

ESSENTIAL REFERENCE PAPER 'B'

CLIMATE CHANGE TASK AND FINISH GROUP 2017/18 TERMS OF REFERENCE AND SCOPING DOCUMENT

OBJECTIVE:

To allow Members to inform the review and development of new Climate Change Action Plan for East Herts and to appraise the extent to which potential initiatives should be included within the Action Plan relating to:

- internal activities (within East Herts own estate); and,
- external activities (across the wider District but over which the Council may have some control)

BACKGROUND:

East Herts Council first adopted a Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan in December 2009. Environment Scrutiny (ES) asked at the time that progress towards the Action Plan should be reported to the committee annually. At the last annual review in November 2015, the Committee resolved that following the successful implementation of many of the actions within the document that it would be timely for the whole Action Plan to be reviewed and refreshed at the date of the next annual review. It was further resolved that this process be informed by the establishment of a dedicated Task and Finish Group. Terms of Reference were agreed by ES at its meeting on the 13 September 2016 and Members recommended a wide review, rationalisation and refresh. It was further confirmed that the Climate Change Group be established at a time later in 2017 following the outcome of the Sustainable Transport Task and Finish Group.

Climate Change remains a key issue at national and international level, with the UK government striving towards an agreed target in the Climate Change Act of an 80% cut in carbon emissions by 2050

(based on a 1990 baseline). This target being based on an appropriate UK contribution to global emission reductions consistent with limiting global temperature rise to around 2 degrees centigrade. Currently a reduction of 38% has been achieved. The Government has also set in law carbon budgets, covering the period to 2027, to assist with the delivery of the national target.

Local authorities are seen as important players in contributing towards the national objective, both in terms of reducing their own energy use but also with regards to their role as local service providers and policy makers and the influence that their policy objectives relating to carbon reduction may have on sustainable transport & air quality, fuel poverty and economic development opportunities in their local areas. Greenhouse gas (carbon) emissions continue to be reported on an annual basis per district area.

Potential questions to be addressed and used to assist in developing specific recommendations (max 6):

- 1. What potential initiatives, actions, planning and other policies (and at what cost/benefit) can contribute to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in East Herts (both Council and wider partner organisations and community generated)?**
2. What renewable energy technologies are available to assist with carbon reduction?
3. What initiatives are already taking place in the local community to reduce carbon emissions and how can the Council support them?
4. What specific measures can be implemented to assist the reduction of carbon emissions through energy use, from commercial and residential properties, including the fuel poor?
5. What can the Council do in terms of sustainable transport and modal shift to contribute to carbon emission targets?
6. Both for the Council and the wider community, to what extent is

funding available and what potential is there for income generation.

OUTCOMES:

- An updated and realistic set of recommendations to aid Climate Change and carbon reduction for East Herts from 2018 to 2023.

CONSTRAINTS: (is there anything that should not be covered due to the fact that it is governed by national legislation, what exactly are members being asked to do or not do; any budget constraints)

Members are asked to suggest future policy direction in relation to carbon/energy reduction in line with governmental policy requirements.

METHOD:

Meetings of the full Task Group to date:

DATE:

October 2017 to November 2018
Venues: Wallfields, Hertford; and, Town Council Offices, B/S

REPORTING:

DATE: To Overview and Scrutiny on the 17 April 2018 and 18 December 2018

SITE VISIT:

DATE:

N/A

MEMBERSHIP:

Cllr Deering (Chairman)	Cllr Reed
Cllr Pope	Cllr Stevenson
Cllr Radford	Cllr Woodward
SUPPORT:	
Scrutiny officer:	Mike Edley, Scrutiny Officer
Lead officers:	David Thorogood, Environmental Strategy Co-ordinator

Committee for Public Scrutiny ACCOUNTABILITY OBJECTIVES:

1. Transparent – opening up data, information and governance
2. Inclusive – listening, understanding and changing
3. Accountable – demonstrating credibility