

# Environment and Sustainability Committee



30 June 2021

<b>Title</b>	<i>Climate Change Working Group</i>
<b>Purpose of the report</b>	To make a decision
<b>Report Author</b>	<i>Sandy Muirhead Group Head Commissioning and Transformation</i>
<b>Ward(s) Affected</b>	All Wards
<b>Exempt</b>	No
<b>Exemption Reason</b>	N/A
<b>Corporate Priority</b>	Clean and Safe Environment
<b>Recommendations</b>	<b>Committee is asked to:</b> <i>To agree the setting up of a working group to focus on monitoring of actions towards carbon neutrality and to assess initial ideas on measures to address climate change before submission to the Environment and Sustainability Committee.</i>
<b>Reason for Recommendation</b>	<i>As climate change issues permeate all of the Committee's remit in some form the Committee need to consider if a working group could play a role in managing the Council's approach to climate change.</i>

## 1. Key issues

- 1.1 Climate change, mitigation and adaptation are, and will be, significant issues affecting the future of Spelthorne. We need to both reduce the Council's and Borough's carbon footprints and adapt to future climatic changes, especially the increased risks of flooding and heat.
- 1.2 Therefore, the issues of climate change need to be addressed in all the Council does and particularly within the role of the Environment and Sustainability Committee.
- 1.3 Prior to the Committee system the Council had a Working Group on climate change since 2019 (remit and terms of reference of that working group attached Appendix 1), which gathered information and started to focus on actions to reduce our carbon footprint.
- 1.4 Moving forward a new working group could have a remit in monitoring reductions in our carbon footprint and have an "audit function" in checking we are "doing the right thing" to both reduce carbon and ensuring we put in adaptation measures to address future climatic changes.

- 1.5 It may also act as a body to produce forward thinking, cutting edge ideas to help reduce carbon and adapt to climate change. This role can be linked to a suggestions box for all Councillors. So if Cllr x has a good idea of something that can be done to help reduce carbon, they present it informally to the climate change working group, who do an initial evaluation before anything comes to the Environment and Sustainability Committee.
- 1.6 It is suggested the task group is kept small to undertake these tasks - comprising of 7 members.
- 1.7 If the setting up of a working group is agreed terms of reference could be developed to cover the above functions.
- 2. Options analysis and proposal**
- 2.1 Not to have climate change working party may make it difficult for the Environment and Sustainability Committee, given its wide remit, to remain focused on ensuring that we are achieving genuine carbon reduction in the Borough.
- 2.2 The preferred option therefore is to have a Working Group to undertake an audit function on our carbon reduction achievements and to develop ideas which maximise our move to net zero carbon and address adaption issues.
- 3. Financial implications**
- 3.1 None
- 4. Other considerations**
- 4.1 Depending on decision revised terms of reference will be developed for consideration.
- 5. Equality and Diversity**
- 5.1 Climate change could impact groups differently and therefore addressing the issues of climate change will help mitigate effects on particular groups.
- 6. Sustainability/Climate Change Implications**
- 6.1 The subject matter will move the Council along its journey to sustainability.
- 7. Timetable for implementation**
- 7.1 To be confirmed depending on Committee's decision and terms of reference to be developed.

**Background papers:, There are none.**

**Appendices:**

**Appendix A, Previous Climate Change Working Group 2019-2021 Terms of Reference.**