

# TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

## STREET SCENE and ENVIRONMENT SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD

11 February 2020

### Report of the Chief Executive

#### Part 1- Public

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

### 1 DRAFT CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY

#### 1.1 Background

- 1.1.1 Members will be aware that following a motion adopted by full Council, it was agreed that a strategy be developed to support the aspiration for Tonbridge and Malling to be carbon neutral by 2030. A revised draft climate change strategy setting out the Council's commitment to local action on climate change, our commitment to biodiversity protection and our approach to partnership working would be prepared by May 2020. Following the adoption of the draft strategy, we will undertake further consultation with key partners, stakeholders and interested groups.
- 1.1.2 An initial Draft Climate Change Strategy is attached as Annex 1. The draft strategy takes us to 2030. It does not include specific details and actions, but sets out our intent and key areas of focus in relation to the services we deliver and the partnership action that needs to be taken to respond to the challenges posed by climate change.
- 1.1.3 Attached as Annex 2 is the Draft Climate Change Action Plan for 2020. The action plan focuses on our year one targets. Progress against these targets will be reported and published annually and targets will be set for the next year. There are many actions that need to be taken in the future and it's important that we scope out the feasibility of the options and establish where we can have the biggest impact. A key action within this year one action plan will be to appoint consultants who will establish our baseline carbon footprint data and provide a high level picture of potential actions that can help to get Tonbridge and Malling to net zero.
- 1.1.4 The challenge ahead will be considerable and will require a combined approach. The Council has already established an Officer Study Group comprising of representatives from across the different Council departments. Expertise from within this group will assist with progression of the targets within the action plan.

We will also need to work with statutory partners, businesses, community groups and individuals to raise awareness and help to influence change.

## **1.2 Legal Implications**

1.2.1 None

## **1.3 Financial and Value for Money Considerations**

1.3.1 Subject to final endorsement of the 2020/21 Budget, a specific earmarked reserve has been established in the sum of initially £250,000 to fund Climate Change initiatives. This will allow us to start work and secure partnership funding.

1.3.2 Following early discussions with Laser (Energy Procurement and Management) it is evident that they will be able to provide consultancy expertise to provide baseline data and establish appropriate actions to take forward. This initial work is likely to be costed at around £3,000 and KCC have indicated that they will be able to subsidise districts with some of these costs.

## **1.4 Risk Assessment**

1.4.1 None

## **1.5 Equality Impact Assessment**

1.5.1 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.

## **1.6 Policy Considerations**

1.6.1 Climate Change and Biodiversity & Sustainability, as detailed in the report and associated Annex.

## **1.7 Recommendations**

1.7.1 That subject to any further amendments from Members, the Draft Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan as set out in Annex 1 and 2, **BE ENDORSED** with amendments incorporated into a further draft for Cabinet approval on the 17 March 2020.

1.7.2 That the financial and value for money considerations as set out in 1.3 of the report **BE APPROVED**.

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