

REPORT TO:	ENVIRONMENT & DEVELOPMENT SERVICES	AGENDA ITEM: 9
DATE OF MEETING:	14th NOVEMBER 2019	CATEGORY: RECOMMENDED
REPORT FROM:	STRATEGIC DIRECTOR – SERVICE DELIVERY	OPEN
MEMBERS' CONTACT POINT:	HEAD OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES matthew.holford@southderbyshire.gov.uk , 01283 595856	DOC:
SUBJECT:	CLIMATE EMERGENCY PLANNING	
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	ALL	TERMS OF REFERENCE: EDS01

1. Recommendations

- 1.1. That the Committee notes the progress made since the declaration of a Climate Emergency and approves the proposed approach for developing and delivering a Climate Emergency Action Plan.

2. Purpose of the Report

- 2.1. To provide the Committee with details on the progress made since the declaration of a Climate Emergency.
- 2.2. To seek approval for the proposed means of developing and progressing with a Climate Emergency Action Plan.

3. Detail

Background

- 3.1. At full Council on 27th June 2019 the following pledges were made in declaring a Climate Emergency:
 - Declare a Climate Emergency
 - Strive to make South Derbyshire District Council carbon neutral by 2030 and achieve Carbon Neutrality before the Government target of 2050
 - Call on the UK Government to provide the powers and resources to make the 2030 target realistic
 - Work with partners across the District and region to deliver this goal through all relevant strategies
 - Report back to Council within six months and have a standard E&D agenda Item on Environmental Improvements the Council are taking to address this emergency.
- 3.2. The Councils response to the Climate Emergency declaration and pledges will need to consist of two discrete, but linked, work streams:

- Taking **direct** measures to understand the emissions of all South Derbyshire District Council (SDDC) activities which influence climate change; setting annual targets to strive towards carbon neutrality in 2030 and developing actions and improvements to achieve these.
- Using the Council's **influence** to reduce the emissions of all other carbon emitters within the District.

Direct Measures

- 3.3. The Council is currently building a database to provide meaningful baseline information about its current emissions. This will enable SDDC to determine its estimated 2018 baseline carbon equivalence (CO_{2e}) contribution.
- 3.4. A procedure has been developed by the Council's Environmental Protection Officer (Energy and Carbon Management – STEMS-07) which has identified the key carbon sources; the data owners for all these sources; the way in which the data about each of these sources is captured and how this is translated into a carbon equivalency calculation for each source.
- 3.5. It should be noted that the commitment in the resolution states that the Council will strive towards 'carbon neutrality' by 2030. There is no fixed definition of carbon neutrality and so for the purposes of clarity the Council is using the definition of climate neutrality as *"achieving net zero carbon dioxide equivalent emissions by balancing carbon emissions with carbon removal (including through carbon offsetting) or eliminating carbon emissions altogether."*
- 3.6. The whole process of calculating carbon equivalency is in its infancy and therefore it is expected that the scope of this calculation will expand and evolve over time.
- 3.7. A baseline calculation (2018) for the relevant Council activities which are included within the scope of the calculation is now complete, along with a breakdown of the dominant carbon equivalent sources and a first draft of a carbon reduction 'route map' with the necessary quantified annual CO_{2e} reductions from 2020 to 2030.
- 3.8. In December 2019, it is proposed to initiate a Climate Emergency Action Plan corporate team with the specific brief of identifying the long-term actions, based on the route map, required to steer the Council towards carbon neutrality by 2030. The team will consist of key members of staff from all parts of the organisation and partner organisations who either significantly contribute to the overall CO_{2e} emissions or who have it in their gift to find the solutions. The team will be chaired by the Strategic Director (Service Delivery).
- 3.9. It is proposed to take the first SDDC Climate Emergency Action Plan to Council on 16th January 2020. It is anticipated that this Action Plan will contain the route map of the annual quantified CO_{2e} reduction targets along with qualitative commentary on the major carbon emissions sources. It is not proposed at this early stage in the Action Planning process that it will contain detailed coverage of the exact measures which will be implemented, when they will be implemented or what CO_{2e} saving they will produce.
- 3.10. It is recommended that in subsequent years a Climate Emergency Action Plan be brought to the Environment and Development Services Committee as soon as practicable after 1st April. It is proposed that the first EDS Climate Emergency Action Plan annual report in 2020 will contain the first detailed breakdown of the proposed SDDC actions to achieve carbon neutrality along with a carbon reduction profile of the committed actions compared to the route map in the original January 2020 Action Plan.

Influencing Measures

- 3.11. The Council has a significant leadership and influencing role within the business and residential communities in South Derbyshire and therefore has an indirect impact on many of the other sources of CO₂ and other greenhouse gases across the District.
- 3.12. All Councils in Derbyshire identified at an early stage the importance of collaboration in order to maximise the benefits of joint working and so that third parties were 'unable to see the join' in the climate change position being taken by Councils across the County. At a meeting of the County Chief Executives Group in July 2019 it was agreed to for a County officers' group to co-ordinate work across the county.
- 3.13. An officer working group consisting of County Council and District Council officers first met in September 2019 with the intention of meeting approximately every other month in order to deliver a county-wide Environment and Climate Change Framework. The first proposed version of the Environment and Climate Change Framework (ECCF) will go to the County Council's Cabinet in November 2019.
- 3.14. The Derbyshire ECCF currently proposes to contain a High-Level Action Plan. It will also directly link to seven key strategies relating to seven themes which impact significantly on climate change. These have either been published or are in production. The themes are:

Theme	Strategy / Policy	Status
Energy	Energy Strategy (2019 – 2022)	Currently in draft
Travel	Low Emission Vehicle Infrastructure Strategy (2019-29)	Currently in draft
Resources	Dealing with Derbyshire's Waste (2013-26)	Approved
Air Quality	Air Quality Strategy (2020-30)	Currently in draft
Economy	Clean Growth Strategy	Planned
Natural environment	Natural Capital Strategy	Planned
Partnership working	Other district policies & plans e.g. planning, housing	Approved

- 3.15. The Derbyshire ECCF will be more fully developed during a Climate Summit earmarked for March 2020, followed by the development of more detailed strategies and actions during the summer of 2020.
- 3.16. These Derbyshire ECCF actions will be incorporated into the SDDC Climate Emergency Action Planning process described earlier in the report.

4. Financial Implications

- 4.1. It remains too early in the Action Planning process to understand what the resource implications of Climate Emergency will be, but it can be assumed as a given that the implications will be significant .

- 4.2. In the short-term this is likely to require some additional staff capacity and / or third-party support to assist with the production, delivery and monitoring of the Climate Emergency Action Plan. Clarity about the requirements for this are proposed to be contained in the report to full Council on 16th January 2020.
- 4.3. In the longer-term this will require investment in carbon neutral solutions. Detailed understanding of the financial implications of these between now and 2030 should emerge with more certainty as the work of the proposed Climate Emergency Action Plan corporate team evolves through 2020 and beyond. This will also need to inform the medium-term financial planning process.

5. Corporate Implications

Employment Implications

- 5.1. The response to the Climate Emergency is likely to require additional staffing / third party support as the Action Plan matures.

Legal Implications

- 5.2. It is not currently a legal duty to produce a Climate Emergency Action Plan and to deliver on its commitments. However, given the significant strength of public support for action on climate change it is entirely possible that some form of statutory duty on local authorities to act will emerge soon.

Corporate Plan Implications

- 5.3. The proposals align with the key aim within the draft Corporate Plan to “Tackle Climate Change” as well as the two key actions within this aim to “Strive to make South Derbyshire District Council carbon neutral by 2030” and to “Work with residents, businesses and partners to reduce their carbon footprint”.

Risk Impact

- 5.4. The proposals will have a beneficial mitigating action against the corporate risk of “Managing the environmental impact of incidents across the District”.

6. Community Impact

Consultation

- 6.1. The proposed Climate Emergency Action Plan will be the subject of consultation during its production.

Equality and Diversity Impact

- 6.2. None.

Social Value Impact

- 6.3. Beneficial.

Environmental Sustainability

- 6.4. Beneficial.

7. Conclusions

7.1. The proposed approach to the development and implementation of the Climate Emergency Action Plan is an ambitious but realistic response to the Climate Emergency declaration. It will enable the Council to develop meaningful targets over the next 10 years as well as enabling it to work in partnership with other Councils across Derbyshire to achieve maximum benefit in our communities through joint working.

8. Background Papers

Environment and Development Services Committee, 16th August 2018.

Environment and Development Services Committee, 25th April 2019.