

Agenda item:

Title of meeting: Cabinet

Date of meeting: 24th July 2019

Subject: Responding to climate change

Report From: Chief Executive

Report by: Kelly Nash, Corporate Performance Manager

Wards affected: All

Key decision: No

Full Council decision: No

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 To set out how Portsmouth City Council will respond to the Notice of Motion adopted on 19th March 2019, to declare a climate emergency in Portsmouth.

2 Recommendations

2.1 The Cabinet is recommended to:

- i. Approve the proposals in section 4 (and specifically 4.1) to respond to the Notice of Motion adopted on 19th March 2019, to declare a climate change emergency in Portsmouth.

3 Background

- 3.1 On 19th March, the Council adopted a Notice of Motion, "Proposal to Declare a Climate Emergency in Portsmouth." This resolution included 7 asks of the Cabinet:

- Declare a 'Climate Emergency' then ask partners to sign up, including local business, schools and community groups
- Pledge to achieve net zero carbon emissions in Portsmouth by 2030, considering both production and consumption of emissions according to the Standard provided by the Greenhouse Gas Protocol.
- Require the Leader of the Council to report back to the Council within six months with an action plan, detailing how the Council will work with partners across the city and with central government to ensure that Portsmouth's net carbon emissions (Scope 1, Scope 2 and Scope 3 emissions as defined by the GHG Protocol) are reduced to zero by 2030

- Provide an annual report on Portsmouth GHG emissions, what is working and what is more challenging and progress towards achieving net zero-carbon emissions
- Require the Chief Executive to establish a "Portsmouth Climate Change Board" before the end of July 2019, equivalent to that of Manchester, to underpin our efforts to decarbonise Portsmouth.
- Write to the government requesting a) additional powers and funding to make the 2030 target possible, and b) that ministers work with local government and other governments to ensure that the UK maximises carbon reduction by 2030 in line with the overriding need to limit global warming to a maximum of 1.5°C.
- Develop and implement a community engagement plan to i) fully inform residents about the need for urgent action on climate change ii) offer a vision of a healthier, more child friendly and greener city that is a model of best practice iii) mobilise residents in the delivery of the action plan.

3.2 These actions amount to a significant programme of work, and a plan to deliver these has been developed.

4. Implementing the requirements of the Notice of Motion

4.1 The Notice of Motion is clear that there are two levels of response on this issue - the wider city and partners piece; and the response of Portsmouth City Council as an organisation. In order to implement the requirements of the Notice of Motion, the following actions will be undertaken:

- Significant partners in the city will be asked to sign-up to the Climate Emergency declaration
- Previous work undertaken on the organisation's carbon reduction plan will be refreshed to ensure that this is aspirational, realistic and covers the full breadth of PCC's activity, including the operational footprint (for example, staffing, waste, administrative buildings), housing and commercial stock, and policies (such as planning and procurement). The Carbon Reduction plan has not been actively monitored since 2015, so the refresh will be timely and the plan should be presented for adoption by the Cabinet in autumn 2019.
- Ensure that the refreshed carbon reduction plan includes specific, measureable, achievable, realistic and timely targets, which can be monitored regularly and reported on an annual basis - it is important to recognise that lots of work is happening, or has happened, that can be the building blocks of the plan (for example, work on clean air, single-use plastics, waste stream reduction, vehicle fleet improvements, home energy efficiency).
- Use the process of refreshing the plan to identify asks, in terms of additional powers and specific funding, that will be pursued with ministers and with other organisations
- Alongside the development of the organisation's Carbon Reduction Plan, facilitate the development of a Portsmouth Climate Change Board in support of this work, with a specific role to develop community engagement.

4.2 The Portsmouth Climate Change Board will not be a decision-making body of the local authority, but will instead have a role to promote issues relating to climate

change in the city, lobby and raise awareness, and provide a forum for issues relating to climate change on a city wide basis to be shared, discussed and co-ordinated. It could be that the board can commission specific pieces of work to be undertaken on a "task and finish" basis by working groups. Such a Board would be cross organisational and non-political (in terms of leadership) with chairmanship to be held on a revolving basis across member organisations.

- 4.3 In order to launch this group, some start-up resource will be required from the organisation, including officer time and some limited budget, for example, to develop a brand and identity for the Board, or support some events. It is proposed that officer time is found from within existing resource, and an initial start-up budget of £20,000 allocated to this. Partner organisations will be asked to consider what contributions they can make (in terms of in-kind support and funding) and the Terms of Reference for the Board will include a specific mandate to seek funding from all sources to support work in aid of the Portsmouth climate emergency.

5. Reasons for recommendations

- 5.1 The Council has signalled commitment to addressing the issue of climate change by adopting the Notice of Motion to declare climate emergency. The proposals set out in section 4 represent a comprehensive programme to implement this measure in Portsmouth, within the local authority and with partners and residents.
- 5.2 The proposals recognise that much is already happening to support this priority, but that this activity is in need of co-ordination and promotion to ensure that the impact is optimised.

6. Equality impact assessment (EIA)

- 6.1 A preliminary EIA has been completed, indicating that there is no requirement for a full EIA at this stage.

7. City Solicitor comments

- 7.1 Whilst the declaration of a Climate Change Emergency and the requirements of the Notice of Motion as adopted are distinct from the legally binding UK climate change target set by the Climate Change Act 2008, they represent a statement of intent by the Council to take action on climate change working with local partners and the community.

8. Head of finance's comments

- 8.1 As stated in paragraph 4.3 it is proposed that a one off sum of £20,000 is required to support this motion. This money will be funded from the Environment and Community Safety Portfolio Reserve.

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Signed by: David Williams, Chief Executive

Appendices:

Background list of documents: Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972

The following documents disclose facts or matters, which have been relied upon to a material extent by the author in preparing this report:

Title of document	Location

The recommendation(s) set out above were approved/ approved as amended/ deferred/ rejected by on

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Signed by: Name and Title