

Classification: Public

Key Decision: No

Gravesham Borough Council

Report to: Climate Change Advisory Board

Date: 10 May 2022

Reporting officer: Director (Corporate Services)

Subject: Carbon Literacy Training Overview

Purpose and summary of report:

To provide Members with an overview of training recently attended by officers and Members.

Recommendations:

1. That the Climate Change Advisory Board consider making a recommendation to Cabinet that Carbon Literacy Training be mandated for all Senior Officers and Members in key roles, with this programme funded by the Climate Change Reserve.

Key Implications:	
Item	Implications
Legal	None
Finance and Value for Money	The cost of any future Carbon Literacy Training could be met from the Climate Change Reserve, intended to provide funding for projects which make a positive impact on the councils net zero target.
Corporate Plan	#1 People (carbon neutral borough, improve the local environment) #2 Place (positively promote sustainable development) #3 Progress (strong leadership)
Climate Change	A greater awareness of carbon impacts in decision making will better prepare the council to do everything in its power to be carbon zero by 2030.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Carbon Literacy is a term used to describe an awareness of climate change, and the climate impacts of mankind's everyday actions. The term has had occasional use in scientific literature and casual usage but now is almost exclusively associated with The Carbon Literacy Project.

- 1.2 Carbon Literacy is the knowledge and capacity required to create a positive shift in how mankind lives, works and behaves in response to climate change.
- 1.3 The Carbon Literacy Project have developed sectoral toolkits which enables training to be tailored to an organisations audience. Two toolkits have been developed for local government. One for Members and the other for Officers.
- 1.4 The Carbon Literacy training covers - climate change, carbon footprints, how you can do your bit, and why it's relevant to you and your audience.

2. Delivery of Training

- 2.1 The Climate Change Management Delivery Plan contains an action to “Educate all council Members and officers on Climate Change so that they are able to have an awareness of the carbon dioxide costs and impacts of everyday activities, and the ability and motivation to reduce emissions, on an individual, community and organisational basis. Create opportunities and engagement activity to enable them to be actively involved in the council’s activity around Climate Change and become advocates for Climate Change in all council, business and community operations.”
- 2.2 The delivery of this training is to be coordinated by the Climate Action Delivery Manager. It is recognised that the level and content of training will need to be tailored to the nature of roles and decision-making responsibilities of individual attendees.
- 2.3 Ahead of designing the internal training for the council, the Local Government Association (LGA) provided access free of charge for its Members to externally facilitated Carbon Literacy Training for Senior Officers and Members in late February / early March 2022.
- 2.4 The LGA training was available to all councils nationwide and was oversubscribed. However, Gravesham were fortunate to secure a number of places for senior officers and Members. The feedback received from those attending these sessions was very positive and has particularly highlighted the usefulness that awareness of carbon impacts can play in our position as policy and decision makers.
- 2.5 Attendance at the training has reinforced the need for training to be targeted at the following Groups:
 - 2.5.1 Members in key roles – Cabinet Members, Shadow Cabinet Members and Chairs of Council Committees and Boards (including the Climate Change Advisory Board).
 - 2.5.2 Senior Officers – officers who form part of the council’s Wider Management Team.
 - 2.5.3 General awareness training to all other officers and Members of the Council.

3. Proposal

- 3.1 An awareness of carbon impacts is considered to be critical for those who are in a policy and decision making positions to ensure that the council delivers on its own net zero target for operational emissions by 2030 and also truly does everything in its power to prepare for the borough to become net zero.
- 3.2 Whilst the LGA are likely to put on further opportunities to attend Carbon Literacy Training for Senior Officers and Members, this cannot be relied on to deliver sufficient training to meet the council's needs.
- 3.3 It is therefore proposed that the Climate Change Advisory Board considers a recommendation to Cabinet that Carbon Literacy Training be mandated for all Senior Officers and Members in key roles, as set out in paragraphs 2.5.1 and 2.5.2 of this report. It is proposed that this training is funded from the Climate Change Reserve.
- 3.4 As per the Climate Change Management Delivery Plan, a programme of general awareness training will be developed using the Carbon Literacy Project local government toolkit, with the intention that this will be supported by an internal delivery team, trained to facilitate the training across the organisation.

4. Appendices

- 4.1 There are no appendices.

5. Background Documents

- 5.1 There are no background documents.

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Secondary Implications	
Risk Assessment	None
Data Protection Impact Assessment	<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 personal data or special category data or criminal offence data ? A definition of each type of data can be found on the Information Commissioner's Office website via the above links. No
	b. If yes to question a, have you completed and attached a DPIA including Data Protection Officer advice? N/A

	<p>c. If no to question b, please seek advice from your nominated DPIA assessor or the Information Governance Team at gdpr@medway.gov.uk.</p> <p>N/A</p>
Equality Impact Assessment	<p>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.</p> <p>No</p>
	<p>b. Does the decision being made or recommended through this paper make a positive contribution to promoting equality? If yes, please explain answer.</p> <p>No</p>
	<p><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></p>
Crime and Disorder	None
Digital and website implications	None
Safeguarding children and vulnerable adults	None