

Committee:	Scrutiny	Date:	19 th January 2021
Title:	Interim Climate Change Planning Policies		
Portfolio Holder:	Councillor Louise Pepper, Environment and Green Issues, Equalities		
Report Author:	Gordon Glenday, Assistant Director, Planning	Key decision:	No

Summary

1. This report sets out the Council's Draft Interim Climate Change Planning Policies. These policies are non-statutory development management policies which will be used to negotiate climate change mitigation and adaptation measures in new developments. The Interim Climate Change Policy document is attached as Appendix 1.

Recommendation

2. That Scrutiny Committee considers the Interim Climate Change Planning Policy document as non-statutory development management guidance and makes its recommendations to Cabinet.

Financial Implications

3. None

Background Papers

4. None.

Impact

- 5.

Communication/Consultation	Consultation has been carried out with the Climate Change Planning and Development Sub-Group, the Planning Working Group and the Climate Change Working Group.
Community Safety	None.
Equalities	None.
Health and Safety	None.

Human Rights/Legal Implications	None.
Sustainability	Climate change mitigation and adaptation are central to the guidance.
Ward-specific impacts	The guidance applies district-wide.
Workforce/Workplace	Officer and member time in drawing up, approving and implementing the guidance.

Situation

6. In 2019, the Council declared a climate and ecological emergency which commits it to achieving net-zero carbon status by 2030. Earlier this year, the Council withdrew its Regulation 19 Local Plan and has now begun the preparation of a new Local Plan for the period up to 2040. The new Local Plan will not be adopted until around 2024, but in the meantime the planning agenda continues to be shaped by measures to address climate change mitigation and adaptation, including paragraph 20 of the National Planning Policy Framework and the new Planning White Paper.
7. To bridge the gap between the 2005 adopted Uttlesford Local Plan and the adoption of the new local plan, some interim policies aimed at climate change mitigation and adaptation are needed to shape development. The Interim Climate Change Planning Policy document has accordingly been produced to contribute to achieving the Council's broad Climate Change objectives as they relate to new development. It is accepted that these policies are non-statutory and so cannot in themselves be a reason for refusal of planning permission, but they are based on other established guidance and best practice such as the National Design Guide. They will therefore make it clear to developers what climate change mitigation measures the Council expects to see taken on board in new developments. It will also assist officers influence developers to bring forward more climate friendly proposals.
8. These interim policies will be used to shape the statutory policies in the emerging local plan and demonstrate that the Council is serious about doing what it can to address climate change. As the world emerges from the current pandemic in the short to medium term, the policies also aim to capture the benefits from some of the "new norms" that might emerge, such as increased home working and more local, sustainable travel.
9. In developing the policies, officers have also been working closely with Essex County Council's Climate Change Commission and the officer team working on that important initiative. As a consequence, Essex County Council has been very supportive of the Uttlesford proposals – so much so that it has agreed to endorse the policies and allow the Council to include its logo on the document. Having the County

Council's formal backing of the proposals will add status and gravitas to the policies and so is strongly welcomed.

Risk Analysis

10.

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigating actions
That the Council is unable to secure climate change mitigation and adaptation through its planning policies until the new local plan is adopted.	2. There is some risk of this if a policy vacuum exists.	3. The Council might fail to achieve net-zero carbon status by 2030.	Approve the Interim Climate Change Planning Policy document as non-statutory development management guidance.

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.