

# Environment and Sustainability Committee



6<sup>th</sup> September 2022

|                                  |   |
|----------------------------------|---|
| <b>Title</b>                     | Climate Change Strategy   |
| <b>Purpose of the report</b>     | To make a decision  |
| <b>Report Author</b>             | <i>Jilly Mowbray Climate Change Officer</i>   |
| <b>Ward(s) Affected</b>          | All Wards   |
| <b>Exempt</b>                    | <i>No</i>   |
| <b>Exemption Reason</b>          | <i>n/a</i>  |
| <b>Corporate Priority</b>        | Recovery<br>Environment   |
| <b>Recommendations</b>           | <b><i>To approve and adopt the Climate Change Strategy</i></b>  |
| <b>Reason for Recommendation</b> | <b><i>After declaring a Climate Emergency in Oct 2020, a Climate Change Strategy is required to provide actions for the council to tackle climate change and reduce its emissions</i></b> |

## 1. Summary of the report

1.1 Spelthorne Borough Council has declared a Climate Emergency but has not developed a Climate Change Strategy. Therefore, it is important that one is established as soon as possible.

## 2. Key issues

2.1 This Climate Change Strategy recommends actions for the council to take, to reduce its carbon emissions and aim to be Net Zero by 2030 for Scope 1 and 2 emissions.

2.2 Carbon emissions are calculated as carbon dioxide equivalent (CO<sub>2</sub>e), which is a term used to combine the seven most threatening gases that have the highest global warming potential. This includes carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, hydrofluorocarbons, perfluorocarbons, sulphur hexafluoride and nitrogen trifluoride.

2.3 Net Zero means balancing the amount of carbon emissions with the equivalent emissions, which are hard to reduce, that are either offset or sequestered through rewilding and tree planting or carbon capture and storage.

2.4 Scope 1 emissions are direct emissions from owned or controlled sources such as the council's fleet. Scope 2 emissions are indirect emissions from the generation of purchased electricity, heating and cooling that are consumed.

Although Scope 3 (all other emissions) emissions are not considered for this Net Zero target, they will be addressed by actions in the strategy.

- 2.5 126 councils have already stated they aim to be Net Zero by 2030 for Scope 1 and 2 emissions. Following Surrey County Council's Greener Futures Delivery nearly all district and borough councils in Surrey, apart from one aim to be Net Zero by 2030.
- 2.6 There are 71 actions in the strategy divided into 9 sections:- Buildings and Operations, Transport Finance, Sustainable Development, Economy, Waste, Communities, Biodiversity and Adaptation. Actions range from small to large scale.
- 2.7 The Strategy and actions will be monitored and reviewed after 6 months.
- 2.8 Some actions have already been taken or are already underway.

### **3. Options analysis and proposal**

- 3.1 Option 1 –The Climate Change Strategy is adopted by the Council and the required actions are undertaken to achieve the associated goals.
- 3.2 Detail the pros and cons of the options available and which one is being proposed. Include the risk assessment.
- 3.3 It is recommended that the Council aims to be Net Zero by 2030 for its own emissions, however, this does not mean actions will not be taken to reduce emissions within the wider borough as well.
- 3.4 This is the recommended option.
- 3.5 Option 2 - Do nothing, this would require no further action or resource but would result in the Council not reducing carbon emissions to a substantial level and undermining the climate emergency declaration.
- 3.6 This is not recommended.
- 3.7 Option 3 - Create an alternative Climate Change Strategy, however, this will take time to develop and create further pushing back action.
- 3.8 This is not recommended.

### **4. Financial implications**

- 4.1 There will be costs to these actions and currently, monetary figures cannot be stated for all the actions at this stage. However, different funding opportunities have been identified for many of the actions and future funding opportunities will be sought out.

### **5. Risk considerations**

- 5.1 There are many risks of not taking effective action, including increasing the risks of exposure to extreme heat, flooding and drought.

### **6. Legal considerations**

- 6.1 Legal will need to be consulted on contracts or associated actions

### **7. Other considerations**

- 7.1 Spelthorne Borough Council has declared a Climate Emergency and this strategy will demonstrate to residents and businesses the council is committed to tackling climate change.

7.2 Climate Emergency UK has gained a lot of press coverage after rating UK councils Climate Change Strategies or Action Plans and detailed which councils had no strategy. they will be reviewing strategies and the actions taken in the autumn, so it is important to have one in place.

## **8. Equality and Diversity**

8.1 It is important we plan to adapt and try to reduce the risks of climate to all Spelthorne residents especially vulnerable residents who will be disproportionately affected by the effects of Climate Change, especially extreme heat and flooding. The Climate Change Strategy aims to do this

## **9. Sustainability/Climate Change Implications**

9.1 There are direct implications as the Climate Change Strategy aims and provides actions that will directly reduce the Council's carbon emissions.

## **10. Timetable for implementation**

10.1 To be submitted to the Environment and Sustainability Committee on the 6<sup>th</sup> of September 2022 and if adopted to be implemented immediately.

## **11. Contact**

11.1 Jilly Mowbray [j.mowbray@spelthorne.gov.uk](mailto:j.mowbray@spelthorne.gov.uk)

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

**Appendices:**

**List as Appendix:- Climate Change Strategy**