

Dorset Council

15th July 2021

Climate Change Motions

For Decision

Portfolio Holder: Cllr R Bryan, Highways, Travel and Environment

Local Councillor(s): County Wide

Executive Director: John Sellgren, Executive Director of Place

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Report Status: Public

Recommendation:

To note the response of the Climate and Ecological Emergency Executive Advisory Panel (EAP) in the publication of the draft Dorset Council Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy and action plan in addressing the Climate Change Notices of Motion tabled by Cllr Daryl Turner and Cllr Kelvin Clayton at Dorset Council on 18th July 2019.

Reason for Recommendation:

The Climate and Ecological Emergency EAP considered the Notices of Motion presented by Councillors Turner and Clayton. The culmination of work by the EAP and technical officers in combination with public comment and positive public support has been the publication of a draft Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy and action plan which addresses the points presented in the Motions.

1. Executive Summary

Dorset Council declared a Climate and Ecological Emergency in 2019 and established an Executive Advisory Panel to strategically guide the Councils response. Two similar climate change motions were presented at Dorset Council on 18th July 2019. The decision made by Full Council at the time was that the

Notices of Motion be referred to the Climate Change Executive Advisory Panel for consideration and reported back to Full Council. Following discussions at the Executive Advisory Panel, engagement with the public and work by officers across the Authority a draft Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy has been produced which presents eight key areas for action to ensure that Dorset Council becomes Carbon Neutral by 2040 and the Dorset Council Area by 2050. The draft Strategy was approved by the EAP, Scrutiny Committee (12th May 2021) and Cabinet on 18th May 2021. The Strategy and accompanying action plan have been thoroughly researched and costed and set out how all the issues raised in the Notices of Motion will be addressed.

2. Financial Implications

- 2.1 A costed action plan was presented to Cabinet, 6th October 2020, detailing 187 actions to 2050 requiring an estimated budget in the region of £127 million. The plan highlighted that approximately 100 of these actions will be taken forward within existing budgets through teams across the Council leading on specific areas of the plan, such as transport and waste services. A further 87 actions were identified as requiring additional resources.
- 2.2 In January 2021 Dorset Council secured £19 million in grant funding from the governments Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme and the Low Carbon Skills Fund. This will allow several significant revenue and capital actions within the plan to be brought forward into financial year 2021/22 specifically, those related to the decarbonisation of the Dorset Council estate. It is anticipated these actions alone will reduce Dorset Council Carbon footprint by at least 10%, by April 2022.
- 2.3 In future years it is anticipated that an ongoing revenue stream would be established to support the strategy to include recycling of any savings achieved from public sector decarbonisation programme and retro fit measures.
- 2.4 Going forward the plan also identifies the need for ongoing financial support from external funding sources and the Council will continue to bid for these funds as they arise.
- 2.5 The delivery of the strategy is a long-term commitment over a 20 to 30-year period and current costs assigned within the delivery plan are best estimates at this time. In addition, there will be many other factors which will affect the final delivery costs over the coming years to include, Dorset Councils approach to its own assets; national policy, incentives and support; wider external funding opportunities; and importantly technological advancement.

3. Climate implications

The overall principle behind the strategy is to set out key areas where Dorset Council will need to take action to directly reduce carbon emissions from its own operations to become a carbon neutral Council by 2040 and by working in partnership to help Dorset residents and organisations achieve a wider carbon neutral Dorset County by 2050.

4. Risk Assessment

Having considered the risks associated with this report, the level of risk has been identified as:

Current Risk: Low

Residual Risk: Low

5. Equalities Impact Assessment

There are no equalities implications arising from this report.

6. Appendices

Appendix 1: Climate Change Motions Strategy and Delivery Plan Response Table

7. Background Papers

- a) Draft Dorset Council Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy (<https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/emergencies-severe-weather/climate-emergency/climate-ecological-emergency-strategy/the-climate-and-ecological-emergency-strategy.aspx>)
- b) Climate change action plan (link as above)
- c) Motion proposed by Councillor Kelvin Clayton
- d) Motion proposed by Councillor Daryl Turner

8. Background

- 8.1 Dorset Council declared a Climate and Ecological Emergency at its inaugural meeting in May 2019. Following this meeting a cross party Climate Change Executive Advisory Panel (EAP) was established to help steer Dorset Council's response to the Climate and Ecological Emergency.

- 8.2 At the Dorset Council meeting of 18th July 2019 two Notices of Motion were presented by Councillors Clayton and Turner where a decision was made to refer these motions to the Climate Change EAP for consideration and subsequent reporting back to Full Council.
- 8.3 The EAP discussed the content of the Motions and through their work, and that of supporting technical officers with input from partner organisations and the public during a highly publicised 12 week consultation developed a draft Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy and action plan which addresses the proposals put forward in each motion.
- 8.4 The public consultation exercise and analysis of the consultation responses highlighted an overall high level of agreement for the Councils strategy and action plan.
- 8.5 Dorset Council Cabinet on 18th May 2021 supported the recommendation of the Portfolio Holder for Highways, Travel and the Environment, 'that the Dorset Council Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy and Action Plan be considered by Full Council for adoption.'
- 8.6 A combination of factors including the corona virus pandemic have delayed a response to the motions coming back to Dorset Council. Over the intervening period the development of the strategy has superseded the Notices of Motion proposed in 2019.
- 8.7 The draft Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy covers the points made in the motions in detail, and this has been summarised in Appendix 1.