

Report to: Scrutiny

Date: 12 September 2019

Title: Climate Change Scrutiny Panel

Report of: Deputy Chief Executive

Ward(s): all

Purpose of report: For Scrutiny to consider the establishment of a Scrutiny Panel on Climate Change in line with resolutions made by both Cabinet and Council.

Officer recommendation(s):

- a) That a Climate Change Scrutiny Panel be established to fulfil the tasks set out at para 2.1, comprising of five members, and
- b) That the duration of the Panel be agreed.

Reasons for recommendations: At a meeting of the Council on 15th July 2019 a climate emergency was declared and it was agreed to develop a comprehensive Climate Change Strategy. Alongside this it was requested that the Scrutiny Committee consider setting up a Climate Change Panel.

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1 Introduction

1.1 At a meeting of the Council on 15 July 2019 a climate emergency was declared and it was agreed to develop a comprehensive Climate Change Strategy to tackle this. Alongside this it was requested that the Scrutiny Committee consider setting up a Climate Change Panel. Previously at a meeting of Cabinet on 1 July 2019 it was also agreed to request that the Scrutiny Committee set up a Panel to scrutinise the implementation of the recommendations of the Climate Action Group which had met between January and April 2019.

1.2 This paper sets out proposals for the establishment of such a panel.

2 Climate Change Panel

2.1 It is proposed that the Climate Change Panel be established to fulfil the following functions;

- To scrutinise the progress of work being undertaken by the council in

tackling climate change.

- To receive progress reports on the strategy, policy and actions enacted by the council to address the climate emergency.
- To monitor the implementation of recommendations made by the Climate Action Group, agreed by Cabinet on 1 July 2019 (see appendix 1).
- To undertake policy development activities assisting in the formulation of climate change mitigation and adaptation proposals.
- To invite appropriate experts to provide advice and information to help inform policy development work in relation to climate change.
- To promote the council's work in this area, engaging with and building partnerships, alongside the Cabinet Member for Sustainability.

2.2 It is usual for Scrutiny Panels to be comprised of either three or five members. Given the strategic importance and breadth of subject matter, it is proposed that a panel of five members be established in this case. As is usual, the Panel will need to be politically proportionate.

2.3 The constitution requires that a Panel's duration is agreed at the outset of any Panel being established. In this instance, the Cabinet Member for Sustainability has requested that the Panel should continue to operate for the full duration of the Sustainability Strategy to ensure a maintained focus on this work. This would mean the Panel would continue to meet until 2030. The Committee's views on duration are sought.

2.4 Given the likely length of the Panel's existence, it is suggested periodic reports be made to the Scrutiny Committee on progress no less frequently than once a year. In the interim, the Chair of the Panel will informally update both the Chair of the Scrutiny Committee and the Cabinet Member for Sustainability on progress.

2.5 Any recommendations arising from the Panel's work will be made to the Scrutiny Committee for consideration, with a view to recommending on to the Cabinet where appropriate.

3 Financial appraisal

3.1 It is not envisaged that there will be any direct financial implications other than staff time involved in supporting the panel.

4 Legal implications

4.1 The rules for establishing scrutiny panels are set out in the Scrutiny Procedure Rules in Part 4 of the Constitution. They state as follows:

- (a) The Scrutiny Committee should normally set up Panels of three or five councillors to undertake scrutiny and best value reviews as they arise on a task and finish basis and may similarly set up Panels to undertake other activities which the Committee wishes to delegate to them. The Panels will report their conclusions direct to Cabinet/Council as appropriate. The Panels will not have decision making powers.

- (b) The number of councillors to serve on a Panel shall be determined by the Scrutiny Committee with the councillors being nominated by the respective Group Leaders. The Panels shall be politically proportionate except that the Leader of a political group may decide to offer one of their Group's places to another group or an Independent member. Should the leader of a political group decline to nominate councillors to serve on a panel or to offer one of their Group's places to another Group or an Independent Member, the matter shall be referred back to the Committee.
- (c) The Scrutiny Committee will set the Panels' terms of reference and time-scale for completing each review or activity. Should pressure on officer resources be such that the agreed timescale might become unrealistic, the matter shall be referred back to the Committee.
- (d) The quorum of a Panel shall be a majority of the number of members of the Panel.
- (e) Each Panel shall appoint a Chair from within its membership.
- (f) No more than four Panels shall be in existence at any one time (excluding those convened to consider call-in requests or matters identified in the forward plan of key decisions).

Lawyer consulted 19.08.19

Legal ref: 008507-LDC-OD

5 Risk management implications

- 5.1 A climate change panel will provide additional overview and scrutiny of actions being taken by the council to address climate change which may help to reduce the risk of the council's policy aspirations not being achieved.

6 Equality analysis

- 6.1 There are no direct equality implications arising from this report.

7 Sustainability impact analysis

- 7.1 The establishment of a climate change panel will help the council to progress its commitment to achieving net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2030.

8 Appendices

Appendix 1 – Recommendations from Climate Change Action Group

9 Background papers

Sustainability Policy

<https://democracy.lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk/documents/s8839/Sustainability%20policy.pdf>

Recommendations from Climate Change Action Group

- To 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.
- To request that the Scrutiny Committee set up a Panel to scrutinise the implementation of the recommendations set out at appendix one to the report.
- To encourage train travel between sites
- To engage with Southern re: overcrowding, reliability and other issues to serve customers better (staff survey results shared with Southern, response on Easit cards in Hub news 30 April 2019)
- To promote use of 'virtual meetings', enabling staff to stay on one site during the working day
- To allow staff to work from site closest to home to avoid lengthy commute, unless overriding business necessity
- To encourage car-sharing – promoted on Hub
- To investigate providing more EV charge points, for staff parking
- Review criteria for staff car loans, if still applicable, and lower CO2 emissions for qualifying vehicles and EVs
- Ed Hele to progress the appropriate conversations with the bus companies noting Cllr comments about idling (outside Aqua/Lounge)
- Ensure that anti-idling and air quality improvement measures are incorporated into contracts with our suppliers, e.g. grounds maintenance
- Investigate idling 'hot spots' in the district.
- Wave to consider installing EV charge points
- Request for £5k to install drinking water fountain at Lewes skate park now EA issues have been resolved
- Green electricity tariff: investigate this option in March 2020 prior to next contract renewal, September 2020, for the corporate estate - report back cost implications. [For facilities to investigate and report to councillors the cost implications of moving to a green electricity tariff for the new contract due 01/10/20 – decision must be made and contracted with Laser no later than 31/03/20]
- Wave Leisure to investigate possibility of moving to a green tariff and report back
- Wave & Facilities: to always consider alternatives and present options at the point of boiler (and other tech) replacements in the future
- Encourage staff to think about sustainability actions in the office (e.g. turn off monitors).
- Smart/automatic metering for LDC landlord supplies, with Ian Sexton & Peter Bowley (PB) to ensure that all suitable meters are upgraded, project initiated with Npower & Laser and now with PB to progress
- KM to provide an update on operation of new Renault EV van with a view to rolling out more of these
- Invite Dennis Eagle back in the next year to update about technical developments in RCV fleet