

**Classification:** Public  
**Key Decision:** Yes

## Gravesham Borough Council

**Report to:** Full Council  
**Date:** 07 December 2021  
**Reporting officer:** Sarah Parfitt, Director (Corporate Services)  
**Subject:** Climate Change Strategy 2022-2030

### **Purpose and summary of report:**

To present Members with a draft Climate Change Strategy for the period 2022-2030 for approval.

### **Recommendations:**

Members are requested to:

1. Approve the draft Climate Change Strategy 2022-2030 set out at appendix two and give delegated authority for any final amendments to be made by the Director (Corporate Services), in consultation with the Leader of the Executive.
2. Agree that the Climate Change Cross Party Working Group be disbanded, recognising that the actions of this group will be taken forward by the newly-constituted Climate Change Advisory Board.

### **1. Introduction**

- 1.1 At its Full Council meeting on 25 June 2019, Gravesham Borough Council passed a motion to declare a climate emergency and, accordingly, committed to Gravesham Borough Council taking a lead in achieving Carbon Neutral status.
- 1.2 The full Motion as adopted was:  
*Gravesham Borough Council with this motion declares we have a climate emergency and we will begin to take action to prepare for the borough to become carbon neutral by 2030.*
- 1.3 In response to the motion, an action plan was developed which set out a number of immediate actions for the council in addressing the level of emissions across Gravesham. Updates on these actions have been presented to Full Council in December 2020 and December 2021 through the presentation of Annual Reports for each respective year.

## **2. Development of the Climate Change Strategy 2022-2030**

- 2.1 It has always been the council's intention to set a clear Climate Change Strategy in order to clearly articulate the actions that need to be taken in order to meet the council's net zero ambitions.
- 2.2 In order to ensure that the Climate Change Strategy is informed by current emission levels, the council engaged Local Partnerships in April 2021 to assist in developing the council's overall approach to Climate Change, specifically in relation to emissions from its own operations. In addition, up to date data relating to borough-wide emissions from the Departments for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) has been used to provide the baseline emissions for the borough and identify key areas for action.
- 2.3 The research undertaken has enabled the council to set out a high-level, strategic Delivery Plan within the Strategy under three key workstreams:
  - 2.3.1 **Gravesham Borough Council – the organisation**  
Focusing on how the council can change its own operations, and those of its employees, wherever possible to reduce the level of carbon emissions its produces.
  - 2.3.2 **Gravesham Borough Council – the housing provider**  
Exploring opportunities to bring the council's current housing stock up to a better level of energy efficiency standard where it is possible to do so; ensuring new council housing is built to a high level of sustainability and ensuring local planning policy reflects the need for the borough to consider energy efficiency in all developments moving forward.
  - 2.3.3 **Gravesham Borough Council – the community leader**  
It is clear that the council cannot directly affect all of the changes that are needed across the borough. However, in its role as a community leader, it can work with residents, community groups and partners to educate and support them in making changes which will have a positive impact on the level of carbon emissions in the borough.
- 2.4 The draft Strategy is presented at appendix two. Member are asked to review, consider and approve the draft Climate Change Strategy 2022-2030

## **3. Next Steps**

- 3.1 Subject to approval of the draft Strategy by Full Council, the document will be formatted in line with the council's agreed branding and published on the council's website.
- 3.2 To support the high-level delivery plan outlined within the Strategy, a detailed action plan will be prepared which will set out the specific actions intended to achieve the delivery plan.
- 3.3 On 08 November 2021 Cabinet approved the establishment of a Climate Change Advisory Board as a constituted advisory board to the Cabinet.

- 3.4 The purpose of this advisory board will be to:
  - 3.4.1 Maintain oversight of the delivery of the council's Climate Change Strategy and associated Action Plan and report back on this to Cabinet every six months.
  - 3.4.2 Work with Officers to formulate the Climate Change Annual Report prior to its presentation to Full Council.
  - 3.4.3 Remain abreast of wider climate change issues, ensuring that as appropriate information is brought to the attention of the Cabinet.
- 3.5 The establishment of this advisory board provide greater transparency and public reporting of the activity of the council around Climate Change. The membership of the group mirrors that of the current Climate Change Cross Party Working Group which was established by Full Council during 2019. It is therefore intended that the Climate Change Cross Party Working Group will be disbanded and its activity taken forward by the Climate Change Advisory Board.
- 3.6 The internal officer working group will continue to meet on a regular basis to support the Climate Change Advisory Board and ensure actions are progressed as required.

#### **4. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 4.1 Background papers pertaining to this report are held by the Director (Corporate Services). Anyone wishing to inspect background papers should, in the first place, liaise with the Committee & Electoral Services who will make the necessary arrangements.

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IMPLICATIONS	APPENDIX 1
<b>Legal</b>	The Council is committed to work towards achieving the overall Government carbon reduction targets set out in the Climate Change Act 2008.
<b>Finance and Value for Money</b>	A specific Climate Change Reserve has been established to provide seed funding of activities relating to the council's Climate Change agenda. The reserve was established with a budget of £500k. Climate Change activity will be funded from existing revenue and capital budgets, with external grant funding and support sought as it becomes available.
<b>Risk Assessment</b>	There are no specific risks associated with the detail contained within the draft Climate Change Strategy. It will be necessary however, for both officers and Members to consider any risks that may be associated with proposed climate change actions to ensure these are fully considered prior to implementation.
<b>Data Protection Impact Assessment</b>	<i>A data protection impact assessment (DPIA) should be carried out at the start of any major project involving the use of personal data or if you are making a significant change to an existing process.</i>
	a. Does the project/change being recommended through this paper involve the processing of <a href="#">personal data</a> or <a href="#">special category data</a> or <a href="#">criminal offence data</a> ? No.
	b. If yes to question a, have you completed and attached a DPIA including Data Protection Officer advice? N/A
	c. If no to question b, please seek advice from your nominated DPIA assessor or the Information Governance Team at <a href="mailto:gdpr@medway.gov.uk">gdpr@medway.gov.uk</a> . N/A
<b>Equality Impact Assessment</b>	a. Does the decision being made or recommended through this paper have potential to cause adverse impact or discriminate against different groups in the community? If yes, please explain answer. No
	b. Does the decision being made or recommended through this paper make a positive contribution to promoting equality? If yes, please explain answer. No
	<i>In submitting this report, the Chief Officer doing so is confirming that they have given due regard to the equality impacts of the decision being considered, as noted in the table above</i>
<b>Corporate Plan</b>	<p>Within the Corporate Plan, there is a specific commitment within objective #1 - People, relating to carbon reduction:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Carbon Neutral Borough: in declaring a climate emergency, begin to take action to prepare Gravesham to become carbon neutral by 2030.</li> </ul> <p>The actions that are being taken however, cut across all of the council services and as such, support delivery of all corporate plan objectives.</p>

<b>IMPLICATIONS</b>	<b>APPENDIX 1</b>
<b>Climate Change</b>	The purpose of this report is to seek approval for the Climate Change Strategy for the Council, which will establish the delivery plan for the council in order to meet its climate change commitments.
<b>Crime and Disorder</b>	There are no crime and disorder implications resulting from this report.
<b>Digital and website implications</b>	Once approved, there will be a requirement for the Climate Change Strategy to be published on the council's website.
<b>Safeguarding children and vulnerable adults</b>	There are no safeguarding children and vulnerable adults implications resulting from this report