

Energy and Climate Change Working Group: Terms of Reference

Status

This is a working group of the Cabinet. It may make recommendations but is not a decision-making body.

Membership

Eleven members of the Council to be appointed by the Cabinet on nomination by group leaders. In the event that more than 11 nominations are submitted, Cabinet will be required to vote on who is appointed.

Two Youth Councillors will be invited to attend meetings as non-voting members of the Working Group.

Attendance

Officers will attend to support the Working Group as necessary.

The Working Group may invite other parties to attend and to contribute to meetings as it decides.

Meetings

The Working Group will fix its own timetable for meetings.

Meetings will be open to the public, subject to the exclusion rules that apply to committee meetings. Agendas and minutes will be published on the Council website.

Officer support

A senior Council officer will be designated as the lead officer for the Working Group.

Democratic Services will provide administrative support for the Working Group.

Role of the Working Group

The Council has declared a Climate and Ecological Emergency, acting now to prevent a climate and ecological catastrophe that will greatly impact our children, grandchildren and future generations

It has also committed to achieving net-zero carbon status by 2030 and protecting and enhancing biodiversity.

The Working Group will:

- Enable collaborative working across the Council and engagement with individuals, community groups, businesses and other partners in the district, including young people who should have a voice to help shape our future.

- Investigate steps that may be taken by the Council and by Uttlesford residents and businesses to work towards the Council's commitment to achieving net-zero carbon status by 2030 and towards protecting and enhancing bio-diversity.
- Produce a bold plan of action that is realistic, measurable and deliverable for recommendation to the Cabinet.
- Monitor delivery of the action plan once adopted to ensure that significant progress has been made to deliver the action plan by April 2023.
- Identify support needed from Central Government in terms of funding, additional powers and policy changes which are needed to achieve the Council's climate and ecological objectives.
- Make recommendations to the Council, Cabinet or others that would help to achieve the Council's climate and ecological objectives.