

Name of meeting: Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee

Date: 22nd July 2019

Title of report: Kirklees Climate Emergency Declaration – Update on the work of the council working party

Purpose of report:

To update the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee on progress against delivering the actions required by the Council’s motion declaring a ‘climate emergency’

Key Decision - Is it likely to result in spending or saving £250k or more, or to have a significant effect on two or more electoral wards?	N/A
Key Decision - Is it in the <u>Council's Forward Plan (key decisions and private reports)?</u>	N/A
The Decision - Is it eligible for call in by Scrutiny?	N/A
Date signed off by <u>Strategic Director</u> & name	12 July 2019, Karl Battersby
Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Finance IT and Transactional Services?	N/A
Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Legal Governance and Commissioning Support?	N/A
Cabinet member portfolio	Cllr Naheed Mather

Electoral wards affected: All

Ward councillors consulted: None

Public or private: Public

Has GDPR been considered? Yes

1. Summary

- The Council passed a motion declaring a 'climate emergency' in January 2019 and has undertaken to identify actions to address the challenges posed by the climate emergency and reducing emissions associated with council and district activity.
- A Councillor-led Climate Emergency Working Party (CEWP) has been set up to lead this process.
- This report provides an update on the national and regional context for the climate emergency and the work currently underway by the CEWP in Kirklees.
- The findings of the CEWP will feed-in to a report and action plan to be provided to Full Council later in 2019.

2. Information required to take a decision

2.1. The Council's approach to addressing the climate emergency is evidence-based and aligns with international, national and regional targets and ambitions. The Paris Agreement of 2015 and the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Special Report of 2018 established the principle of addressing emissions in a fair and equitable way and outlined the importance of limiting global temperature increases to 1.5 degrees. This has been recognised by the UK Government, which is in the process of legislating for achieving 'net zero' carbon dioxide emissions by 2050 (i.e. a 100% reduction from 1990 levels) to align with the Paris Agreement.

2.2. Regionally, the Leeds City Region (LCR) Strategic Economic Plan (2016) sets out the ambition to be a "resilient, zero carbon energy economy" and subsequently in the Energy Strategy and Delivery Plan and associated work commissioned from the Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research has identified 2038 as a 'science-based' target for when the LCR should become a 'net zero' emission city region. Related work by the Tyndall Centre has also identified 2038 as the date by which Kirklees should achieve 'net zero' in order to make a fair and equitable contribution to the above national and international targets and obligations.

2.3. The Council's existing carbon emission reduction targets are as follows:

- Council: To achieve a 40% reduction in carbon emissions by 2020-21, based upon a 2005-06 baseline. Current 2017/18 progress: 32% reduction.
- District-wide: To achieve a 40% reduction in district carbon emissions by 2020-21 based upon a 2005-06 baseline. Progress in 2016: 35% reduction (NB. This is based on Government data and is the most recent figure currently available)

2.4. The Council declared a 'climate emergency' motion in January 2019 (see link at section 9) and established the cross-party Climate Emergency Working Party (CEWP) to identify practical measures to reduce emissions across the district in line with the following terms of reference:

- a) Commission and oversee the Environmental Audit
- b) Consult expert opinion in the field, as appropriate
- c) Identify practical measures to reduce emissions and the Council's carbon footprint
- d) Encourage action in the wider community, businesses and other key organisations e.g. NHS and educational institutions
- e) Report to Full Council within six months with an action plan to address the Emergency and incorporating proposals on the investment implications of the proposed activity

The CEWP has no decision making powers and will make recommendations to Full Council.

2.5. To achieve the environmental audit, the CEWP is undertaking a dynamic audit of council services areas in order to gather evidence from within the council to identify areas where significant carbon savings could be made, including:

- Identifying existing initiatives underway
- Outlining the current policy and statutory framework that applies
- Identifying opportunities available to tackle the climate emergency with current resources
- Identifying future opportunities outside current resourcing constraints that could be pursued in future.

The results of the audit will inform an action plan to be included in the final CEWP report, and which will inform proposed next steps.

2.6. The CEWP work to address the climate emergency is closely aligning with the Council's approach to Air Quality management and falls under the 'Clean & Green' corporate priority.

2.7. The council is developing a district-wide approach to addressing the climate emergency, recognising that this is an issue that requires a borough-wide approach. The CEWP has sought external advice and best practice and recognises that this will likely require the formation of a Kirklees Climate partnership-type body and different methods of achieving this are being considered.

2.8. How the challenges of the climate emergency are communicated is a key challenge and the Council has recognised that it has a role to encourage awareness and action in the wider community and that this will require communications activity. As a first step, the Council will be undertaking an internal communication and engagement exercise to alert and educate staff about the issue of climate change, but also gives colleagues the opportunity to support this work and reflect upon how they can help tackle the emergency and to suggest positive ideas to the CEWP.

2.9. An interim press release is being prepared outlining the 'quick wins' the council is undertaking along with current achievements in reducing carbon emissions across the Council. The Chair of the Councillor Working Party will be able to answer any detailed questions at the committee meetings.

3. Implications for the Council

3.1. Working with People

Climate change is likely to impact upon all Kirklees residents and the importance of public engagement is recognised. The CEWP will be developing an approach to encouraging action in the wider community and this will be reflected in the final report.

3.2. Working with Partners

Constructive relationships with the council's partners are considered key, and as noted at 2.7, the Council is identifying options for developing an external climate emergency partnership body, involving stakeholders from across Kirklees.

3.3. Place Based Working

The impacts of climate change are likely to result in specific challenges for certain areas as well as the over-arching issue. For the purposes of the CEWP, this is being considered at a district-wide level at present.

3.4. Improving outcomes for children

The role of children and young people in driving action on climate change has been well publicised. The CEWP recognises this and a representative from the Kirklees Youth Council

sits on the working party. The Council is also developing a Kirklees Youth Summit with a climate emergency focus.

3.5. Other (e.g. Legal/Financial or Human Resources)

The scale of proposed emissions reductions and climate change adaptation are likely to have significant implications for the council in terms of resourcing implications. The CEWP report and recommendations will include anticipated resourcing implications of this activity, along with the potential for external funding where appropriate.

4. Consultees and their opinions

No opinions have been sought at this stage.

5. Next steps and timelines

To continue to progress the work as outlined above and report back to the Full Council meeting in October 2019 with detailed proposals for addressing the climate emergency.

6. Officer recommendations and reasons

Committee Members are asked to consider the report and note the progress against the motion declaring a climate emergency.

7. Cabinet Portfolio Holder's recommendations

Not applicable.

8. Contact officer

John Atkinson, Economic Resilience Project Officer (Environment)

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9. Background Papers and History of Decisions

Link to the Council motion declaring a climate emergency:

<https://democracy.kirklees.gov.uk/mgAi.aspx?ID=10123>

10. Service Director responsible

Angela Blake, Service Director for Economy & Skills