

## For publication

### More environmentally friendly Council

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Meeting: Overview and Performance Scrutiny Forum

Date: 21 November 2019

Cabinet portfolio: Health and Wellbeing

Report by: Assistant Director – Health and Wellbeing

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

#### 1.0 **Background**

1.1 The Council declared a Climate Emergency on the 17<sup>th</sup> 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 The first meeting of the working group took place on 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2019. Three elected members were part of the group (Cllr Amanda Serjeant, Cllr Jill Mannion-Brunt and Cllr Ed Fordham) and enabled a productive first meeting that set the scene in terms of the scale of the issue facing Chesterfield and importantly provided the opportunity for members of the working group to outline the areas that they felt were important. These areas will then inform future meetings and will require further review to support the development of the Councils Action Plan.

2.2 Appendix one outlines, in the words used by members of the working group, the key themes that were highlighted as well as some quick win areas that the group were keen to progress. All of these will be explored in more detail during the second meeting which will take place on the 25<sup>th</sup> November 2019.

## 3.0 **Barriers/obstacles**

3.1 The working group is still in a relatively early phase of development, however based on feedback received from the first session, the group dynamic appears to be right. Some examples of the positive feedback received are outlined below;

*“Congratulations on a successful launch to your project last night. You managed to cover a lot of ground in the available time and, by the end, there was a definite sense that a group with a shared purpose had formed.”*

*“...thank you for inviting me to join tonight's working group and how privileged I feel to be part of such an important community exercise.”*

3.2 Challenges will present themselves as the working group develops its plans and work programmes going forward, however from the first meeting the group has identified some key themes which will help structure the areas that are progressed for inclusion in the action plan. The five themes are referenced below;

- transport,
- publicity awareness and education,
- home / domestic
- policy
- technology

#### 4.0 **Future plans**

4.1 The next working group takes place on the 25<sup>th</sup> November 2019. This session will focus on developing priorities for the action plan based on the themes identified along with updates for the group as to potential quick wins to help reinforce the work that the council and the group are committed to.

4.2 Progress on the plan will be communicated to a wider reference group made up of those individuals who were not selected for the working group to help ensure all key issues are captured. Further updates / progress will be reported through the scrutiny forum.

#### 5.0 **Conclusion**

- 5.1 The initial meeting of the working group and the subsequent work that is being developed and progressed is and will support our carbon neutral ambitions.
- 5.2 The working group is committed to making a difference and ensuring Chesterfield has an action plan that will result in a co-ordinated approach to support our low carbon, resilient and sustainable borough
- 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**

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<b>Background documents</b>	
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>	
<b>Appendices to the report</b>	
Appendix 1 – Working Group Notes	