



Report To: Climate & Environment Advisory
Committee

20 September 2018

Lead Officer: Mike Hill, Director, Housing & Environmental Services

Climate & Environment Advisory Committee Terms of Reference and Draft Work Plan

Purpose

1. To introduce the Climate & Environment Advisory Committee (CEAC) Terms of Reference and inform discussion of future work plan recommendations to Lead Cabinet Member and Cabinet.
2. This is not a key decision because CEAC is an advisory committee with no decision-making powers.

Recommendations

3. It is recommended that CEAC
 - (a) notes the Terms of Reference and
 - (b) makes recommendations to the Lead Cabinet Member and Cabinet on priorities for the Committee's work plan for 2018-19 and 2019-20.

Background

4. Climate & Environment Advisory Committee Terms of Reference were agreed at South Cambridgeshire DC full Council meeting on 23 May 2018 and are attached at Appendix 1.

Considerations

5. Initial discussions with the Chair of CEAC have identified several potential outcomes and topics for inclusion in the Committee's work plan for the remainder of 2018-19 and the next financial year, 2019-20 (see Appendix 2) These topics are not exhaustive and Committee members are invited to contribute issues for consideration.
6. Once Members have identified and prioritised their work plan, officers will develop costed action plans and performance measures as part of the 2019-20 corporate planning process.

Options

7. CEAC could prioritise the outcomes and topics in Appendix 2, without or without additions and amendments.

Implications

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

Financial

9. The prioritised work plan recommendations will include a costed action plan for consideration by Cabinet as part of the 2019-20 budget setting process..

Staffing

10. The prioritised work plan recommendations will include an estimate of staff time required to deliver them for consideration by Cabinet.

Climate Change

11. All work plan priorities will contribute to the Council's ambition to prevent and reduce the impact of and risks from Climate Change and to put the environment first.

Consultation responses (including from the Youth Council)

12. Consultation with key stakeholders will take place as part of the corporate planning process.

Background Papers

Where [the Local Authorities \(Executive Arrangements\) \(Meetings and Access to Information\) \(England\) Regulations 2012](#) require documents to be open to inspection by members of the public, they must be available for inspection: -

- (a) at all reasonable hours at the offices of South Cambridgeshire District Council;
- (b) on the Council's website; and
- (c) in the case of documents to be available for inspection pursuant to regulation 15, on payment of a reasonable fee required by the Council by the person seeking to inspect the documents at the offices of South Cambridgeshire District Council.

Report Author: Mike Hill – Director, Housing & Environmental Services
Telephone: (01954) 712921

Appendix 1 - Climate Change and Environment Advisory Committee Terms of Reference

Membership

7 councillors, appointments to be subject to the requirements of political proportionality.

Functions

To advise the Portfolio Holder responsible for climate change and environmental sustainability and for matters more specifically related to services or corporate direction, the relevant service Portfolio Holder or Cabinet, as appropriate, on matters relating to climate change and environmental sustainability including, but not limited to:

- Understanding how climate change could affect the District Council's services and developing and recommending appropriate mitigating actions.
- Reviewing the internal operations of the Council with a view to promoting sustainability, adopting best practice and strengthening the Council's environmental performance.
- Providing community leadership on climate change and sustainability, facilitating and engaging public sector partners, businesses, community groups and the public.
- Influencing and interpreting county, regional and national policy for the benefit of South Cambridgeshire.
- Making recommendations on bids for funding relating to climate change.

Delegation of functions

Acts as an Advisory Committee with no delegated decision making.

Decisions will be taken by the Portfolio Holder responsible for climate change and environmental sustainability or Cabinet, as appropriate, after consultation with the Advisory Committee.

Appendix 2

Initial topics for discussion and prioritisation by CEAC for potential inclusion in 2018-19 and 2019-20 Work Plan.

Adaptations

1. Adaption to climate change
2. Flooding Zones & incremental/cumulative impacts.
3. Sustainability Code of Excellence now gone. Are the targets still relevant though?
4. How can we adapt to climate changes via planning decisions?
5. Water Scarcity – water capture, adaption of building through design
6. Heat – particularly in new communities
7. Air Quality & road side developments - via planning permissions / conditions
8. Particular focus on the cumulative impact of small developments, not just major developments.

Emissions & Air Quality

1. Health & Air Quality- reduce dirty air, demonstrably improve health and wellbeing
2. Need clear policy “hooks” in next Joint Greater Cambridge Local Plan (JGCLP)
3. Develop an AQ specific SPD based on existing polices while we progress the JGCLP?
4. Review City AQ action plan. What can we do together? What can SCDC do now?
5. Develop a joint Air Quality Strategy and Plan with Cambridge City. Harmonise City and SCDC strategies e.g. taxi licensing polices to help deliver joint strategy

Energy

1. Fuel poverty - link to renewables. Priority. Addressing needs of poorest,
2. Reducing bills
3. Renewables
4. Warm homes & how keep warm in winter?
5. Potential link to Renewables Reserve through Re:fit programme –use of economy 7 to charge batteries – Re:fit (Bweegs) High Level Assessment (HLA) to identify potential/viability.
6. Sustainable Code of Practice for Planning – are the targets still relevant?
7. What levers do we have / what can we do via the NPPF?

Renewables Reserve

1. Council “renewables” – Photo Voltaics on SCDC assets?
2. Greening the Council
3. Showcase SCDC as exemplar

Environment

1. Natural Capital Investment Plan Approach
2. Ecosystems services (Cambridge Ahead & CSPIER reports) – how can we use trees & mosses to improve drainage and air filtration?
3. What trees & mosses and in what location can improve air quality? How use planning levers to introduce this?
4. How reduce noise impacts via planting of trees?
5. Designing better, design green, design using natural capital approach
6. Green space & mental health – Government white paper on this last year. Increase green spaces, improving mental health
7. Planning Inspectors rejecting local green spaces (PVAA, LGS) – understand why this is happening. What do we need to change to avoid this?
8. How do we live & co-exist with new communities & infrastructure? E.g. Develop transport hubs but still ensure excellent air quality and health?

Greening the Council

1. Our buildings
2. Procurement
3. Single-use plastics – stop using these in the Council.
4. Refill Scheme- London Authorities and the provision of water fountains. Can we do this via planning? Link to an app that shows where can I fill my water bottle?
5. Plastic-Free Day in Cambridge on 22nd September 2018. Can SCDC be single-use plastic free by this date as a quick-win? Priority. Link to Cambridge Conservation Initiative run by the University, to WRAP reports etc.
6. Re: fit- explore street lighting (Access agreement being signed allowing free High Level Assessment of potential/viability of using network as an asset – fitting of new technologies (AQ monitors, ev charging, bin fill level monitors – need to ensure network LED upgrade future proofs emerging technologies – CMS ready)