

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

STREET SCENE and ENVIRONMENT SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD

03 September 2019

Report of the Management Team

Part 1- Public

Matters for Recommendation to Cabinet - Non-Key Decision (Decision may be taken by the Cabinet Member)

1 TO AGREE AND ENDORSE THE APPROACH TAKEN TO BRING FORWARD A REVISED DRAFT CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY BY MAY 2020

1.1 Background

1.1.1 Members will be aware of the recent climate change motion submitted to Council. Within this the Council has resolved to:

- Declare its recognition of global climate change and biodiversity emergencies;
- Consider how the Council can strengthen local protection and enhance protection of species, habitats and ecosystems under available powers;
- Review services and operations to ensure Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council has policies that support climate change mitigation, for example the provision of electric charging points across the borough, so that it is one of the most welcoming places in the country for driving electric and hybrid vehicles;
- Request an initial report is made to the Cabinet setting out how, in partnership with other agencies, the Council will be making positive contributions to combat climate change and bring forward a revised draft Climate Change Strategy by May 2020 including deliverable performance indicators and an aspiration for Tonbridge and Malling to be carbon neutral by 2030.

1.1.2 Following on from this, preparation must begin to address these issues and set out the approach taken to bring forward a Draft Climate Change Strategy by May 2020.

1.2 Timescale and Delivery

1.2.1 In order to take forward work on the Climate Change Strategy, an Officer Study Group comprising of representatives from across the different Council departments, has been created. Expertise within this group will allow focus

towards those activities and services that the Borough Council undertakes through delivery of services and the leadership role within the community.

- 1.2.2 The first task of the group will be to establish the level of activity we are already undertaking which assists with this agenda including our role with planning and waste collection, our tree planting and biodiversity schemes at our country parks. We also need to set more aspirational targets and bring forward ideas to further reduce our own carbon emissions from our buildings and activities as well as our engagement with businesses and communities to help maximise carbon reduction within Tonbridge and Malling and lower our overall environmental impact.
- 1.2.3 Input from Councillors into the shaping of the Draft Climate Change Strategy will be very welcome in the first instance and any initial thoughts or comments should be sent to the Scrutiny and Partnerships Manager who will then liaise with Cllr Mark Rhodes (Cabinet Member for Community Services) and Cllr Robin Betts (Cabinet Member for Street Scene and Environment Services). There will of course be additional opportunities to comment as the draft strategy is reported to the various meetings listed above.
- 1.2.4 An initial Draft Climate Change Strategy will be prepared for discussion at Management Team by January 2020. Following on from this, a draft will then be reported to this Board on 11 February 2020. This allows time for any amendments or suggestions to be incorporated into a draft to Cabinet on 17 March 2020 and then onto Council on the 21 April 2020.

1.3 Legal Implications

- 1.3.1 None

1.4 Financial and Value for Money Considerations

- 1.4.1 To address these complex issues, it is likely that additional expertise and resources will be sought. Any financial decisions will need to be considered and reported initially to this Board for Member approval.

1.5 Risk Assessment

- 1.5.1 None

1.6 Equality Impact Assessment

- 1.6.1 The decisions recommended through this paper have a remote or low relevance to the substance of the Equality Act. There is no perceived impact on end users.

1.7 Recommendations

- 1.7.1 That the timescale for delivery of the Draft Climate Change Strategy as set out above be **ENDORSED**.

The Chief Executive confirms that the proposals contained in the recommendation(s), if approved, will fall within the Council's Budget and Policy Framework.

Background papers:

contact: Gill Fox

Nil

Julie Beilby
Chief Executive