

13j Climate Change Group

The Climate Change Group had met informally in the past and the Conservation, Sustainability and Community Planning Portfolio Holder expressed concern that it had not been minuted, preferring that it be abolished and replaced with a standing item on his portfolio holder monthly meeting agendas. He intended that his portfolio holder meetings would be open to all members and invited interested members to attend to have input into climate change discussions. He felt that members would have more power through a formal, minuted meeting with a clear remit and reporting structure. The Portfolio Holder spoke of his proposal to set up a green think tank involving members, officers and public through on-line consultation using the Council's website, but asserted that he did not want to generate extra pollution by establishing a formal group without achieving anything.

Existing members of the group asked that Cabinet establish it as a formal body as climate change affected everyone, and explained that the group had produced the Climate Change Plan adopted by Council and had met more frequently than any formal advisory group. Not having minutes of meetings saved officer time and money. The Council should be a community leader on climate change and had already demonstrated its commitment through actions like rainwater harvesting at its offices.

The Resources, Staffing, Information & Customer Services Portfolio Holder, noting that Planning Policy Guidance 5 (PPG5) required authorities to look at climate change issues, proposed the establishment of a formal Climate Change Advisory Group, but with no seconder the motion fell.

Cabinet

- AGREED**
- (a) not to establish a Climate Change Advisory Group; and
 - (b) that the informal Climate Change Group be disbanded.