



REPORT TO: Climate & Environment Advisory Committee 01 September 2020

LEAD CABINET MEMBER: Lead Cabinet Member for Climate Change

LEAD OFFICER: Head of Shared Waste Services and Environment

Doubling Nature Strategy

1. This report outlines proposed objectives, scope, structure and schedule for a high-level strategy outlining the approach of the Council to doubling nature and invites initial views from the committee on the strategy.

Recommendations

2. The committee is invited to provide their views on what should be in the strategy.

Reasons for Recommendations

3. It is the role of the committee to advise Cabinet on policies, actions and resources required to deliver its climate and environment ambitions. The strategy will help the Council deliver these.

Details

Background

4. Full Council recognised the ecological emergency on 18 July 2019 and agreed an aim to 'double the area of rich wildlife habitats, tree cover and accessible green space in order for nature and people to thrive, and businesses to prosper'.
5. The need for a 'visionary strategy' setting out the Council's programme in response to this motion was agreed by Trevor Nicoll, (Head of Waste & Environment) and Cllr Heylings, (Chair of the Climate & Environment Advisory Committee) following adoption of the Zero Carbon Strategy in May 2020. The document was to be a sister document to the Zero Carbon Strategy, developed following a similar process and with a similar look and feel.
6. Plans for the development of this high-level strategy by the end of the year were noted by the Climate & Environment Advisory Committee on 30 June.

7. These plans included a Members' workshop in the autumn to provide i) an overview of current work in the district relating to doubling nature, including planning policy development work by the Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service, other work by the Council and wider environmental programmes led by other organisations, and ii) an opportunity for Members to feed in their views and ideas on what should be in the strategy.

Purpose and Objectives of the Strategy

8. The purpose of strategy is to provide the basis upon which programmes and activities to double nature in the district can be developed. The prime objective of the strategy is a shared understanding amongst staff and Members of what the target of doubling nature in South Cambridgeshire means and the Council's role in supporting progress towards that target.
9. The final document will have a similar look and feel to the Zero Carbon Strategy and cover the following areas:
 - i. What the Council means by doubling nature, including an explanation of the related and increasingly widely-used concept of natural capital – (the stock of natural resources, including biodiversity, natural habitats, soil, air and water, from which ecosystem services flow and benefits derive).
 - ii. An overview of the natural capital of the district, drawn from existing sources and covering nature, green space, water bodies, tree cover, agricultural land, air quality and other aspects.
 - iii. Placing of the Council's role within the context of work by other organisations including the Local Plan work and especially the Natural Capital Investment Plan work by CaPCA and the OxCam Natural Capital Plan.
 - iv. An outline of the various ways in which the Council influences nature/natural capital in the district including through planning and other policies, on our own estate, through grant-making, advice and information and partnership-working
 - v. The Council's position on the OxCam Arc
 - vi. A series of case studies of previous work

Schedule for Development of the Strategy

10. The schedule for development of the strategy is presented below:

Date	Event
Tue 8 Sep, 5-7 pm	Members Workshop
Thu 8 Oct	Completion of first draft for Green to our Core Cluster Board
Mon 12 Oct	GTOC Cluster Board
Fri 16 Oct (tbc)	Progress update published in CEAC papers
Tue 27 Oct (tbc)	CEAC
Thu 26 Nov	Final strategy published in Cabinet papers
Mon 7 Dec	Recommendation to Cabinet to adopt strategy
Mon 14 Dec	Strategy adopted after call-in

Implications

11. In the writing of this report, taking into account financial, legal, staffing, risk, equality and diversity, climate change, and any other key issues, the following implications have been considered:-

Financial

12. The strategy will be developed within existing budgets.

Legal

13. The shared Legal Service will be asked to advise on the final strategy to ensure there are no legal issues of concern.

Equality and diversity

14. An EquIA will be undertaken as part of the development of the strategy.

Staffing

15. The development of the strategy will be staffed from within existing resource.

Climate Change

16. The strategy will include consideration of the ways in which nature can be enhanced with the aim of locking up carbon and thereby mitigating climate change.

Effect on Council Priority Areas

Being green to our core

17. The purpose of strategy is to provide the basis upon which programmes and activities to double nature in the district can be developed.

Background Papers

None.

Appendices

None.

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