

CABINET

DATE OF MEETING: 1 JULY 21

TITLE OF REPORT: **TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY WORKING GROUP**

Report of: **Head of Environment & Technical**

Cabinet Portfolio: **Environment**

Key Decision **No**

Confidentiality Non Exempt

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To seek Cabinet approval to amend the Terms of Reference for the Climate Emergency Working Group.

2 OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

2.1 That the amended terms of reference for the Climate Emergency Working Group attached at Appendix A are approved.

3 BACKGROUND

3.1 At its meeting in September 2019 Cabinet approved the following recommendations:

- *Recognises the serious impact of Climate Emergency globally and agrees that there is a need for urgent action; and*
- *Agrees that a cross party Climate Emergency Member Working Group be established and that the Terms of Reference for that Group as set out in Appendix 1 be agreed in principle; and*
- *That a Climate Emergency Strategy and Action Plan led by the Member Working Group be prepared by January 2020 based on Hart District Council becoming a net zero carbon emitter by 2040 at the latest.*

3.2 Since September 2019 the Working Group has met regularly to monitor delivery of the council's Action Plan. Copies of the minutes from the group meetings are reviewed by Cabinet at their next meeting.

3.3 The council budget for 2020 included funding for a full time Sustainability Officer. Appointment to this post was confirmed in September 2020.

3.4 At the meeting of Full Council in April 2021, the following motion was approved:

Following the successful adoption of Hart's Action Plan, this Council now wishes to declare a climate emergency, which commits us to putting the reduction of CO2 in the atmosphere at the front and centre of all policies and formal decision making, particularly Planning, and will:

1. Pledge to make Hart District carbon neutral by 2040 whilst bringing forward the current 2040 target to 2035 for areas under direct control of Hart District Council

2. Report to full Council every six months setting out the current actions the Council is taking to address this emergency and the plan to measure annual District wide progress towards meeting the 2040 target. Page 70CL.71

3. Meaningfully engage with the local community and to work with partners across the District and County to deliver these new goals through all relevant strategies and plans drawing on local, national, and global best practice.

4. Actively work with Hampshire County Council and the Government to provide the additional powers and resources needed to meet the 2040 target.

5. Actively encourage and push for Hampshire County Council to reduce its target for net zero Carbon to 2040, acknowledging that 2050 is too far away for such an emergency."

4 MAIN ISSUES

- 4.1 To prioritise delivery of the Action Plan it is proposed that the terms of reference for the Working Group should be amended.

The proposed changes to the terms of reference include:

- The Leader of the Council will be the Champion and Chairman of the Group.
- Friends of the Earth will be invited to have a representative on the group.

- 4.2 A copy of the amended terms of reference, showing the proposed changes highlighted is attached at appendix A.

5 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

- 5.1 The option of not altering the terms of reference for the working group was considered and rejected as this would not assist with delivery of the Action Plan.

6 CORPORATE GOVERNANCE CONSIDERATIONS

- 6.1 Amendment of the terms of reference for the working group will assist in prioritising delivery of Hart's Action Plan and contribute to achievement of one of the Corporate Plans key priorities of delivering "A Clean, Green and Safe Environment". It will also contribute to priority identified in the Hart Vision

2040 of “Reducing the impact of by building in sustainability and using new technologies to mitigate the impact of ”.

6.2 Service Plan

Is the proposal identified in the Service Plan?	Yes
Is the proposal being funded from current budgets?	Yes
Have staffing resources already been identified and set aside for this proposal?	Yes

Legal and Constitutional Issues

6.3 There are no legal or constitutional issues associated with this reports recommendation.

Financial and Resource Implications

6.4 There are no financial or resource implications associated with this reports recommendation.

Risk Management

6.5 There are no risk management implications associated with this reports recommendation.

7 EQUALITIES

7.1 There are no equality implications associated with this reports recommendation.

8 IMPLICATIONS

8.1 Amendment of the terms of reference for the Working Group will provide greater focus and delivery on the Council’s Action Plan.

9 ACTION

9.1 The terms of reference of the Working Group will be amended following approval of this reports recommendation.

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Appendices

Ref.	Title of Appendix	Exemption Paragraph Number (if applicable) <i>If some/all of the information is confidential, you must indicate why it is not for publication by virtue of Part 1of Schedule of the Local Government Act 1972 by ticking the relevant</i>						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7
A	Revised terms of reference for the Working Group.							

Background papers: - None