

# HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

## Decision Report

<b>Decision Maker:</b>	Cabinet
<b>Date:</b>	17 June 2019
<b>Title:</b>	Referral of Motion from County Council on 17 May 2019
<b>Report From:</b>	Chief Executive

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### 1. Recommendation

- 1.1. That Cabinet consider the way forward in respect of this referral from the County Council.

### 2. Executive Summary

- 2.1. A Notice of Motion ('Motion') proposed by Councillor Martin Tod and seconded by Councillor Adrian Collett was submitted in accordance with Standing Order 18.1 to a meeting of the County Council held on 17 May 2019. A copy of the Motion is attached to this report as Appendix 1.
- 2.2. In accordance with Standing Order 18.4 the Council referred the Motion to Cabinet for consideration. Cabinet is accordingly requested to consider the Motion and report back to the County Council.

### 3. Contextual Information

- 3.1. Climate Change and 'Green', 'Environmental' or 'Sustainable' are labels which are often used inter-changeably, but are in fact different and distinct, albeit with some areas of overlap. Environmental or sustainability considerations are wider than climate change alone, although most expert commentators see a changing climate as the most significant threat to the environment and to human welfare. There is a however potential danger that in focussing exclusively on climate change, actions may be taken which compromise wider environmental considerations. Perhaps the best example of this was the UK government decision to promote diesel vehicles to help reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions to mitigate climate change, which has now been recognised has contributed to significant air quality problems in relation to NO<sub>2</sub> emissions from traffic.

- 3.2. The Climate Emergency Movement has developed rapidly following the publication of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) special report of the on the state of global warming in October 2018. Extracts from the Report's 'Headline Statements from the Summary for Policymakers' are set out below.
- 3.3. The Report estimates that human activities have caused approximately 1.0°C of global warming above pre-industrial levels, with a likely range of 0.8°C to 1.2°C. Global warming is likely to reach 1.5°C between 2030 and 2052 if it continues to increase at the current rate.
- 3.4. Warming from anthropogenic emissions from the pre-industrial period to the present will persist for centuries to millennia and will continue to cause further long-term changes in the climate system, such as sea level rise, with associated impacts, but these emissions alone are unlikely to cause global warming of 1.5°C. Climate-related risks for natural and human systems are higher for global warming of 1.5°C than at present, but lower than at 2°C.
- 3.5. These risks depend on the magnitude and rate of warming, geographic location, levels of development and vulnerability, and on the choices and implementation of adaptation and mitigation options.
- 3.6. Climate models project robust differences in regional climate characteristics between present-day and global warming of 1.5°C, and between 1.5°C and 2°C. These differences include increases in: mean temperature in most land and ocean regions, hot extremes in most inhabited regions, heavy precipitation in several regions, and the probability of drought and precipitation deficits in some regions.
- 3.7. By 2100, global mean sea level rise is projected to be around 0.1 metre lower with global warming of 1.5°C compared to 2°C. Sea level will continue to rise well beyond 2100, and the magnitude and rate of this rise depend on future emission pathways. A slower rate of sea level rise enables greater opportunities for adaptation in the human and ecological systems of small islands, low-lying coastal areas and deltas.
- 3.8. On land, impacts on biodiversity and ecosystems, including species loss and extinction, are projected to be lower at 1.5°C of global warming compared to 2°C. Limiting global warming to 1.5°C compared to 2°C is projected to lower the impacts on terrestrial, freshwater and coastal ecosystems and to retain more of their services to humans.
- 3.9. Limiting global warming to 1.5°C compared to 2°C is projected to reduce increases in ocean temperature as well as associated increases in ocean acidity and decreases in ocean oxygen levels. Consequently, limiting global warming to 1.5°C is projected to reduce risks to marine biodiversity, fisheries, and ecosystems, and their functions and services to humans, as illustrated by recent changes to Arctic sea ice and warm-water coral reef ecosystems. Climate-related risks to health, livelihoods, food security, water supply, human security, and economic growth are projected to increase with global warming of 1.5°C and increase further with 2°C. Most adaptation needs will be lower for global warming of 1.5°C compared to 2°C.
- 3.10. Declaring a Climate Emergency would be a formal recognition by the County Council of the scale and urgency of the global challenge from climate change,

as documented by the latest Special Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. A number of Councils in England have declared a climate emergency, starting with Bristol and Manchester City Councils in November 2018, and many others including a number of Counties, have followed suit, also pledging to reduce carbon or become carbon neutral by various dates from 2028 to 2050.

- 3.11. The County Council has been engaged with climate change issues for many years and has been taking active steps to respond, both in terms of making Hampshire more resilient to changes already coming and mitigating future climate change through reducing carbon emissions.
- 3.12. Hampshire County Council continues to embed climate change adaptation measures and considerations throughout the policies, processes and daily work of the Council, to ensure that the Council and its services are resilient to the impacts of a changing climate.
- 3.13. Achievements to date include key policies and documents which now include adaptation. Examples include the Strategic Asset Management Plan and through relevant reference in executive decision reports. The Council has also made adaptation tools available to residents and organisations through its webpages. These include an interactive resilient buildings WebApp, Climate Change Risk Assessment tool and the Performance Acceleration Climate Tool (PACT) which helps assess and improve organisations' capacity to respond to climate change. The County Council is also working through the Defra led Local Adaptation Advisory Panel to develop the next National Adaptation Programme for the UK.
- 3.14. The key achievements of the Carbon Reduction and Energy Savings Programme are set out below:
  - County Council carbon consumption reduced by over 40% since 2010. This target achieved 7 years early. Revised target of 50% reduction by 2025 approved by members.
  - Total energy cost savings of £30 million achieved since 2010 (including schools).
  - £385,000 of Carbon Tax reductions achieved through energy saving initiatives.
  - Total County Council corporate carbon emissions down by 21,800 tonnes in only 8 years.
  - Over 60 photovoltaic arrays installed on County Council owned buildings.
  - Major LED lighting replacement programme expected to deliver £240,000 energy savings per annum and significantly reduce maintenance costs.
  - A regional public sector framework for electric vehicle charging points procured by the County Council. 80 new charging points across Hampshire planned by the end of 2019.
  - Programme of conversion of County Council small vehicle fleet (including pool cars) to electric well underway. Over 150 vehicles planned expected to achieve around £210,000 of fuel savings and zero emissions.
  - The County Council has rationalised its office estate reducing floor space by around 25% saving £2million in annual revenue costs.
  - 40% reduction in print volumes with the introduction of digital technology and other efficiencies achieving £900,000 in annual savings.

3.15. A Report to the Buildings Land and Procurement Panel on 9 October 2018 (attached at Appendix 2) and the Business Services Sustainability Report (attached at Appendix 3) provide further detail on the work undertaken in this area by the County Council.

**REQUIRED CORPORATE AND LEGAL INFORMATION:**

**Links to the Strategic Plan**

**This proposal does not link to the Strategic Plan but, nevertheless, requires a decision because the matter has been referred by the County Council to Cabinet in accordance with Standing Orders.**

**Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents**

**The following documents discuss facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. (NB: the list excludes published works and any documents which disclose exempt or confidential information as defined in the Act.)**

Document

Location

None

## **EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT:**

### **1. Equality Duty**

The County Council has a duty under Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 ('the Act') to have due regard in the exercise of its functions to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited by or under the Act with regard to the protected characteristics as set out in section 4 of the Act (age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation);
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic within section 149(7) of the Act (age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation) and those who do not share it;
- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic within section 149(7) of the Act (see above) and persons who do not share it.

Due regard in this context involves having due regard in particular to:

- The need to remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic;
- Take steps to meet the needs of persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it;
- Encourage persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

### **2. Equalities Impact Assessment:**

No direct impact on equalities is anticipated as a result of Cabinet's consideration of the Motion.

**COUNTY COUNCIL AGM – 17 MAY 2019  
NOTICE OF MOTION**

**NOTICE OF MOTION SUBMITTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH STANDING  
ORDER 18.1**

**Proposed by Councillor Martin Tod and seconded by Councillor Adrian Collett:**

Hampshire 'climate emergency'.

Council notes:

1. Humans have already caused irreversible climate change, the impacts of which are being felt around the world. Global temperatures have already increased by 1 degree Celsius from pre-industrial levels. Atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> levels are above 400 parts per million (ppm). The latest report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in October 2018 gave us 12 years to implement changes to keep global warming to a maximum of 1.5 degrees in order to avoid widespread drought, food scarcity, heat related deaths and loss of biodiversity including insects and vital food crop pollinators.
2. At present the world is on track to overshoot the Paris Agreement's 1.5°C limit before 2050. In order to reduce the chance of runaway global warming and limit the effects of climate breakdown, it is imperative that we as a species reduce our CO<sub>2</sub>eq (carbon equivalent) emissions from their current 6.5 tonnes per person per year to less than 2 tonnes as soon as possible.
3. Individuals cannot be expected to make this reduction on their own. Society needs to change its laws, taxation, and infrastructure to make low carbon living easier and the new norm.
4. Carbon emissions result from both production and consumption.
5. Hampshire County Council has already made some positive progress, but this is not enough. More can and must be done. The Independent Panel on Climate Change in its Oct. 2018 report was very clear that action from all parts of society is necessary and local government has a responsibility to lead the way.
6. Councils around the world are responding by declaring a 'Climate Emergency' and taking action to address this emergency.

Council believes that:

1. All levels of government (national, regional and local) have a duty to limit the negative impacts of climate breakdown. Local councils that recognise this should not wait for their national governments to change their policies.

2. Hampshire is already suffering from flooding problems, and a significant proportion of its population and a large number of its settlements are based in coastal areas which would potentially be severely affected by a rise in sea levels caused by continual global warming. The consequences of global temperature rising above 1.5°C are potentially so severe that preventing this from happening must be a number one priority.

3. Bold local climate action can deliver economic and social benefits in terms of new green jobs, economic savings and market opportunities, as well as much improved well-being for Hampshire residents – for example through reducing fuel poverty and energy bills, encouraging healthy, active travel and improving green spaces and access to nature.

This Council therefore calls on the Cabinet to:

1. Declare a 'Climate Emergency';
2. Pledge to make Hampshire carbon neutral by 2030, taking into account both production and consumption emissions;
3. Report to full Council within six months setting out the immediate actions the Council will take to address this emergency and a plan to measure annual countywide progress towards meeting the 2030 target.
4. Work with partners across the county and the region to deliver this new goal through all relevant strategies and plans and drawing on local and global best practice.
5. Actively lobby the Government to provide the additional powers and resources needed to meet the 2030 target.