

**RECOMMENDATION FROM CLIMATE CHANGE WORKING GROUP –**

**CLIMATE EMERGENCY – PLANNING FOR CARBON NEUTRALITY**

**Executive Summary**

On 25 July 2019, the Council declared a ‘climate emergency’. This recognises the continued priority the borough gives to addressing global climate change, including biodiversity and habitat losses, through strong local commitment and most importantly actions. The Council pledged to become carbon neutral by 2030 across its own estate and operations.

[Woking 2050](#) sets out a vision guiding our collective efforts to create a sustainable borough by reducing our impact on the environment and how as a council we can lead by example. However, in order to achieve carbon neutrality, we need to identify what actions can be accelerated to eliminate the Council’s contribution to climate change completely.

At its meeting on 3 December 2019, the Climate Change Working Group received a report and draft carbon reduction plan (attached at Appendices 1a and 1b) with initial ideas on how this can be achieved with estimated costs and emissions savings where available.

The draft carbon reduction action plan focusses on mitigation measures that will help reduce (and eventually eliminate) the Council’s carbon footprint. The plan must be considered as one that will evolve and continue to be developed as more information is gathered about potential new projects and activities. Due to the nature of some of the actions, further work will be needed to work up more detailed cost implications and feasibility assessments.

Whilst the plan focuses on carbon reduction and mitigation at this stage, it acknowledges the ecological aspects of the climate emergency. As part of the wider work to enact the climate emergency declaration, officers will ensure that actions through the Natural Woking strategy are accelerated to continue to support our local species and habitats.

**Recommendations**

The Executive is requested to:

**RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL That**

- (i) officers be authorised to implement initial actions for 2019/20 and 2020/21 as recommended in the report; and**
- (ii) delegated authority be given to the Assistant Director (Place) in consultation with the Portfolio Holder and Shadow Portfolio Holder for Environment and Sustainability to agree new actions as they are identified.**

**Recommendation from Climate Change Working Group –  
Climate Emergency – Planning for Carbon Neutrality**

**Reasons for Decision**

Reason: The report outlines the carbon reduction action plan and initial activities identified to accelerate action in furtherance of the Council's climate emergency declaration. The report also requests the identification of funding within the Council's budgets for 2020/21.

The item(s) above will need to be dealt with by way of a recommendation to Council.
---

**Background Papers:** None.

**Reporting Person:** Douglas Spinks, Deputy Chief Executive  
Email: douglas.spinks@woking.gov.uk, Extn: 3440

**Contact Person:** Lara Beattie, Senior Policy Officer  
Email: lara.beattie@woking.gov.uk, Extn: 3013

**Portfolio Holder:** Councillor Kevin Davis  
Email: cllrkevin.davis@woking.gov.uk

**Shadow Portfolio Holder:** Councillor Ken Howard  
Email: cllrken.howard@woking.gov.uk

**Date Published:** 31 January 2020

## **Recommendation from Climate Change Working Group – Climate Emergency – Planning for Carbon Neutrality**

### **1.0 Introduction**

- 1.1 On 25 July 2019, the Council declared a 'climate emergency'. This recognises the continued priority the Borough gives to addressing global climate change, including biodiversity and habitat losses, through strong local commitment and most importantly actions. The Council pledged to become carbon neutral by 2030 across its own estate and operations.
- 1.2 At its meeting on 3 December 2019, the Climate Change Working Group received a report and draft carbon reduction plan (attached at Appendices 1a and 1b) with initial ideas on how the Woking 2050 strategy can be accelerated in furtherance of the pledge. It was acknowledged that the plan will evolve and continue to be developed as more information is gathered about potential new projects and activities. The plan includes estimated costs and emissions savings where available.
- 1.3 The Climate Change Working Group subsequently made three recommendations in order to accelerate the existing Woking 2050 strategy and work towards achieving carbon neutrality across the Council's estate and operations by 2030.

### **2.0 Implementation and funding**

- 2.1 The draft carbon reduction plan highlights and acknowledges that this is a continuation of the long term commitment of the Council to protecting the environment and addressing climate change. Given the breadth of the pledge to reduce (and eventually eliminate) the Council's own impact and contribution to climate change, the draft plan is naturally broad ranging. As well as new actions, the plan includes activities that are already underway as part of the existing Woking 2050 strategy.
- 2.2 To initiate the plan the Working Group agreed a package of priority actions for implementation during the remainder of 2019/20 and into 2020/21. These are shown in section 3.2 of the report in Appendix 1a.
- 2.3 In order to maintain momentum as the plan is further developed, the Working Group agreed that delegated authority be given to the Assistant Director (Place) in consultation with the Portfolio Holder and Shadow Portfolio Holder for Environment and Sustainability to agree new actions as they are identified.
- 2.4 The Working Group also recommended that the Executive identify £100,000 funding within the Council's budgets as an initial allocation for 2020/21 to implement the carbon reduction actions agreed.

### **3.0 Implications**

#### Financial

- 3.1 There will be costs associated with meeting the carbon neutral targets. Priority actions for the remainder of 2019/20 and into 2020/21 have been identified and a recommendation made that the Executive identify £100,000 funding within the Council's budgets for their implementation.
- 3.2 The draft Investment Programme has included £100,000, to be financed from revenue, in 2020/21 and acknowledged that future funding will be required. Future requirements will be the subject of further reports.
- 3.3 Further implications and funding will be considered as the carbon reduction action plan continues to develop.

## **Recommendation from Climate Change Working Group – Climate Emergency – Planning for Carbon Neutrality**

### Human Resource/Training and Development

- 3.4 There are no human resource / training and development implications associated with this report.

### Community Safety

- 3.5 There are no community safety implications associated with this report.

### Risk Management

- 3.6 There are no risk management implications associated with this report.

### Sustainability

- 3.7 This report outlines the initial carbon reduction plan that has been developed in order to accelerate action required for the Council to work towards carbon neutrality. As covered in the report in Appendix 1a, achieving and maintaining carbon neutrality would bring an end to the Council's own contribution to climate change.

### Equalities

- 3.8 There are no equalities implications associated with this report.

### Safeguarding

- 3.9 There are no safeguarding implications associated with this report.

## **4.0 Consultations**

- 4.1 The Climate Change Working Group was consulted at its meeting on 3 December 2019.

REPORT ENDS