

WELWYN HATFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL  
CLIMATE CHANGE SUB GROUP – 8 MARCH 2023  
REPORT OF SERVICE MANAGER (ASSET MANAGEMENT, BUILDING REPAIRS  
AND CLIMATE CHANGE)

WEWYN HATFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY

**1 Executive Summary**

- 1.1 This report outlines the update to the WHBC's Climate Change Strategy following the appointment of the Service Director and Service Manager responsible for its delivery.

**2 Recommendation(s)**

- 2.1 The Climate Change Group are asked to comment on the strategy and recommend its adoption to Cabinet.

**3.0 Explanation**

- 3.1 In 2019, WHBC, along with other local authorities, declared a climate emergency and set in motion a target to obtain an ambitious Carbon Neutral status by 2030.

- 3.2 WHBC devised a Climate Change Strategy which comprises of 5 key objectives which are:

1. To reduce carbon emissions from our own estate and operations to net zero by 2030, or a justification for a later date if the review finds this unachievable.
2. To comply with statutory obligations to mitigate and adapt to climate change.
3. To work with, support, encourage and engage residents, communities, businesses and other partners in initiatives to reduce carbon emissions.
4. To embed climate change mitigation and adaptation into our plans, strategies and policies.
5. To reduce carbon emissions across the borough by promoting energy efficiency measures, sustainable construction, renewable energy, sustainable transport and behavioural change.

- 3.3 The updated strategy provides a higher level of detail which is in line with other organisations within the UK, this coupled with the Climate Action Plan (CAP) will allow WHBC to adopt a measurable approach to tackling the effects of Climate Change.

**Implications**

#### **4. Legal Implications**

- 4.1 There are likely to be some legal implications as part of the Action Plan these will be discussed and managed by the relevant teams.

#### **5. Financial Implication(s)**

- 5.1 There will be financial implications as a result of the CAP which will form a major part of delivering the Climate Change Strategy and expenditure will be required in order to meet the 2030 target. There are several elements of the Action Plan that are included within existing budgets which include retrofitting the housing stock and works raised as part of the stock condition surveys.

Budget requests will be made as and when required in line with the strategy and CAP.

#### **6. Risk Management Implications**

- 6.1 There is potential for reputational damage if the Council does not implement an effective and structured Strategy to tackle the effects of Climate Change.

#### **7. Communication**

- 7.1 There will be an element of communication involvement through engagement with the occupants of the Borough via our social media platforms as well as potential events.

The Climate Strategy will be uploaded on to the WHBC website to ensure transparency and to advertise the Council's intentions.

#### **8. Security & Terrorism Implication(s)**

- 8.1 There are no security and terrorism implications arising from this report.

#### **9. Procurement Implication(s)**

- 9.1 There are likely to be minor Procurement implications over the course of the Action Plan, these will be discussed with the procurement team as and when they occur.

#### **10. Climate Change Implication(s)**

- 10.1 This Climate Change Strategy is critical to ensuring the Council achieves its target of carbon neutral status by 2030.

#### **11. Human Resources Implication(s)**

- 11.1 Any future actions developed as part of the ongoing work on climate change will be considered by the Climate Change Group. Any recommendations on new actions which include any human resources implications will be considered by the Management Team and Cabinet as appropriate.

#### **12. Health and Wellbeing Implication(s)**

- 12.1 The Climate Change Strategy, alongside the CAP covers many areas, including those that will be beneficial to the Health and Wellbeing of those within the Borough.

**13. Link to Corporate Priorities**

13.1 The subject of this report is linked to all of the Council's 5 Priorities.

**14. Equalities and Diversity**

14.1 An EqIA was not completed because this report does not propose changes to existing service-related policies or the development of new service-related policies.

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