Gloucestershire County Council is on target to reduce corporate carbon emissions by 60% by 2020/21 against its 2006/07 baseline.
- Bold climate action can deliver economic benefits Councils around the world are responding by declaring a 'Climate Emergency' and committing resources to address this emergency.
- The UK Parliament has recognised the climate emergency
- The County Council has a leadership role, along with other public sector bodies, in reducing Carbon emissions across the whole county.

Next steps:

The Council has committed to revising its existing Climate Change Strategy & Action Plan, building on the outcomes from the Climate Change Summit, 21st May 2019:

- Draft Strategy by July 2019
- Public consultation, summer 2019
- Cabinet, for approval provisionally October 2019
- Inform the Council budget setting process up to February 2020

For more information contact:

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Youth Climate Panel Terms of Reference (draft v1)

Vision

The Youth Climate Panel will help to bring about a low carbon, resilient and attractive Gloucestershire where all people are proud to live.

Values

- Accountability – we do what we say we will
- Integrity – we are honest, fair and speak up. We will keep each other's personal information confidential.
- Empowerment – we enable communities and each other to be the best they/ we can
- Respect – we value and listen to each other
- Excellence – we continually improve through listening, learning and innovation

1. Purpose of Group

1.1. The purpose of the Youth Climate Panel is to:

- Give young people a voice on climate change issues, giving members the platform to influence and have their say on how we respond to the climate emergency together.
- Give Gloucestershire County Council feedback on their draft Climate Change Strategy.
- Give young people insight on how Leadership Gloucestershire organisations will tackle climate change issues.
- Help Gloucestershire County Council fulfil its climate commitments; working with partners to collectively reduce Gloucestershire's carbon emissions by 80 per cent by 2030, when compared to 2005, and secure a carbon neutral (net zero) county by 2050.
- Assist the council to empower residents to take action on Climate Change, providing insight into how to encourage people to take responsibility for their behaviours.

2. Terms of Reference

2.1. The Youth Climate Panel will:

- Promote and provide opportunities for young people to learn, engage and give feedback on climate change issues.
- Provide a forum to consult young people and raise ideas about improvements to the draft Climate Change Strategy 2020 – 2025 and action plan.
- Act as ambassadors for the actions which the council and partner organisations are taking regarding climate change issues, and carbon neutral plans.
- Establish links with other community groups and external agencies representing young people
- Promote and demonstrate low carbon behaviours in their daily lives as much as possible

3. Membership

- The Youth Climate Panel will be made up of 30 young people, ideally five from each district across the county.
- All Youth Climate Panel members will be aged between 16 and 25 years.
- All panel members will be expected to attend at least one face to face meeting with council officers, and respond to emails regarding meeting arrangements and actions.
- These positions will be held for a maximum of 2 years.
- Members will advocate for Gloucestershire's young people, representing thoughts and ambitions of the county's younger generation.
- We will seek to secure a diverse membership, as representative as possible of the demographics of young people in the county.

4. How the Panel will function

- Council officers will endeavour to arrange meetings for the panel in central and convenient locations for its members.
- Inductions will be face to face, and will take place in each of the district areas to make sure all members have access to this face to face briefing with council officers
- Training and development for specific panel roles will be agreed as needed, for example, charring meetings effectively.
- Council officers will seek to minimise the need to travel by utilising video conferencing facilities and social media such as WhatsApp and Facebook.
- Reasonable expenses to attend meetings will be covered. Members will be provided with a bus travel card. If meetings take place for three hours or more refreshments will be provided by the council.
- A Gloucestershire Youth Council is being created and the mechanisms for this are still being agreed.

5. Role Descriptions

5.1. If the panel feel they are required, all roles have the following activities as part of their responsibilities:

- Attend & contribute to meetings
- Educate and raise awareness of related issues
- Act as a role model, lead, support and guide fellow panel members
- Be a public face of the Youth Climate Panel, taking part in promotion for the council where appropriate. Personal details will not be available to the public.

5.2. In addition to the above, individual roles have specific responsibilities as follows:

5.2.1. Chair/Co-Chair

- Direct and lead the panel, and act as the group's representative with the council and senior leaders. This may also involve negotiating a successful conclusion to issues raised;
- Agree a work program for the panel for the next year

- Provide council officers with monthly/regular updates on the panel's activities and actions
- Lead the feedback on the council's Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan
- Chair meetings and represent the panel at key events and meetings with the council and partners, for example attending Environment Scrutiny Committee or presenting to Leadership Gloucestershire.
- Advise, guide and assist the council in securing views which are representative of Gloucestershire's young people
- Act as the Panel's point of contact and attend/facilitate meetings & events; and
- Answer queries and review & respond to relevant papers.

5.2.2. Vice Chair

- Co-ordinate & lead projects and events as required;
- Support chair to produce feedback
- Support communications to the panel members; and
- To deputise for the Chair.

5.2.5. Secretary

- Liaising with panel members and council officers to plan meetings
- Circulating agendas and notes
- Producing notes
- Making sure agreed actions are carried out by panel members
- Make sure the group is governed and meetings are run according to agreed Terms of Reference

6. Accountability

6.1. The council will form the Panel and take part in initial governance and guidance. The longer term aim is for the panel to be a self-determined and self-sustaining group.

6.2. The Youth Climate Panel shall, at all times, be accountable to Gloucestershire County Council.

6.3. Panel meeting minutes will be made available upon request to any council officer. All other panel documentation will also be made available upon request.

July 2019