

For publication

Climate Change Action Plan

Meeting: Overview and Performance Scrutiny Forum

Date: 21 January 2021

Cabinet portfolio: Deputy Leader

Report by: Service Director – Leisure, Culture and
Community Wellbeing

For publication

Purpose of reviewing the topic	To monitor the progress of the Climate Change Action Plan.
What are the objectives of the review?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To understand what engagement has taken place or is due to take place with other agencies.• To ensure that targets are met, to monitor the progress against the steps in the Plan and monitor costs to ensure they are not exceeding the budgets set in the Plan.• To understand what efforts are being made to influence partners and other organisations.• To review staffing resources assigned to this area of work.
Progress to date	This is a new item on the Overview and Performance Scrutiny Forum work programme 2020/21 but is connected to the previous 2019/20 work programme item, More Environmentally Friendly Council.

1.0 **Background**

- 1.1 The Council declared a Climate Emergency on the 17th July 2019 the details of which are outlined below;
- 1.2 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.

1.3 On the 26th February 2020 The Council approved and adopted the climate change action plan.

2.0 **Current position and key milestones**

2.1 Despite the impact of Covid-19 over the last year, it is pleasing to report that positive actions have been progressed within the action plan.

2.2 Further to comments received from Scrutiny members at the meeting in September, the action plan has been RAG rated with comments regarding progress against each action and can be found as an appendix to this report – Appendix A.

3.0 **Barriers/obstacles**

3.1 Despite the restrictions and challenges from Covid-19 there have been some significant developments across key actions within the climate change action plan.

3.2 Covid-19 remains a significant risk to the Council as a whole in relation to capacity and as such the climate change officer will continually review progress using the report format found in Appendix A.

3.3 The successful appointment of the Climate Change Officer has significantly increased the capacity of the Council to drive forward its ambitions in relation to

carbon reduction and sustainability. However please note that currently (until April 2021) this officer is working part time to enable them to complete their PhD thesis.

4.0 **Future plans**

4.1 The climate change action plan will continue to be delivered and reviewed. The communications plan that complements the action plan will be a key milestone in supporting the wider engagement with our communities and this will be a core feature of the work of the Climate Change Officer for the first quarter of 2021.

4.2 The impact of Covid-19 will continue to be monitored with regards to the wider impact on the Council and any specific impacts in relation to the Climate Change Action Plan.

5.0 **Conclusion**

5.1 Positive progress has been made on the Councils Climate Change Action Plan, despite the pressures and challenges associated with the Covid-19 pandemic.

5.2 A range of key actions have been progressed since the action plan was formally adopted by the Council in late February 2020 details of which can be found in Appendix A.

6.0 **Suggested scrutiny activity**

6.1 No additional activity is suggested; having this scrutiny forum for the Climate Change Action Plan is an important part of the monitoring and development of the plan that will ensure it remains current and relevant.

Document information

Report author	Contact number/email
Ian Waller	ian.waller@chesterfield.gov.uk
Background documents	
These are unpublished works which have been relied on to a material extent when the report was prepared.	
N/A	
Appendices to the report	
Appendix A	RAG rated Climate Change action plan January 2021.