

CABINET

DATE OF MEETING:	4 NOVEMBER 2021
TITLE OF REPORT:	FUNDING FOR HART'S CARBON PATHWAY
Report of:	Head of Environment & Technical
Cabinet Portfolio:	Environment
Key Decision	Yes
Confidentiality	Non Exempt

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To seek Cabinet approval to provide funding for the appointment of consultants to review Hart's 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

That £30k is allocated in the council 21/22 budget to fund the 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 Hart's 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 Hart’s Cabinet agreed amended terms of reference for Hart’s 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 makes a positive contribution towards a reduction in Hart’s 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 carbon pathway with agreed milestones which is supported by an updated climate change action plan is essential to ensure that the Council maximises its opportunity to achieve its agreed climate emergency targets.

4 CONSIDERATIONS

- 4.1 Hart does not have the inhouse resources or capability to undertake the work required to produce the carbon pathway. This report therefore seeks approval that funding is allocated to commission consultants to undertake this work.

5 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

- 5.1 The option of not producing a carbon pathway was considered but rejected as without a clear plan the council would have little chance of achieving its carbon emission targets.
- 5.2 To option of producing the carbon pathway in house was considered but rejected as the council does not have the resources to undertake this work.

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

- 6.1 Production of a carbon pathway for Hart will assist the council in achieving its:
- climate emergency targets.
 - agreed 2040 vision of “Reducing the impact of climate change by building in sustainability to any new developments, encouraging re-wilding and using new technologies to mitigate the impact of climate change”.
 - strategic priority of “A Clean, Green and Safe Environment”

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

8 FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 The estimated cost of producing Hart's Carbon Pathway and updating its Climate Change Action Plan is £30k. This funding will need to be allocated from the general fund reserve.

9 EQUALITIES

- 9.1 No equality issues arising from approval of this report's recommendation have been identified.

10 CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 Approval of this report's recommendation will assist Hart in achieving its climate emergency targets.

11 ACTION

- 11.1 Subject to approval of this report's recommendation, quotations will be sort, and consultants appointed to produce a Carbon Pathway for Hart and review the Council's Climate Change Action Plan.

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Appendices: None

Background papers: None