

Committee: Scrutiny

Date: 19th January 2021

Title: Uttlesford Climate Change Strategy

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Summary

1. This report outlines the Council's new Climate Change Strategy with the draft document set out in Appendix 1. This is intended to be a concise Strategy that is easily understood by all. If agreed, it will be supplemented by a more complex and detailed Action Plan that will set out specific targets for the various climate change projects and actions that are needed to deliver the strategy. This will also be supplemented with targeted deadlines, sources of funding and identification of the people/bodies with responsibility for delivering the actions clearly set out. This should be monitored by Scrutiny Committee on a regular basis to ensure targets are being met.

Recommendations

2. Review the draft Climate Change Strategy set out in Appendix 1 and make any appropriate recommendations to Cabinet.

Financial Implications

3. There are no financial implications associated with this report. However, the associated Action Plan that will be developed from the Strategy will have costs associated with actions and associated budgets clearly identified.

Background Papers

4. The following papers were referred to by the author in the preparation of this report and are available for inspection from the author of the report.

None

Impact

- 5.

| | |
|----------------------------|---|
| Communication/Consultation | As the Action Plan develops, local residents and interest groups will be kept informed of progress, with a view to involving them in developing and implementing appropriate projects |
| Community Safety | No specific impacts |

| | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| Equalities | No specific impacts |
| Health and Safety | No specific impacts |
| Human Rights/Legal Implications | No specific impacts |
| Sustainability | The Strategy and subsequent Action Plan will develop projects that will enhance the Council's sustainability corporate objectives and reduce the carbon footprint of Uttlesford District as a whole. |
| | |
| Ward-specific impacts | No specific impacts |
| Workforce/Workplace | No specific impacts |

Situation

7. The Council declared a Climate Change Emergency in 2019. As a consequence, it was agreed to develop a Climate Change Strategy and associated Action Plan to deliver a series of actions and projects to address climate change issues locally and, whenever possible, on a wider scale by linking into projects beyond the Uttlesford boundary (for example, working with Essex County Council on more strategic initiatives). A Climate Change Working Group was established to lead on this and develop the Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan. To do this, the Working Group also set up a series of sub groups to focus on specific topics relating to Climate Change and the actions needed.

8. The proposed Climate Change Strategy is set out in Appendix 1. While a lot of work has already been undertaken to produce the associated Action Plan, this work is still to be completed. A key reason for not having completed the Action Plan at present is that the Council has just recently allocated £1 million for climate change projects over three years. The existing draft Action Plan hasn't taken into account this available funding therefore additional work will be needed to assess and recommend the most effective projects to implement. This will require some external expertise to advise on how to best use the £1 million funding to ensure the Council maximises the "carbon reduction per pound" in all associated projects. It is proposed to appoint a Climate Change Project Officer to support this workstream as the Council currently has a very limited capacity.

9. Subject to Scrutiny Committee's views, it is proposed to then take the Climate Change Strategy to Cabinet on 9th February for approval to then submit to Full Council on 23rd February 2021 for formal endorsement.

1. Risk Analysis

| Risk | Likelihood | Impact | Mitigating actions |
|---|------------|--------|--|
| Scrutiny Committee does not support the draft Climate Change Strategy | Little | Low | Ensure Scrutiny Committee understands the ethos and process of preparing and implementing the Climate Change Strategy as a key corporate strategy. |

1 = Little or no risk or impact

2 = Some risk or impact – action may be necessary.

3 = Significant risk or impact – action required

4 = Near certainty of risk occurring, catastrophic effect or failure of project.