

Hambleton District Council

Report To: Cabinet

Date: 9 March 2021

Subject: **Climate Change Policy and Strategy**

Portfolio Holder: Environmental Health, Waste and Recycling
Councillor S Watson

Wards Affected: All Wards

1.0 Purpose and Background

- 1.1 This report seeks Cabinet approval for the Climate Change Policy and Strategy attached in Annex A and B respectively.
- 1.2 The Climate Change Act 2008 sets a target of net UK greenhouse gas emissions for 2050 to be 100% lower than the 1990 baseline figures. This is an ambitious target and one which can't be achieved without action from local government.
- 1.3 Hambleton District Council is already making considerable progress with carbon reduction in all departments with measures such as street lighting, electric vehicle charging points, home working and Environmental Health's Warm Homes projects improving energy efficiency in the community. However, not all this information is being collated in a central location and therefore our achievements are not necessarily being recognised. A key action within the strategy is to annually calculate our carbon baseline, this information can then be used to prioritise our most significant sources of emissions, and we will also be able to benchmark our achievements with other councils.
- 1.4 With global concern about climate change Hambleton residents will expect us to be at the forefront of implementing carbon reductions initiatives, this overarching policy will help evidence this. This policy will place a responsibility on all departments to consider the emissions associated with all aspects of projects, whether that be from purchasing paper, or building projects. By adopting this policy now, we will help our environment for future generations.
- 1.5 We, along with the other North Yorkshire Councils, are supporting the Local Enterprise Partnership, who are working on a carbon abatement plan with specific policy recommendations for Local Authorities. As part of this we need to be able to evidence our commitment to reducing our carbon emissions and our support to organisations, partners and local communities, a policy and strategy assists with this.

2.0 Link to Council Priorities

- 2.1 Caring for the Environment – The Council Plan states: “The environment is a top priority for us and our residents, and we are working on ways to reduce the impact of climate change.” This policy and strategy are key to supporting our commitment to the environment.
- 2.2 Driving Economic Vitality - Evidencing that we are improving our own greenhouse gas emissions puts us in a stronger position to advise and support businesses in our area as well as encouraging suppliers of new environmental technologies.

3.0 Risk Assessment

- 3.1 There are no significant risks in with approving this recommendation.
- 3.2 The key risk is in not approving the recommendation(s) as shown below:

Risk	Implication	Gross Prob	Gross Imp	Gross Total		Net Prob	Net Imp	Net Total
Not evidencing our commitment to a key priority of Caring for the Environment and not supporting the Governments national targets.	Lack of focus on climate change results in actions being missed that could significantly help with carbon reduction. Damage to the reputation of the council caused by failing to be seen to act on climate change.	5	3	15	Approve the Strategy and Policy	2	2	4

Prob = Probability, Imp = Impact, Score range is Low = 1, High = 5

The overall risk of approving the draft Climate Change Strategy and Policy outweighs the risk of not approving them.

4.0 Financial Implications

- 4.1 There are no financial implications to the approval of the Climate Change Strategy and Policy. Costs will be identified as each carbon reduction scheme is introduced, but these may realise savings as well as costs. All movements in the budget will be updated on an ongoing basis and reported to Members in the quarterly Revenue Monitoring reports or in the quarterly Capital Monitoring and Treasury Management reports where the capital programme is impacted.

5.0 Legal Implications

- 5.1 Local authorities don't have a statutory duty to reduce emissions in line with the Climate Change Act 2008, but they do need to produce plans and strategies that have a considerable bearing on emissions such as the Local Plan, Councils Plans, Waste Management Strategy, Procurement Strategy etc.

6.0 Equality/Diversity Issues

6.1 Equality and Diversity Issues have been considered however there are no issues associated with this report.

7.0 Recommendation

7.1 That Cabinet approves and recommends to Council the draft Climate Change Strategy and Policy be approved and adopted with effect from 1 April 2021.

7.2 That Cabinet approves the Strategy be included in the Council Plan.

Paul Staines
Director of Environment

Background papers: None

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