

PDRC Meeting	
Meeting Date	4 March 2020
Report Title	Climate Change and Ecological Emergency Action Plan
Cabinet Member	Cllr Tim Valentine, Cabinet Member for Environment
SMT Lead	David Clifford, Head of Policy, Communications and Customer Services
Head of Service	David Clifford, Head of Policy, Communications and Customer Services
Lead Officer	Sarah Porter, Interim Policy Manager Janet Hill, Climate Change Officer
Key Decision	No
Classification	Open
Recommendations	1. That PDRC discuss and comment on the suggested actions

1 Purpose of Report and Executive Summary

- 1.1 In June 2019 the council declared a climate change and ecological emergency and committed to producing an action plan to make our own operation carbon neutral by 2025 and the borough by 2030.
- 1.2 This paper provides an update on the Council's response to the declaration of a Climate Change and Ecological Emergency. An action plan is required to set out the activities needed to adapt to and mitigate against a changing climate. Appended to this report is a longlist of potential actions some of which could be included in such a plan, for consideration by Policy Development and Review Committee.

2 Background

- 2.1 At the Council meeting on the 26 June Council declared a Climate Change and Ecological Emergency. This declaration included commitments to:
- Draw up an action plan with improvement in energy efficiency and making space for nature as key priorities in all strategies and plans.
 - Provide leadership by taking all measures within our control to make Swale Borough Council's own operations carbon neutral by 2025, taking into account both production and consumption emissions (scope 1, 2 and 3)
 - Engage with businesses, organisations and residents to facilitate the action required to make the Borough of Swale carbon neutral by 2030, taking into account both production and consumption emissions (scope 1, 2 and 3).

- Undertake actions including, but not be limited to, spatial and transport planning to make fewer journeys necessary, improvement to the energy efficiency of new and existing housing and buildings, improved public transport especially in rural areas; encouraging active transport, developing the infrastructure for EVs; deploying renewable energy at every opportunity, while continuing to safeguard our wild places, ancient woodlands and hedgerows.
- Call on Westminster to provide the powers and resources to make the 2030 target possible.

2.2 Given these ambitious objectives a key part of the agreed motion was to “report the actions the Council will take to address this emergency to Full Council”. In order to make sure we covered all possible areas of work we asked a consultant to come forward with a range of proposals for actions. This is attached at Appendix I.

3 Proposals

3.1 Following the declaration, an internal steering group was formed in order to determine and monitor the progress of work. This group have identified a number of areas of work. These projects have been grouped into the following workstreams:

- Buildings and property
- Transport and air quality
- Resource consumption and waste
- Ecology and biodiversity
- Energy generation and storage
- Resilience, adaptation and offsetting

3.2 The challenges and opportunities for each area have been highlighted and a range of potential actions follow. The potential actions are intended to show what we could, with sufficient resources, achieve. Not all of these will be achievable or within the council’s direct control. However, it is important to identify changes to legislation and actions by others that will be necessary.

3.3 The action plan is a living document and will be updated regularly in order to consider new technology, legislation, information and targets. Where proposed actions are not currently tenable this does not mean that they will remain so in future years.

3.4 PDRC are invited to comment on the proposed actions in order to be able to start to refine the list for development into the final action plan.

4 Implications

Issue	Implications
Corporate Plan	The action plan supports the priority in the emerging corporate plan around developing a coherent strategy to address the climate and ecological emergencies.
Financial, Resource and Property	Some of the actions will become projects and will necessarily have financial, resource or property implications. These will be considered on a case by case basis before each project commences.
Legal, Statutory and Procurement	None identified at this time
Crime and Disorder	None identified at this time
Environment and Climate/Ecological Emergency	In addressing the Climate and Ecological Emergency, the actions proposed in this report are intended to deliver a carbon neutral council and borough.
Health and Wellbeing	Many of the actions proposed will have direct benefits for physical and mental health, for example, increased fitness from active travel, improved air quality, reduced fuel and water poverty, warmer homes, improved green spaces, urban tree planting.
Risk Management and Health and Safety	None identified at this time
Equality and Diversity	At this high level the implications around equality and diversity are considered to be low. Implications will be much more relevant to many of the pieces of work which will flow from the final action plan; these will all need to be subject to individual impact assessments.
Privacy and Data Protection	None identified at this time

7 Appendices

7.1 The following documents are to be published with this report and form part of the report:

- Appendix I: Climate Change and Ecological Emergency Action Plan

8 Background Papers

8.1 [Minutes from Council meeting 24 June 2019](#)