

Committee: Scrutiny

Date: Thursday 26
May 2022

Title: Climate Change Action Plan

**Report
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Services

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) was approved by Cabinet on 11 January 2022 and incorporated feedback from this Committee.
3. This report and APPENDIX 1 both provide the Committee with an update on the actions due to be completed by the end of March 2022 or during the 2022/23 financial year.

Recommendations

4. To note progress on the implementation of the Climate Change Action Plan set out in paragraphs 15 to 16 and contained within APPENDIX 1.

Financial Implications

5. The Council has already agreed a specific climate change budget of £1,000,000 budget over 3 years.
6. To date £80,500 of the climate Change budget has been committed or spent.
7. External funding totalling over £900,000 has also now been secured.

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 it was tasked with developing the Climate Change Strategy and Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP).
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. The Climate Change Action Plan, describing how the Council would implement its ambition was approved by Cabinet on 11 January 2022 and is attached to this report as APPENDIX 1.
12. This Committee will be familiar with how the document is written and divided into in-house projects, or partnerships projects that rely on partnership working, persuasion or influencing / campaigning in order to deliver.
13. 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.
14. This report purely focuses on the actions that were due to be completed by March 2022 or during the financial year April 2022-March 2023.

15. APPENDIX 1 of the report sets out the actions described above (Para 14) and provides Members with an overview of the progress made to date, and details future actions that may be required.

- There were 12 actions that were due for delivery in March 2022.
 - 7 have been described as Complete.
 - 6 are currently On Track.
 - 1 project has been delayed due to a lack of baseline data. Action to address the delay is detailed.
- There are 13 actions for delivery by December 2022. (Phase 3 of the Action Plan) of these actions 13 to 25 in the CCAP.
 - 9 are on track
 - 2 are currently delayed or there is a risk that they will not be completed on time.
 - There are two actions where a verbal update will be provided at the meeting.

16. It should be noted that the lead project officer for Climate Change has now left the Council and officers are in the process of recruiting a replacement, this has included a review of options that will best deliver the Council's climate objectives.

Risk Analysis

17. Individual Action within the CCAP have risks highlighted. However the following Members should be aware of the following overall risk

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigating actions
Reduced capacity to deliver CCAP action due to staff availability.	3	2	Recruitment of a replacement of the Climate Change Officer is underway and that will minimise the risk to overarching projects that they will coordinate.

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.