

CABINET INFORMATION REPORT

Cllr Nigel Moor: Environment and Planning

RESPONDING TO THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY: GLOUCESTERSHIRE CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY 2019/20 TO 2024/25

Cabinet Meeting	24 July 2019
Background Documents	There are a significant no of background documents, which are listed in Annex 1 , including web links to access the documents.
Main Consultees	Environment Scrutiny Committee, 17 July 2019. The council's Monitoring Officer and Head of Democratic Services have been consulted on the draft Terms of Reference for the Youth Climate Panel (Annex 2).
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, including 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 2019 Public consultation inc Youth Climate Panel recruitment and use of social media to engage young people.</p> <p>Sep 2019 Schools engagement.</p> <p>Oct 2019 2018/19 annual emissions performance report to the Cabinet Member for Environment and Planning, then to Environment Scrutiny Committee, then publish on the Council's website.</p> <p>13 Nov 2019 Cabinet – Climate Change Strategy, for approval.</p> <p>19 Dec 2019 Leadership Gloucestershire – Climate Change Strategy, for adoption.</p>
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Purpose of Report	To provide details of the proposed approach and engagement timeline to develop the Climate Change Strategy and set up a Youth Climate Panel.
Resource Implications	<p>The development of the strategy will have no immediate resource implications, other than officer time. However the strategy is expected to have significant resource implications in the short, medium and long term. The November Cabinet will consider the future resource implications as part of the council's Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) and budget setting process.</p> <p>Given that an emergency has been declared by the council, 5 of the 6 district councils, Parliament and the United Nations, members may wish to consider early interventions within this financial year, subject to budget.</p>
Appendices	<p>Annex 1 – Background Documents</p> <p>Annex 2 – Youth Climate Panel, draft Terms of Reference</p> <p>Annex 3 – Motion 836</p>

MAIN REPORT CONTENTS

Background

1. Under the Climate Change Act 2008, the UK was until recently committed to at least a 57% reduction in carbon emissions by 2032 and a reduction of at least 80% by 2050, on 1990 levels. Following the Committee on Climate Change's report to government in May 2019, and Parliament subsequently declaring a climate emergency, government brought the 57% target forward to 2030, with the UK to be carbon neutral by 2050.
2. The council has long recognised the importance of climate change. For at least 14 years the council has been working to reduce our contribution to climate change by reducing our carbon emissions ('mitigation') and improving the council's and Gloucestershire's resilience to the impacts of a changing climate ('adaptation').
3. Below are summarised the significant milestones since 2005 leading up to the development of the new Gloucestershire Climate Change Strategy in 2019.
4. In 2007 cabinet adopted the council's first Carbon Management Programme, developed with the Carbon Trust, with a target to reduce corporate emissions on 2005/06 levels by 10% by 2012, 30% by 2020 and 60% by 2050, the UK target at that time. The council also signed the Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change and established a £1m energy efficiency invest to save fund, matching the £0.5m interest free loan from Salix Finance. To date this has enabled £3.4m of investment in energy efficiency measures.
5. June 2007 saw the Gloucestershire floods, where the council responded to the one of the worst natural disasters in living memory, helping communities and business to recover from the impacts and leading a review on how to improve future resilience which informed the national approach. It was one of the wettest summers on record; two months' worth of rain fell in just 14 hours. This illustrated Gloucestershire's vulnerability to extreme weather events, which will be more frequent and extreme with a changing climate – 80% of properties were affected and the overall estimated cost to the county was £50 million.
6. In July 2008 cabinet approved the council's first Corporate Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan, reaffirming the 2007 carbon reduction targets with commitments to be an 'excellent' council on mitigating climate change by 2010/11 and adapting to climate change by 2011/12. Each of these commitments was achieved.
7. In April 2011 cabinet approved the revised Carbon Management Programme, developed with the Carbon Trust. Having reduced emissions by 12% in 2010, ahead of the 2012 target date, the council refreshed its approach, adopting the current target to reduce corporate emissions by 60% by 2020/21 on 2006/07 levels. In March 2018 the council achieved a 55% reduction, having more than halved its corporate emissions over the past 11 years and is significantly ahead of target to reduce emissions by 60% by 2020/21, against the 2006/07 baseline. Actions to date include improved heating and lighting and controls; insulation; staff behaviour change programmes; networked printer/ scanner/ copiers; ICT investment strategy including 'agile working'; £13.7m LED street lighting programme; ultra-low emission pool cars (electric, hybrid, petrol); refurbishing Shire Hall including integrated and roof-mounted solar photovoltaic (PV) panels. Together these measures are saving the council over £2m a year in avoided energy and fuel costs.
8. In February 2014, the council adopted Gloucestershire's first Local Flood Risk Management Strategy, as Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) under the Flood & Water Management Act 2010. This was developed in partnership with the county's risk management authorities, i.e.

the district/borough councils, water companies, Environment Agency and Internal Drainage Board. It has an annual implementation plan highlighting prioritised and any scheduled flood alleviation work.

9. In 2015, countries adopted the United Nations (UN) 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals as the blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all by 2030. The Goals interconnect and address the global challenges we face, including those related to poverty, inequality, climate, environmental degradation, prosperity, and peace and justice.
10. In June 2016 the County Council adopted the Local Transport Plan (LTP) 2015-2031. This includes performance indicator LTP PI-14 – Reduce per capita transport carbon emissions. Outputs from this indicator will assist in understanding the impacts of policies outlined across all policy documents. The target is to reduce per capita transport carbon emissions, contributing to achieving the Government’s climate change commitments as part of COP21¹ (see paragraph 11), resulting in zero transport based carbon emissions by 2099. The strategy is now under review including development of a cycling strategy.
11. In November 2016, the UN Paris Agreement on climate change (COP21) entered into force, addressing the need to limit the rise of global temperatures.
12. In the Clean Growth Strategy (2017) the Government introduced a voluntary target for the public and higher education sectors in England to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions across these sectors by 30% by 2020/21, compared to a 2009/10 baseline.
13. The Council’s 2018/19 budget includes £0.47m for electric vehicle infrastructure.
14. February 2018 saw the launch of ‘[Gloucestershire 2050](#)’, a county-wide conversation led by Leadership Gloucestershire² to explore ideas and shape our long-term future together. Having considered the feedback provided by the Big Conversation, Leadership Gloucestershire has endorsed the following Vision for Gloucestershire 2050:
“Gloucestershire: a great place to live, work and do business, with a thriving future.”
It also sets out what a thriving future means, including “...a sustainable county: we will see more efficient use of resources and more use of sustainable energy.”
15. In June 2018 cabinet welcomed the report of the Air Pollution Task Group (under Environment & Communities Scrutiny Committee), which included proposing that the Gloucestershire Air Quality and Health Partnership develop a strategy from which to address air quality and health in Gloucestershire by June 2019.
16. In July 2018 Cabinet gave approval to tender for the purchase and sale of energy. The Council will become a net generator of energy when the Javelin Park Energy from Waste facility comes online in 2019, generating enough electricity to power c25,000 homes, c55% of which is classed as renewable energy.
17. In September 2018 the Council, along with the 6 district councils, agreed to join a Green Infrastructure Pledge set out by the Gloucestershire Local Nature Partnership (GLNP), promising to develop, maintain and protect natural features in Gloucestershire.

¹ The 2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference; Conference of the Parties 21st session (COP21).

² Leadership Gloucestershire, chaired by the Council, brings together public sector organisations that allocate and spend significant resources in Gloucestershire. Its role is to provide vision, leadership and strategic direction in areas where it is vital to work together to meet the needs of the people and communities of Gloucestershire in the most cost effective way.

18. In October 2018 the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) published its Special Report on the impacts of global warming of 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels. It states that around 100% of the global warming since pre-industrial levels is the result of human activity and that 20-40% of the global population live in regions that have already experienced warming of more than 1.5°C in at least one season. The report projects that global average warming is likely to reach 1.5°C between 2030 and 2052. Cutting emissions to meet a 1.5°C limit will require:
 - “...rapid and far-reaching transitions in the way energy is used and the sources it comes from; the way land use and agricultural systems are organised; and the types and quantities of food and material that are consumed... With clear benefits to people and natural ecosystems, limiting global warming to 1.5°C compared to 2°C could go hand in hand with ensuring a more sustainable and equitable society.”
19. In November 2018, the Council published ‘Looking to the Future 2019-22’. This sets out 9 ambitions for the future of the county, adapted from those established through Vision 2050 (para 5) to reflect the role the Council plays; including ‘*A Sustainable county – More efficient use of resources and more use of sustainable energy*’.
20. In December 2018, Cabinet approved signing up to government’s Emissions Reduction Pledge 2020, committing to report annual carbon emissions performance to the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS), with emissions from maintained schools included but shown separately, and to publish this performance on the Council’s website. It also resolved to review the council’s ambition and the effectiveness of its policies in delivering sustainable development in Gloucestershire, with a stakeholder workshop to be held by the end of March 2019. This was subsequently postponed to after the district council elections in May 2019.
21. In January 2019, Gfirst Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP, of which the Council is a board member) adopted the Gloucestershire Sustainable Energy Strategy, commissioned by the council on behalf of the LEP Energy Business Group, funded by BEIS. It sets out the key changes required and a roadmap for securing a carbon neutral Gloucestershire by 2050. The council’s commitment to this is set out in paragraph 24.
22. On 6 May 2019 the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) reported that nature is being eroded at rates unprecedented in human history, with one million species currently threatened with extinction, and we are undermining the entire natural infrastructure on which our modern world depends.
23. On 14 May 2019 Gloucestershire Health and Wellbeing Board (of which the Council is a member) adopted the Air Quality Strategy for implementation through the Gloucestershire Air Quality and Health Partnership Group. Its vision is “*For organisations, professionals and the public across Gloucestershire to work together to improve air quality in the county and reduce the impact of air pollution on human health and the environment. To contribute to the vision of Gloucestershire as a prosperous, happy, healthy, and sustainable county.*” It identifies six key strategic areas for delivery: public engagement; air quality monitoring and information; active travel; policy and planning; Ultra-Low Emission Vehicles (ULEVs); and cleaner fleets & public transport. Many of the measures that will reduce harmful exhaust emissions will not only improve local air quality but will also reduce transport-generated carbon emissions and help mitigate global warming.

24. On 15 May 2019 the council joined central government and 80+ other local authorities in declaring a Climate Change Emergency ([Annex 3](#)). The council committed to:
- Reduce its own corporate carbon emissions by at least 80% 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; and staff and member business travel.
 - 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% carbon reduction by 2030 to reflect the IPCC report on climate change.
 - Do all in the council’s power to adopt, implement and strengthen the Gloucestershire Sustainable Energy Strategy.
25. On 21 May 2019 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

26. The recent scientific reports, direct action and climate emergency declarations demonstrate the need and public demand for us to accelerate this work.
27. 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 propose to form 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](#)).
28. 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.
29. Because of the emergency statement and urgent need to act there is a very tight timeline 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.

30. The proposed timeline for developing and implementing the strategy is shown in Figure 1.



Figure 1: Proposed timeline for action, 2019/20 to 2024/25

Options

- i. Do nothing – having declared a climate emergency and held a very successful summit, the council will lose credibility and be heavily criticised if it does not meet public expectation and be seen to act relatively quickly.
- ii. Develop the strategy but without sufficient resources or real appetite for change – this will appear as tokenism, significantly undermining the council’s reputation and achieving little effect.
- iii. Doing it properly – doing the best we possibly can within the resources available to bring about the required changes, working with others to secure additional resources, developing a detailed strategy and ongoing 5-year programme, where members can see what we are doing and is transparent to the community.

Risk Assessment

31. Having declared a climate emergency and held a very successful summit, the council will be heavily criticised if it does not meet public expectation and be seen to act relatively quickly. The third option ‘Doing it properly’ is the approach being taken – officers will draw up a detailed action plan for year 1 urgently, with headline actions for years 2-5 to be worked up.

Equalities considerations

32. There are no direct equalities implications arising from the recommendations of this report. However, climate change has the potential for significant implications for people’s health, wellbeing and safety; particularly for those on low incomes, vulnerable people especially the young and the elderly, and people with additional learning, physical and mental needs. There is also the need to ensure effective engagement of all demographic groups.

Consultation feedback

33. The contents of this report will have been considered at Environment Scrutiny Committee on 17 July. At the time of writing this report the Environment Scrutiny meeting had not been held. Subject to the outcome of the Scrutiny meeting a verbal update may be provided by the cabinet member for Planning and Environment.

34. The council’s Monitoring Officer and Head of Democratic Services have been consulted on the draft Terms of Reference for the Youth Climate Panel ([Annex 2](#)).

Performance Management/Follow-up

35. It is intended to produce a 5 year action plan to be updated annually, giving a rolling programme. At the time of that update a full report will be given on the performance on the previous year’s action identified in the action plan and the outcomes achieved.

36. We will publicly report the council’s and Gloucestershire’s performance at least annually, to Environment Scrutiny Committee, on the council’s website and to Government.

Title	Responding to the Climate Emergency: Gloucestershire Climate Change Strategy 2019/20 to 2024/25
Statutory Authority	Education, Highways, Lead Local Flood, Public Health, Strategic Planning, Transport, Waste Disposal.
Relevant County Council policy	Corporate Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan, July 2008 Local Flood Risk Management Strategy, 2014 Local Transport Plan 2015-2031, 2016 (being revised) Looking to the Future 2019-2022, 2018 Climate Change Emissions Reduction Pledge, 2018 Air Quality Strategy, 2019 Motion 836 – Carbon action plan motion, 2019
Sustainability checklist: Partnerships Decision Making and Involvement Economy and Employment Caring for people Social Value Built Environment Natural Environment' including Ecology (Biodiversity) Education and Information	Significant partnership working will be required to develop the action plan and deliver the strategy. The Cabinet will consider the future formulation of the strategy and the Council will determine the overall financial implications as part of the budget setting process. Significant positive implications for growing the low carbon economy in Gloucestershire and improving its resilience. Reduced fuel poverty and better public health, from reduced emissions and better air quality, and improved resilience to the impacts of a changing climate, especially for vulnerable people. Maximise the social, economic and environmental benefits to the local area from carbon reduction and climate resilience. Improved Green Infrastructure and climate resilience. Improved Green Infrastructure and climate resilience. Establish Youth Climate Panel and schools engagement.
Tackling Climate Change	Carbon Emissions Implications? Positive Vulnerable to climate change? No; will improve resilience
Human rights Implications	There are no direct implications arising from this report. However, the global impacts of climate change and likely conflicts over scarce resources (e.g. fresh water) are expected to result in significant population displacement (climate refugees), and risks of exploitation and human rights violations.
Consultation Arrangements	Public consultation will take place over July and August 2019, including setting up the Youth Climate Panel, followed by schools engagement in September 2019.

Background Documents

Gloucestershire reports:

Cabinet (6 June 2007), [Carbon Management Strategy Implementation Plan and Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change](#), Gloucestershire County Council.

Cabinet (9 July 2008), [Corporate Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan: Responding to Climate Change](#), Gloucestershire County Council.

Cabinet (6 April 2011), [Carbon Management Action Plan \(Climate Change and Meeting the Challenge\)](#), Gloucestershire County Council.

Cabinet (2 February 2014), [Local Flood Risk Management Strategy](#), Gloucestershire County Council.

County Council (29 June 2016), [Local Transport Plan 2015-2031](#), Gloucestershire County Council.

County Council (14 February 2018), [Minutes, 7. "Policy and Budget Framework - Medium Term Financial Strategy and the Council Strategy"](#), Gloucestershire County Council.

Cabinet (18 July 2018), [Energy Procurement \(Gloucestershire County Council Estate and Schools\)](#), Gloucestershire County Council.

Cabinet (6 June 2018), [Air Pollution Scrutiny Task Group](#), Gloucestershire County Council.

Leadership Gloucestershire (22 October 2018), [Gloucestershire Vision 2050 Concordat](#).

Gloucestershire County Council (November 2018), [Looking to the Future 2019-2022](#).

Cabinet (19 December 2018), [Climate Change Government Emissions Reduction Pledge](#), Gloucestershire County Council.

GFirst Local Enterprise Partnership (January 2019), [Gloucestershire Sustainable Energy Strategy](#).

Gloucestershire Health & Wellbeing Board (14 May 2019), [Air Quality Strategy](#), Gloucestershire County Council.

County Council minutes (15 May 2019), [Motion 836 – Carbon action plan motion](#), Gloucestershire County Council.

Gloucestershire County Council (21 May 2019), [Gloucestershire Climate Change Summit, notes and presentations](#).

Other key documents:

HM Government (November 2008), [Climate Change Act 2008](#)

HM Government (April 2010), [Flood & Water Management Act 2010](#)

HM Government (2017), [The Clean Growth Strategy](#).

UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (October 2018), [Special Report: Global Warming of 1.5°C](#).

Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (April 2018), [Emissions reduction pledge 2020: emissions reporting in public and higher education sectors](#).

UN Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (May 2019), [*Global Assessment on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services*](#).

Committee on Climate Change (May 2019), [*Net Zero – The UK’s contribution to stopping global warming*](#).

ADEPT, Defra and Local Adaptation Advisory Panel (June 2019), [*Preparing for a changing climate: Good Practice Guidance for Local Government*](#).

Committee on Climate Change (July 2019), [*Reducing UK emissions – 2019 Progress Report to Parliament*](#).

Committee on Climate Change (July 2019), [*Progress in preparing for climate change – 2019 Progress Report to Parliament*](#).

Youth Climate Panel

Terms of Reference (draft)

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, chiring 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

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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