

Committee:	Cabinet	Date: Tuesday, 11 January 2022
Title:	Climate Change Action Plan	
Portfolio Holder:	Councillor Louise Pepper, Portfolio Holder for Environment and Green Issues; Equalities	
Report Author:	Chloë Fiddy, Climate Change Officer cfiddy@uttlesford.gov.uk	Key decision: No

Summary

1. Uttlesford District Council declared a climate emergency in 2019 and we have pledged to take local action to prevent a climate and ecological catastrophe through the development of practices and policies which aim to achieve net-zero carbon status by 2030 and to protect and enhance biodiversity in the district.
2. This Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP) APPENDIX 2 is the vital next step in moving on from a statement of intent and overall approach, and into specific actions.
3. This document has been reviewed and updated following feedback from the last meeting of the Scrutiny Committee.

Recommendations

4. To consider adoption of the Climate Change Action Plan and note progress on the actions therein.

Financial Implications

5. The Council has agreed a specific climate change budget of £1,000,000 budget over 3 years.
6. To date £60,500 of the climate Change budget has been committed or spent.
7. External funding totalling £260,000 has also been secured and additional project-specific grants have been applied for.

Background Papers

8. 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: Climate Change Action Plan, Climate Change Strategy. The scientific data is drawn from the Government's and the Climate Change Committee's websites.

Impact

9.

Communication/Consultation	The Climate Change Action Plan has been reviewed by the Climate Change Working Group
Community Safety	None
Equalities	None
Health and Safety	None
Human Rights/Legal Implications	None
Sustainability	A clear plan setting out Uttlesford district councils approach to addressing climate change will have a positive impact on sustainability issues.
Ward-specific impacts	None
Workforce/Workplace	None

Situation

10. The Council declared a climate and ecological emergency in 2019 and immediately established a cross party Climate Change Working Group and was tasked with developing the Climate Change Strategy and Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP). The working group was attended by a range of community stakeholders in order to capture a diverse range of views and expertise.
11. The Climate Change Strategy defined the Council's ambition to achieve net-zero carbon status by 2030 and to improve biodiversity and was published in September 2020.
12. The working Group then set about the development of the CCAP which provides detail on the delivery of projects designed to mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change in Uttlesford. The draft CCAP is attached as APPENDIX 2.
13. The CCAP has been developed to be an ambitious document that contains a mixture of projects. Where the Council has direct control over the project and outcomes, these tasks are described as in-house. If the project relies on partnership working, persuasion or influencing / campaigning, these are described as partnership tasks.
14. Some of projects suggested in the CCAP are of a scale, particularly financially, that they require a business plan and must go through the Council's governance process for prioritisation and approval. Wherever the CCAP

action point is to make a business case, it should be inferred that this refers to a triple bottom line business case, in which the financial, environmental and social impacts of the potential project are set out for consideration.

15. The Action Plan has 38 components, and the scale of the task to turn each one into a worked-up plan, actually delivering, is considerable.

- There are 11 actions for delivery in March 2022 (Phase 2 of the Action Plan) These are shown in APPENDIX 1
- There are 13 actions for delivery by December 2022 (Phase 3 of the Action Plan)
- There are 10 action points that fall in 2023, 2025 or are ongoing.
- 3 action points are complete.

16. Following feedback from Scrutiny Committee the action plan has been updated. It now includes an Executive Summary, the introduction sets out more clearly how the plan has developed and how it is presented, and the individual actions have all been reviewed again.

Risk Analysis

17. See individual lines in the CCAP for risk assessment and mitigating actions.