

Cheltenham Borough Council
Cabinet – 9th July 2019
Climate Emergency

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| Accountable members | <p>Cllr Alex Hegenbarth, Cabinet Member with responsibility for Corporate Services</p> <p>Cllr Chris Coleman, Cabinet Member with responsibility for Clean & Green Environment</p> |
| Accountable officers | <p>Darren Knight, Executive Director for People & Change</p> <p>Mike Redman, Director for Environmental Services</p> |
| Ward(s) affected | All |
| Key/Significant Decision | No |
| Executive summary | <p>On the 18th February 2019, there was a unanimous Council motion, which called on the Cabinet to declare a climate emergency.</p> <p>This purpose of this report is for the Cabinet to consider this motion and to officially declare a climate emergency.</p> |
| Recommendations | The Cabinet considers the motion and declares a climate emergency. |

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| Financial implications | <p>Whilst there are no direct financial implications of the proposed decision, the finance team will work closely with the lead director to identify the costs of any associated activities or actions to feed into a future funding request.</p> <p>Contact officer: philip.alway@publicagroup.uk, 01285 623305</p> |
| Legal implications | <p>The Climate Change Act 2008 requires the government to set legally-binding 'carbon budgets' to act as stepping stones towards the 2050 target. A carbon budget is a cap on the amount of greenhouse gases emitted in the UK over a five-year period. Budgets must be set at least 12 years in advance to allow policy-makers, businesses and individuals enough time to prepare.</p> <p>The Council must ensure that any decisions taken must be in accordance with the Council's Constitution and Financial Rules, particularly in regard to decision making, implementation of strategy/action plans and any funding requirements.</p> <p>Contact officer: donna.marks@tewkesbury.gov.uk, 01684 272691</p> |

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| HR implications (including learning and organisational development) | <p>HR will work with management to ensure the resources and appropriate skills are secured in order to deliver the proposed initiatives.</p> <p>Contact officer: carmel.togher@publicagroup.uk, 01242 264391</p> |
| Key risks | <p>The council does not currently have sufficient internal resources or expertise in this area, so additional resources will be needed to support this agenda of future initiatives and projects.</p> <p>Other councils are also declaring a climate emergency, so there may be an opportunity to share resources and expertise.</p> <p>By not progressing with this agenda will mean opportunities to reduce the carbon footprint of the borough and the Council could be missed.</p> |
| Corporate and community plan Implications | <p>This initiative is aligned to the Council’s current Corporate Strategy under the <i>‘Achieving a cleaner and greener sustainable environment for residents and visitors’</i></p> |
| Environmental and climate change implications | <p>Reducing carbon emissions will deliver positive environmental benefits and minimise Cheltenham’s contribution to further climate change.</p> |
| Property/Asset Implications | <p>The Council’s own property portfolio will require works to achieve a carbon neutral position and this will need to be built into future maintenance plans. The change to a carbon neutral position on the portfolio will have an effect on the energy supply provision again which can be built into future plans. In addition, the targeting of maintenance resource will need to be reconsidered to support this aspiration. Future potential use of assets will also need to reflect this aspiration and opportunity for green energy storage and production using Council assets will need to be explored.</p> <p>Contact officer: gary.angove@cheltenham.gov.uk Gary Angove 01242 264238</p> |

1. Background:

1.1 On the 18th February 2019, at full Council, members proposed a motion to call on the Cabinet to declare a climate emergency. The motion included the following points:

- Declare a 'Climate Emergency';
- Pledge to make Cheltenham carbon neutral by 2030, taking into account both production and consumption emissions;
- Call on Westminster to provide the powers and resources to make the 2030 target possible;
- Work with other governments (both within the UK and internationally) to determine and implement best practice methods to limit Global Warming to less than 1.5°C;
- Continue to work with partners across the town, county and region to deliver this new goal through all relevant strategies and plans;
- Report to Full Council within six months with the actions the Council will take to address this emergency

1.2 The purpose of this report is for the Cabinet to consider the motion and to declare a climate emergency. This report also summarises how the council plans to respond to the declaration.

2. Reason for recommendations:

2.1 It is recommended that the Cabinet responds to the motion and declares a climate emergency for the following reasons:

- The motion received unanimous member support at February's Council meeting
- This initiative is aligned to the Council's current Corporate Strategy under the '*Achieving a cleaner and greener sustainable environment for residents and visitors*' priority - https://www.cheltenham.gov.uk/info/19/corporate_priorities_and_performance/790/our_corporate_strategy

3. Next steps:

3.1 A report will be taken to Cabinet in September and full Council in October, which will detail the actions the Council will take to address this emergency. This will also include what additional resources will be needed.

3.2 It is recommended that the Council responds to the motion by splitting the work into two workstreams, which would be:

1. Establish a carbon baseline, identify what actions need to be taken and the resources needed to develop and support initiatives that will work towards making Cheltenham carbon neutral by 2030. The lead Cabinet Member will be Cllr Coleman
2. Establish a carbon baseline, identify what actions need to be taken and the resources needed to plan to make the Council carbon neutral by 2030. The lead Cabinet Member will be Cllr Hegenbarth

3.3 In anticipation of this, initial work has been undertaken to prepare a brief for obtaining expert support to identify the actions and resources required to achieve the ambitions. A budget of £10,000 has been set aside for this initial work. Preliminary discussions have also taken place with neighbouring authorities about the potential for working in partnership.

3.4 Further ideas being considered include bringing councillors together to brainstorm some ideas and establishing a staff focus group to develop and champion initiatives.

4. Recommendation:

4.1 It is recommended the Cabinet declares a climate emergency based on the reasons outlined in this report.

4.2 A report is taken to Cabinet in September and full Council in October, which will detail the actions the Council will take to address this emergency including the resources needed.

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| Report author | Contact officer(s): <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Darren Knight, Executive Director of People & Change• darren.knight@cheltenham.gov.uk• 01242 264387 • Mike Redman, Director of Environmental Services• mike.redman@cheltenham.gov.uk• 01242 264160 |
| Appendices | None |
| Background information | None |

| The risk | | | | Original risk score (impact x likelihood) | | | Managing risk | | | | |
|-----------|---|-----------------------------|-------------|---|----------------|-------|---------------|--|----------------|---------------------|------------------------------|
| Risk ref. | Risk description | Risk Owner | Date raised | Impact 1-5 | Likelihood 1-6 | Score | Control | Action | Deadline | Responsible officer | Transferred to risk register |
| 1 | Lack of sufficient internal resources and expertise | Darren Knight & Mike Redman | March 2019 | 3 | 3 | 9 | Accept | Procure external expertise to help determine what the Council needs to do and where best to start to work towards making the Council and Borough Carbon neutral by 2030. Once this is clear then resource needs can be clearly established. There is an appetite from other local authorities to share resources and expertise | September 2019 | Gill Morris | No |
| 2 | Not declaring a climate emergency | Darren Knight & Mike Redman | May 2019 | 5 | 1 | 5 | Accept | Cabinet report recommending a climate emergency is declared. Once declared this will help ensure carbon neutral considerations gain further traction | July 2019 | Gill Morris | No |

Explanatory notes

Impact – an assessment of the impact if the risk occurs on a scale of 1-5 (1 being least impact and 5 being major or critical)

Likelihood – how likely is it that the risk will occur on a scale of 1-6

(1 being almost impossible, 2 is very low, 3 is low, 4 significant, 5 high and 6 a very high probability)

Control - Either: Reduce / Accept / Transfer to 3rd party / Close

Guidance

Types of risks could include the following:

- Potential reputation risks from the decision in terms of bad publicity, impact on the community or on partners;
- Financial risks associated with the decision;
- Political risks that the decision might not have cross-party support;
- Environmental risks associated with the decision;
- Potential adverse equality impacts from the decision;
- Capacity risks in terms of the ability of the organisation to ensure the effective delivery of the decision
- Legal risks arising from the decision

Remember to highlight risks which may impact on the strategy and actions which are being followed to deliver the objectives, so that members can identify the need to review objectives, options and decisions on a timely basis should these risks arise.

Risk ref

If the risk is already recorded, note either the corporate risk register or TEN reference

Risk Description

Please use “If xx happens then xx will be the consequence” (cause and effect). For example “If the council’s business continuity planning does not deliver effective responses to the predicted flu pandemic then council services will be significantly impacted.”

Risk owner

Please identify the lead officer who has identified the risk and will be responsible for it.

Risk score

Impact on a scale from 1 to 5 multiplied by likelihood on a scale from 1 to 6. Please see risk [scorecard](#) for more information on how to score a risk

Control

Either: Reduce / Accept / Transfer to 3rd party / Close

Action

There are usually things the council can do to reduce either the likelihood or impact of the risk. Controls may already be in place, such as budget monitoring or new controls or actions may also be needed.

Responsible officer

Please identify the lead officer who will be responsible for the action to control the risk.

For further guidance, please refer to the [risk management policy](#)

Transferred to risk register

Please ensure that the risk is transferred to a live risk register. This could be a team, divisional or corporate risk register depending on the nature of the risk and what level of objective it is impacting on