

## **CABINET**

<b>DATE OF MEETING:</b>	<b>4 NOVEMBER 2021</b>
<b>TITLE OF REPORT:</b>	<b>FUNDING FOR HARTS CARBON PATHWAY</b>
<b>Report of:</b>	<b>Head of Environment &amp; Technical</b>
<b>Cabinet Portfolio:</b>	<b>Environment</b>
<b>Key Decision</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Confidentiality</b>	<b>Non Exempt</b>

### **1 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To seek Cabinet approval to provide funding for the appointment of consultants to review Harts Climate Change Action Plan and prepare a report which sets out the pathway that the council will need to follow to achieve the targets set in its Climate Emergency declaration.

### **2 OFFICER RECOMMENDATION**

- 2.1 That £30k is allocated in the council 21/22 budget to funded consultancy costs required to prepare a report which sets out the pathway that the council will need to follow to achieve the targets set in its Climate Emergency declaration.

### **3 BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 In April 2021 the following motion was agreed at the meeting of Harts Full Council.

*Following the successful adoption of Hart's Climate Change 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.*

*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.*

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*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.”*

3.2 In July 2021 Harts Cabinet agreed amended terms of reference for Harts Climate Emergency Working Group.

3.3 The Councils existing Climate Change Action Plan was prepared prior to the Councils declaration of a Climate Emergency, and whilst the plan will make a positive contribution towards a reduction in Harts Carbon footprint it is not clear whether the plan will achieve the targets set in the Council’s Climate emergency declaration.

3.4 Having a defined pathway with agreed milestones supported by an updated action plan is vital in enabling the Council to achieve its agreed targets.

3.5 Hart does not have the inhouse resources or capability to undertake the work required to produce the carbon pathway and this report seeks approval to appoint consultants to undertake this work.

#### **4 CONSIDERATIONS**

4.1 Hart does not have the inhouse resources or capability to undertake the work required to produce the carbon pathway and this report seeks approval to appoint consultants to undertake this work.

#### **5 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED**

5.1 Not to undertake the work.

5.2 To undertake the work in house.

#### **6 RELEVANCE TO THE CORPORATE PLAN AND/OR THE HART VISION 2040**

6.1 This work will assist the council in achieving its agreed climate emergency targets.

#### **7 SERVICE PLAN**

Is the proposal identified in the Service Plan?	No
Is the proposal being funded from current budgets?	No
Have staffing resources already been identified and set aside for this proposal?	Yes

