

For publication

More environmentally friendly Council

Meeting: Overview and Performance Scrutiny Forum

Date: 19 September 2019

Cabinet portfolio: Health and Wellbeing

Report by: Assistant Director – Health and Wellbeing

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Purpose of reviewing the topic	<i>To ensure that the options to make Chesterfield Borough Council more environmentally friendly are fully considered.</i>
What are the objectives of the review?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>To understand the efforts that are being made to make the council a more environmentally friendly council.</i>• <i>To ensure that all the options are fully considered.</i>
Progress to date	<i>New item on the work programme.</i>

1.0 **Background**

1.1 The Council declared a Climate Emergency on the 17th July 2019 the details of which are outlined below;

“This Council notes the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) ‘Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C’, published in October 2018, which

confirmed the catastrophic consequences of manmade climate change and the urgent need to act to address the marked increases that we are already seeing with regards higher sea levels, flooding, other extreme weather events, crop failures and destruction of land and marine eco-systems.

This Council therefore:

- (a) declares unequivocally that our town and borough, country and planet are facing a CLIMATE EMERGENCY;
- (b) agrees to establish a Chesterfield Climate Change working group to respond to this challenge, with representation from key borough stakeholders including our schools, college and university, the private sector and community and voluntary organisations, including Transition Chesterfield, Chesterfield Climate Alliance and young people's representative groups, with the shared purpose of enabling Chesterfield to become a low carbon, resilient and sustainable borough;
- (c) invites the working group to report back and make recommendations to Full Council on a realistic date for Chesterfield to be carbon neutral, and to develop a costed action plan, by March 2020, setting out the required work to achieve this outcome;
- (d) resolves to work with other local authorities and public, private and voluntary sector partners on carbon reduction projects;
- (e) calls on the Government to provide the necessary resources and powers for Chesterfield Borough Council to achieve its ambition of becoming a carbon neutral town and borough."

1.2 Given the declaration the overview and performance scrutiny will provide an important robust forum for the action plan development work to be reviewed and discussed.

2.0 **Current position and key milestones**

2.1 Whilst this is a new work programme, it should be noted that the Council has already done work to address issues pertaining to the contributory factors to climate change. Examples include, thermal improvements to its housing stock, boiler replacement programmes, low energy lighting schemes, the use of water saving technology and the use of technology in general; however more action is required and the formation of the working group and the development of a clear and costed action plan will support accelerating progress in this area.

3.0 **Barriers/obstacles**

3.1 A number of challenges will present themselves as the working group and the council as a whole develops its plans and work programmes. Challenges around public perception, availability of alternative sustainable options, budget implications etc. will all be areas that will need to be addressed and the scrutiny forum will play a key role in supporting progress through such issues.

4.0 **Future plans**

4.1 The working group is the nominated vehicle to co-design a fully costed action plan to inform the council as to options to reduce carbon impact locally.

4.2 Progress on the plan and the work of the Council in general on this subject will be reported through the scrutiny forum.

5.0 Conclusion

5.1 With the support of the citizens of Chesterfield, both through nominations to the working group and their individual actions, we can have a positive impact. There will be many challenges ahead given the scale of the issues that we are facing, however through collaboration and co-design we will make a difference.

6.0 Suggested scrutiny activity

6.1 *No further activity required at this stage given the scope of the working group and the reporting structure through scrutiny of the action plan.*

Document information

Report author	Contact number/email
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Background documents These are unpublished works which have been relied on to a material extent when the report was prepared.	
<i>This must be made available to the public for up to 4 years.</i>	
Appendices to the report N/A	