

**Committee:** Cabinet  
**Title:** Interim Climate Change Planning Policy  
**Portfolio Holder:** Councillor Louise Pepper, Environment and Green Issues, Equalities  
**Report Author:** Gordon Glenday, Assistant Director – Planning  
**Date:** Tuesday, 9 February 2021  
**Key decision:** No

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## Summary

1. This report is about the production of the Council's Interim Climate Change Planning Policy document, and a recommendation to Cabinet to approve its use as non-statutory development management guidance. The document is attached as an appendix.

## Recommendation

2. That Cabinet approves the Interim Climate Change Planning Policy document as non-statutory development management guidance.

## 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	None.

Implications	
Sustainability	Climate change mitigation and adaptation are central to the guidance.
Ward-specific impacts	The guidance applies districtwide.
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 over the last few months. It is accepted that these policies are non-statutory, but they are based on other established guidance such as the National Design Guide and will help 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 (hopefully) emerges from the 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.

## Risk Analysis

9.

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigating actions
That the Council is unable to secure climate change mitigation and adaptation through its planning policies	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.

until the new local plan is adopted.			
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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.