

UPDATE TO THE COUNCIL STRATEGY: LOOKING TO THE FUTURE 2019-2022

Cabinet Date	17 June 2020
Leader of the Council	Cllr Mark Hawthorne
Key Decision	No
Background Documents	<i>Council Strategy - Looking to the Future: 2019-2022</i>
Location/Contact for inspection of Background Documents	https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/media/2083042/council-strategy-2019-3.pdf
Main Consultees	The council strategy was subject to public consultation prior to being adopted by the council in February 2019.
Planned Dates	<i>County Council – 13th May 2020</i>
Divisional Councillor	All divisions
Officer	<i>Rob Ayliffe</i> Director: Policy, Performance & Governance Tel: 01452 328506; email – rob.ayliffe@gloucestershire.gov.uk
Purpose of Report	To update the Council Strategy in light of the Council's declaration of a climate emergency in May 2019
Recommendations	That cabinet recommends the updated Council Strategy for adoption by county council.
Reasons for recommendations	To enact the commitment given by the leader to the County Council at its meeting on 12th February 2020.
Resource Implications	There are no direct resource implications as a result of this decision.

MAIN REPORT CONTENTS

Background

1. The Council Strategy – Looking to the Future – was agreed by the County Council on 13th February 2019. It covers a three-year period from 2019 to 2022 and sets out Gloucestershire County Council’s ambition, values and priorities.
2. Since the adoption of the Council Strategy, the County Council passed a motion on 13th May to declare a climate change emergency and commit towards an 80% reduction in the Council’s carbon emissions no later than 2030.
3. As part of the County Council’s debate on this year’s budget, an offer was made to incorporate this commitment into the Council Strategy and therefore, into the Council’s Policy Framework. As a result, Cabinet is asked to approve the following changes to the Council Strategy for recommendation to County Council.

- a. To add the following to the Challenges & Opportunities chapter on page 5:

Climate Change

Along with councils up and down the country, Gloucestershire County Council has declared a climate change emergency. This recognises the irreversible impact that humans have already had on climate change and the need for bold and timely action to be taken. The County Council has a leadership role, along with other public sector bodies, to reduce carbon emissions across the whole county.

- b. To add the following to Our Priorities for Gloucestershire on page 7:

Reduce Gloucestershire’s carbon emissions by 80% by 2030, and secure a carbon neutral county by 2050.

- c. To add the following to the Transport, Economy and Infrastructure section on pages 16-17:

We will reduce Gloucestershire’s carbon emissions by 80% by 2030, and secure a carbon neutral county by 2050. We will do this by working with our partners through Leadership Gloucestershire to:

- *Implement the Gloucestershire Climate Change strategy*
- *Strengthen the Gloucestershire Sustainable Energy Strategy*
- *Grow our low carbon economy*
- *Help our residents, businesses and partners to radically reduce carbon*

4. We will, of course, also need to review and update the Council Strategy in order to reflect the work the Council is doing to respond to and support recovery from the current COVID-19 pandemic. The work that is already underway including our developing recovery plans is the subject of a separate report to this Cabinet meeting. This will be subject to further

planning, deliberation and consultation before bringing back proposals to integrate this into future iterations of the Council Strategy.

Options

5. Cabinet can choose to:
 - a. recommend the proposed changes to the County Strategy
 - b. recommend alternative changes to the Council Strategy
 - c. recommend that the Council Strategy remains unchanged.

Risk Assessment

6. N/A

Officer Advice

7. That Cabinet recommends the proposed changes to the Council Strategy, given that this would reflect the declaration and commitments that the council has already made and (if approved by County Council) enshrine them in the Council's Policy Framework.

Equalities considerations

8. There are no direct equalities implications arising from the recommendations in this report. However, given that climate change has the potential for significant impact on people's health, wellbeing and safety, particularly for those on low incomes, vulnerable people and people with additional needs, it follows that this commitment will have a positive impact.

Consultation feedback

9. Not applicable – public consultation on the Council Strategy was undertaken prior to its adoption in 2019.

Performance Management/Follow-up

10. The Council Strategy forms the basis of the Council's Performance Management Framework. Strategic performance is reported to the Corporate Leadership Team and to Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee on a quarterly basis.

Report Title	Update to the Council Strategy: Looking to the Future 2019-22
Statutory Authority	Local Government Act 2000
Relevant County Council policy	N/A
Sustainability checklist:	
Partnerships	The proposed amendment commits the council to working in partnership through Leadership Gloucestershire to deliver its commitment to carbon reduction
Decision Making and Involvement	As above
Economy and Employment	N/A
Caring for people	N/A
Social Value	N/A
Built Environment	Improved green infrastructure and climate resilience
Natural Environment' including Ecology (Biodiversity)	Improved green infrastructure and climate resilience
Education and Information	The climate change strategy includes actions to raise awareness
Tackling Climate Change	Carbon Emissions Implications? Positive/ Vulnerable to climate change? No/
Due Regard Statement	Has a Due Regard Statement been completed? No
Human rights Implications	No direct implications
Consultation Arrangements	N/A