

Agenda item: 

**Title of meeting:** Cabinet

**Date of meeting:** 4<sup>th</sup> February 2020

**Subject:** Portsmouth City Council's response to the declaration of a Climate Emergency

**Report From:** Chief Executive

**Report by:** Tristan Thorn, Strategy Adviser - Climate Change

**Wards affected:** All

**Key decision:** No

**Full Council decision:** No

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## 1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 To set out how Portsmouth City Council will work towards net-zero carbon emissions by 2030, in response to the declaration of a climate emergency.

## 2 Recommendations

- 2.1 It is recommended that Cabinet approve the draft Portsmouth City Council Climate Change Strategy for consultation, as appendix A of this report.

## 3. Background

- 3.1 On 19<sup>th</sup> March 2019 the council declared a climate emergency; as part of this declaration the council committed to working to reduce the city's carbon emissions to net zero by 2030. The local authority has therefore developed a draft climate emergency strategy that will be the basis for consultation, including with Local Partnerships, to guide the approach to reducing, eliminating and offsetting carbon generated by the authority. The authority will also be working separately with partners on the citywide Climate Action Board to develop a strategy for carbon reduction in the wider city.

## 4. Portsmouth Climate Change Strategy

- 4.1 The Climate Change Strategy (attached at **Appendix A** to this report) outlines the approach that PCC will take to work towards its objective of becoming carbon neutral by 2030.

4.2 The document recognises that the authority has already undertaken many actions over the last few years that have contributed to a reduction in emissions, notably:

- Multiple domestic energy schemes
- Installation of LED lighting in key buildings across the city, and conversion of 15,000 street lights to energy efficient LEDs.
- Developing a food waste trial, converting some of the 40% of household waste that is food into biogas and fertiliser
- Working to make changes to the city transport system, such as cleaner buses and introducing electric vehicle charging points
- Committing to making Portsmouth International Port the first zero-emissions operations port in the UK, through measures such as replacing all floodlights with LED (reducing energy usage by 65%) and installing a sea water heat transfer pump to provide both heating and cooling for the new terminal building.

4.3 However, it is crucial to recognise that these actions have generally been taken primarily to achieve other objectives - such as cost reduction through energy efficiency, improvements in air quality or to tackle fuel poverty - and whilst they have also had the effect of reducing carbon emissions, we now need to start investing in measures to reduce carbon emissions as an objective. The draft strategy identifies some priority areas and initial projects, including:

- Carrying out a significant accommodation study of the civic offices to identify how more efficient usage can reduce carbon reductions through more effective use of space, expending less energy on heating, cooling and other power usage.
- Continuing the drive to reduce emissions from the International Port, by improving energy efficiency and introducing measures such as green shuttle buses
- Implementing our charging clean air zone, which will lead to reduced vehicle emissions, improving the city's carbon footprint and air quality challenge.
- Investing in active travel infrastructure through the developing Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan.
- Continuing to roll out the food waste availability and develop other sustainable waste reuse, recycling and disposal options
- Ensuring that carbon and wider sustainability considerations are taken into account in all PCC procurement
- Implementing a "Greening Strategy" which will see us increase planting, including trees, across the city

4.4 There are immediate actions that are already underway in terms of the way we work as an organisation including:

- Conducting a full carbon audit of PCC
- Fully assessing PCC's sphere of influence and ability to drive progress
- Establishing a PCC climate emergency working group and system of Carbon Champions

- Ensuring all of the council's decisions consider climate change and carbon emissions
- Developing a rigorous marketing and behaviour change plan.

4.5 We are aware that there are further opportunities that can be explored in more detail and that there is work to do in terms of evaluating where maximum impact can be achieved from the resources available, and where there are further opportunities to develop. To support us in this work, we have commissioned a review from Local Partnerships (who are affiliated to the Local Government Association) and this will report in March 2020. We will then use this information to refresh the strategy in late Spring. We will also take account of feedback on this first draft document from other sources, such as the Climate Action Board.

4.6 The document is consistent with the Notice of Motion adopted at Council on 14<sup>th</sup> January 2020.

4.7 The revised version published in late Spring will be the basis for a wider campaign and therefore will be in a full designed version for publication with accessible language that will engage readers, and support will be given to this process by communications officers.

## **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 the strategy attached at Appendix A represent a comprehensive programme to implement this measure within the local authority, and indicates how the authority will work with partners and residents through the climate change board.

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. Integrated impact assessment (IIA)**

6.1 An integrated impact assessment is attached at Appendix B.

## **7. City Solicitor comments**

7.1 The report rightly outlines the current thrust to align PCC with others within the LG community to tackle the issues associated with global warming. The report speaks to recommendations that are to be consulted upon and as such at this stage do not present a risk to the LA in the sense that a decided decision would. Importantly the suggestions set in the report are recommendations and not resolutions to undertake anything in a statutory sense.

**8. Head of finance’s comments**

- 8.1 There are no direct financial implications as a result of approving the recommendation within this report to adopt the Climate Change Strategy document. It may be that as a consequence of adopting the strategy and following the Carbon Audit that measures are identified that could be actioned that would reduce the amount of Carbon generated from Council operations. When these are identified they will be financially appraised and an appropriate source of funding will be identified in order to implement them.
- 8.2 The Climate Change Officer post will cost the Council £40,000, the cost of which will be met from the Environment Portfolio reserve.

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Signed by:

**Appendices:**

**Appendix A - Draft Portsmouth City Council Climate Change Emergency Strategy**

**Appendix B - Integrated Impact Assessment**

**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 .....

.....  
Signed by: Name and Title