

Report to: Cabinet

Date: 1 July 2019

Title: Recommendations from Climate Action Group

Report of: Tim Whelan, Director of Service Delivery

Cabinet member: Councillor Isabelle Linington, Leader and Cabinet Member for Environment

Ward(s): All

Purpose of report: The role of the Climate Action Group was 'to conduct a review of council services with regards to climate change adaptation and mitigation' following a resolution to that effect at Full Council, 26 November 2018. This report presents the recommendations of that group.

Decision type: Key

Officer recommendation(s): Cabinet is recommended to:

- (1) Agree the proposed recommendations at Appendix One.
- (2) Agree funding of £5,000 for the provision of a drinking water tap at Lewes skate park subject to final design being signed off by the Leader of the Council.
- (3) Request that the Scrutiny Committee sets up a task and finish group to monitor the implementation of the recommendations set out at Appendix One.

Reasons for recommendations:

- (1) The remit of the Climate Action Group was to make recommendations for climate change mitigation and adaptation at Lewes District Council, as resolved at Full Council, 26 November 2018.
- (2) It was agreed that recommendations would go forward to Cabinet. Key recommendations are set out above, with the detail at Appendix One.

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1 Introduction

1.1 The Director of Service Delivery, Tim Whelan, tasked as the director responsible, chaired a series of meetings between January and April 2019, with the aim of meeting these requirements.

Councillors attending were Cllrs Linington and Bikson, Conservative; Cllrs Catlin and Murray (sub), Independent; Cllr Rowell, Green; Cllr Ient, LibDem.

1.2 The first meeting, in January, considered staff travel and related issues. The Head of HR presented information on the staff travel policy, including the principles of working from home and the following:

- the council encourages staff to use the train, through incentives
- staff can apply for an Easit card with 15% off fares
- season ticket loans are provided at zero interest
- cycling to and for work is encouraged inc. cycling mileage
- car-pooling information is provided as part of policy

Managers also described how Neighbourhood First operates, reducing the need for other officers to travel out in the community, for example by taking photos for planning enforcement and joint working with housing.

The Head of ICT gave an update on the latest technology assisting mobile and flexible working and reducing both the use of paper and unnecessary travel. A recent innovation is that teams are able to hold 'virtual meetings' across the two main sites via video conferencing.

The Functional Lead, Quality Environment, provided information on air quality projects in the district, with a focus on 'anti-idling' campaigns at school pick up/drop off points.

1.3 At the second meeting, there was a presentation about 'Refill' and water provision across the district (see Appendix Two for key information). Additionally, the group was informed about work across the corporate estate and Wave Leisure to make buildings more energy efficient.

1.4 At the third meeting, the following areas were covered:

- Sustainability in the LDC housing stock, with a comprehensive presentation by the Property Services Lead, Homes First (see Appendix Three for highlights);
- The new sustainability checklist, challenging design teams and contractors to aim for a higher level of sustainability in LDC developments, in partnership with Clear Sustainable Futures (see

Appendix Four, the sustainability checklist);

- Modular housing delivered as pre-constructed units provided by Boutique Modern, based in Newhaven.

1.5 The final meeting was on LDC fleet. Dennis Eagle (truck specialists) presented their plans for developing electric Refuse Collection Vehicles. There was also a discussion about North Street Quarter.

2 Outcome expected and performance management

2.1 Initial outcomes:

There has been a focus on staff travel options in Hub news and information in District News, Spring 2019, about Boutique Modern modular housing and the 'anti-idling' clean air campaign.

As a result of discussions about staff travel by train, a short staff survey was undertaken and results sent to Southern who responded by alerting us to improved 'easit' offer for booking online:

<https://www.easit.org.uk/>

It is anticipated that more meetings will take place by video conferencing and that commuting between sites will be reduced and only as necessary.

Other measures, as recommended by the working group, will help to improve air quality, reduce carbon emissions and enhance the district for residents and visitors.

2.2 Drinking water provision:

The installation of a suitable and robust drinking water tap at Lewes skate park will improve customer perception of facilities provided, support the reduction of single-use plastics, help reduce littering and meet healthy eating objectives by reducing the need to purchase alternative drinks in single-use containers. Skateboard park users have requested access to drinking water.

2.3 Setting up a Scrutiny task and finish group:

A Scrutiny task and finish group: to agree an action plan to progress the recommendations in Appendix One, noting that many of these have been allocated to appropriate members of staff.

3 Consultation

3.1 The cross party group had representatives from the administration and each party of the opposition.

4 Corporate plan and council policies

4.1 The recommendations align with the council's Sustainability Policy, adopted December 2018.

5 Business case and alternative option(s) considered

5.1 Drinking water provision:

The Malling skate park, Lewes, is a suitable site for water provision, and the Project Manager can put aside £5,000 from current budget allocation if Cabinet can match fund up to this amount to complete the installation.

5.2 A green tariff for the corporate estate is a key recommendation:

This will be subject to cost considerations in March 2020 prior to next contract renewal, September 2020. This is an action for Facilities, to investigate and report the cost implications of moving to a green electricity tariff for the new contract due 01/10/20 – a decision must be made and contracted with Laser no later than 31/03/20.

6 Financial appraisal

6.1 Finance confirms the £5,000 for a tap at the skate park has been included within the corporate contingency sum (email, 5 June 2019).

7 Legal implications

7.1 Under the Localism Act 2011 section 1, the general power of competence, the Council has the power to do anything that an individual can do that is not specifically prohibited or to which a more particular power or duty does not apply. The actions proposed in this Report fall within this power. Report considered by Legal Section on 12 June 2019 (IKEN-8341- LDC- MW).

8 Risk management implications

8.1 The proposals within this report are strategic in nature and the risks in not pursuing these opportunities are in part reputational. On the matter of installing drinking water facilities, the project manager is aware of the potential risks of vandalism and will seek to mitigate these through design and monitoring.

9 Equality analysis

9.1 Action arising from the Equality Analysis, undertaken in relation to water tap provision: to ensure the water tap is accessible. Analysis and no relevance report available from the report author on request.

10 Appendices, see attached

- Appendix One, full list of recommendations
- Appendix Two, 'Refill' in Lewes, attached
- Appendix Three, sustainability measures re LDC housing stock
- Appendix Four, the sustainability checklist, attached

11 Background papers

None