

PLACE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE



Report subject	Climate Programme
Meeting date	1 March 2023
Status	Public Report
Executive summary	<p>Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee are asked to note that the Climate Programme Cabinet report is yet to be finalised.</p> <p>Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee are asked to consider and comment on the three drafted supporting appendices:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual Report 2021/22 • Draft Climate Strategy 2023 – 2028 • Draft Action Plan 2023 - 2025
Recommendations	<p>Scrutiny are asked to acknowledge the proposal to bring forward the Climate Annual Report and Action plan to Cabinet in March with the following draft recommendations:</p> <p>Cabinet endorses the Climate Action Annual Report 2021/22 and Action Plan 2023/24 – 2024/25.</p> <p>Cabinet notes that a BCP Council Climate Strategy will be forthcoming to a future Cabinet meeting.</p>
Reason for recommendations	To enable the Council to work towards meeting its commitments under the Climate and Ecological Emergency Declaration and help global efforts to keep climate warming below 1.5°C to avoid further environmental damage, population displacement, biodiversity loss and risk to life.
Portfolio Holder(s):	Councillor Mike Greene, Portfolio Holder for Transport & Sustainability
Corporate Director	Jess Gibbons, Chief Operating Officer
Report Authors	Matthew Montgomery, Head of Climate Action Neil Short, Sustainability Manager
Wards	Council-wide
Classification	For Decision

Summary of financial implications

1. The Climate Action Team has a committed allocated revenue budget which has been increased to ensure it is sufficient to fund core staffing requirements, key studies, and document preparation where it is required. In addition to core funding the team are actively looking to increase funds available through bids and grant applications and through other external sources, such as private finance.
2. To deliver significant improvements to the Council estate and operations, the Green Futures Fund - a Public Works Loan Board funding source, has been agreed and secured for use in delivering the infrastructure and assets required to transition BCP area and the Council to a 'climate safe' operating space. The fund is to the value of £20M available over the next 4 years to be spent on capital projects. It can be accessed through the Infrastructure Programme Board with Cabinet/ Full Council approval of spend.

Summary of legal implications

3. There are potential legal implications in delivery of some projects referenced within the Climate Programme. These will be considered on a case-by-case basis and early engagement with the Council's Legal Team will be sought.
4. The Council is obliged to sufficiently take account of the Climate and Ecological Emergency in the development of the new Local Plan, or risk legal challenge.

Summary of human resources implications

5. The team is continuing to be developed with new roles planned during 2023/24 to support delivery of our ambitions.

Summary of sustainability impact

6. Decision Impact Assessment ref. 510 has been completed and the proposal has achieved a low carbon footprint, as the activities included support the climate agenda.

Summary of public health implications

7. Climate change will result in increasing heatwaves, extreme weather events, floods, disease, and increased cancer risk. The measures proposed to reduce climate change will limit the dangers and those activities can also have direct positive health effects (e.g., increased fitness from cycling and better air quality from reducing car journeys).

Summary of equality implications

8. An EIA conversation/screening document has been completed. It concludes that the Annual Report itself has no equalities implications but that individual actions in the Strategy and Action Plan will require individual assessments to be carried out before commencement.

Summary of risk assessment

9. The Climate Vulnerability and Risk assessment conducted this year broadens our knowledge base on the possible effects of climate change on our area. We must build upon this in the coming year to further extend our understanding, as failing to achieve the Climate and Ecological Emergency declaration commitments will contribute to an increasingly hostile global environment.

10. Non-achievement of targets will result in reputational damage from negative publicity (locally, nationally, and internationally). However, if we act in a timely manner, many of the actions in the Climate Action Plan will contribute to social, economic, and environmental benefits, reducing the likelihood of actual and perceived risks. Risk assessments will be carried out for individual Climate Action projects as required, on a case-by-case basis.

Background papers

GHG Inventory at <https://scattercities.com>

Appendices

Appendix A: BCP Council & Area Climate Action Programme - Annual Report 2021/22

Appendix B: Climate Action Programme – Draft Climate Action Strategy 2023 – 2028

Appendix C: Climate Action Programme - Action Plan 2022/23 – 2024/25 (live document)