

REPORT TO: Council

21 May 2020

LEAD OFFICER: Chief Executive

Terms of Reference – Climate and Environment Advisory Committee

Executive Summary

1. To seek approval of the revised terms of reference of the Climate and Environment Advisory Committee.

Recommendations

2. That Council approves the revised terms of reference of the Climate and Environment Advisory Committee, as set out in Appendix A, and agrees that the necessary amendments be made to Part 3 of the Constitution

Reasons for Recommendations

3. To ensure that the work of the committee is appropriately focussed on the key areas needed to allow the Council to achieve its climate and sustainability objectives.

Details

4. The Climate and Environment Advisory Committee was established following the election of the new Council in May 2018. Since that time, the committee has worked to support the Council in delivering its climate and sustainability objectives.
5. However, there have been a number of developments since establishment of the Committee, including, amongst others, the Council declaring a climate emergency; resolving to transition to zero carbon by 2050; adopting “Being green

to our core” as a corporate priority and developing the Zero Carbon Action Plan 2019-24.

6. It is therefore timely for the terms of reference of the committee to be reviewed to ensure that the committee can continue to support Cabinet and the Council in achieving its environmental and sustainability objectives.
7. The Chair of the Climate and Environment Advisory Committee, together with the Chief Executive, have reviewed the terms of reference of the committee with a view to ensuring that the committee’s work is more closely aligned to delivering the Council’s environmental and sustainability objectives.
8. The revised terms of reference of the Committee are attached at Appendix A to this report. A track changed version is attached at Appendix B. Council is accordingly invited to consider and approve the revised terms of reference.

Options

9. The Council could approve the revised terms of reference as presented or could propose amendments. Council could retain the current terms of reference but, as explained in this report, their revision is recommended to ensure that the work of the committee is appropriately focused on the Council’s green ambitions.

Implications

10. 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:-

Climate Change

11. The Climate and Environment Advisory Committee has an important role to play in providing advice and recommendations and advice to Cabinet on policies, actions and resources required to deliver on the Council's climate change and environmental ambitions. It is therefore important that the terms of reference of the committee, which were originally prepared in May 2018, are reviewed to make sure that they are fit for purpose and enable the committee to maintain a focus on helping the Council to deliver its environmental and sustainability objectives.

Alignment with Council Priority Areas

Being green to our core

12. The work of the committee is aligned to delivering the priorities in the "Being green to our core" objectives in the Business Plan

Background Papers

None

Appendices

Appendix A: Climate and Environment Advisory Committee – Revised Terms of Reference (clean)

Appendix B: Climate and Environment Advisory Committee – Revised Terms of Reference (track changed)

Report Author:

Kathrin John – Democratic Services Team Leader
Telephone: (01954) 713030