

Chichester District Council

Cabinet

5 January 2021

Climate Emergency Detailed Action Plan

1. Contacts

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2. Recommendations

2.1 That Cabinet recommends to Council that:

(a) The Climate Emergency Detailed Action Plan (Appendix 1) is approved.

(b) The recommended Council responses to the consultation comments received as set out in Appendix 2 are approved for publication.

3. Background

3.1 An Initial Climate Emergency Action Plan was approved by the Council in January 2020. This included the appointment of a Climate Change Officer whose role would be to develop the plan into a detailed document. This appointment took place in May 2020. Subsequently a draft Climate Emergency Detailed Action Plan was approved by Cabinet for public consultation from 25 September 2020 to 6 November 2020.

3.2 The action plan sets out a series of steps intended to reduce carbon emissions in response to the Council's declaration of a climate emergency. These actions are designed to achieve two key targets; the first relates to the District Council's operations and the second to the district as a whole. Fundamental to achieving the area-wide target is a plan for engaging with the public, individuals and organisations on delivering greenhouse gas emission reductions across the District.

3.3 A survey was used to gather the public's views specifically on the Council's mitigation actions and the engagement approach although there was opportunity to comment on any aspect of the plan. Two hundred people responded to the consultation including 18 representatives of groups. Of these, 177 or 90% of

respondents said they were extremely or very concerned about climate change. A Consultation Analysis Report forms Appendix 2. The draft Climate Emergency Detailed Action Plan has been revised in light of these responses and forms Appendix 1. The Environment Panel also considered the consultation responses and made further revisions at their meeting on 4 December 2020.

- 3.4 The plan as consulted upon contained three proposed public engagement processes: working groups, the Citizen's Jury, and the public behaviour change campaign with an emphasis on interactivity. The public were asked specifically to comment on the first two aspects.
- 3.5 The working groups approach had an overwhelming high approval rating (86% or 165 responses). It is envisaged that these groups would comprise organisations of different types that work together to progress projects on a particular theme or in a geographical area. Respondents commented on the effectiveness of community groups and partnership working. They also commented that this approach would encourage greater participation and ownership of the climate change issue and that it would draw in ideas and expertise. However, the comment was made that the relationship between these groups and the Council needs to be clarified and this will be developed further.
- 3.6 The Citizens' Jury approach was also well-received (63% or 123 responses), but reservations were expressed about whether the jury would be dominated by environmentalists. This would not be the case as it is intended that jury members would be selected on the basis of ensuring they represent the demographic make-up of the district's population. Concern was particularly expressed about the number of people who will be involved and that the "12 or so" people given in the draft plan would not be enough.
- 3.7 Officers envisage that an outside organisation with experience of running these type of events will be engaged to select the participants, advise on the number necessary to represent the demographic profile of the district, and organise the event. To address concerns, it is proposed that the council explicitly commits to being guided by the outside organisation regarding the number of people that should be involved and switches to using the term "Citizens' Assembly" from "Citizens' Jury" to lose the association with the number 12.
- 3.8 Regarding the public behaviour change campaign, this will be informed by the responses to when the public were asked "How do you think we should engage with people about climate change and let them know about ways in which they can play their part?" The three most popular choices were given as: through the council's magazine 'initiatives' (142), through the media (141), and via Facebook (132). However, these will only form part of the package of methods used to engage with the public. The Climate Change Officer is investigating software that can be used to estimate an individual's carbon footprint and suggest ways to reduce it, which may appeal particularly to younger generations.
- 3.9 When asked what people thought of the council's plan to reduce its own emissions, most respondents (98) broadly supported the plan, while 27 supported some actions but not all, and six said that they did not support the

plan. Eighty-one respondents felt that the Council should do more while one person said the Council should do less.

3.10 There was space for respondents to make any other comments they wished on the overall plan with 162 choosing to do so. These comments have been categorised into topics in Appendix 2 - Consultation Analysis Report (see section 5.6 Tables 11-22). After each section, there is a response from council officers, setting out what the authority is doing that addresses the comments. However, it is clear from the consultation that many respondents want the council to do more. To drive further action, it is recommended to establish a Climate Emergency Officer Group, headed by a director. This group will co-ordinate and drive council actions in support of the emissions reduction target for the council's operations and the area-wide target. This corporate group will therefore complement the leadership and monitoring role that will be played by the Environment Panel which will receive quarterly reports on progress on the plan and by the full Council which will receive annual reports.

3.11 Further revisions are: a) to update the timeframes for actions and make them more specific; b) to assign responsibility for actions to named officers; c) to remove the proposal to set up a dedicated transport working group, although the Council will work with partners to progress low-carbon transport initiatives within the district.

4. Outcomes to be Achieved

4.1 That a plan is agreed with realistic and deliverable actions that can be implemented to address the Council's declaration of a Climate Emergency and that takes into account the results of the consultation.

5. Proposal

5.1 To agree the Climate Emergency Detailed Action Plan.

5.2 To approve the new format and presentation of the action plan which has been developed so that it is better suited to publication. To aid its use and understanding, the actions contained in Section A of the Consultation version have been replaced with sections that cover different topics such as transport, waste and recycling, planning and development.

5.3 To publish the Climate Emergency Detailed Action Plan on the Council's website.

6. Resource and Legal Implications

6.1 The action plan does not have any legal implications in itself, but individual actions within it will do and these will be addressed as they move through the Council policy and project approval processes.

6.2 Regarding resource implications, the most significant resource change to the initial action plan concerns the substitution of a Citizens' Assembly for the Climate Commission that was approved in the Initial Plan. Officers envisage

commissioning specialist help from organisations experienced in running Citizens' Assemblies. The net difference in cost between the two approaches has not as yet been estimated but is unlikely to be significant.

6.3 The Climate Emergency Officer Group will have resource implications in terms of staff time. This is balanced by the fact that implementing and monitoring any such corporate-wide action plan will require resources from several teams and senior managers and a corporate group has been found to be an effective way of managing this for other cross-cutting areas of work.

7. Community Impact and Corporate Risks

7.1 The action plan should have a positive community impact and no additional corporate risks have been identified.

8. Other Implications

Are there any implications for the following?		
	Yes	No
Crime and Disorder		X
Climate Change and Biodiversity The action plan is designed to address climate change & some of the actions within it have intended benefits for biodiversity.	X	
Human Rights and Equality Impact		X
Safeguarding and Early Help		X
General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)		X
Health and Wellbeing Fuel poverty is addressed by action 9.1 of the plan.	X	

9. Appendices

- 9.1 Appendix 1 - Draft Climate Emergency Detailed Action Plan
- 9.2 Appendix 2 - Consultation Analysis Report (*available electronically only*)
- 9.3 Appendix 3 - Collated Consultation Responses (*available electronically only*)