

Report of Head of Democratic Services

Report to Scrutiny Board (Environment, Housing and Communities)

Date: 12 September 2019

Subject: Climate Emergency Advisory Committee – update

Are specific electoral wards affected?	☐ Yes ☒ No
If yes, name(s) of ward(s):	
Has consultation been carried out?	☒ Yes ☐ No
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	☐ Yes ☒ No
Will the decision be open for call-in?	☐ Yes ☒ No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information?	☐ Yes ☒ No
If relevant, access to information procedure rule number:	
Appendix number:	

1. Purpose of this report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the Scrutiny Board with a further update surrounding the function and work priorities of the Council's Climate Emergency Advisory Committee.

2. Background information

- 2.1 In March 2019, Full Council passed a resolution declaring a Climate Emergency; Executive Board in April also considered the implications of this resolution. In May 2019, the Leader of Council reviewed the Executive arrangements for the authority to reflect the Council's policy objectives in this area, and thus the Climate Change Advisory Committee was established.
- 2.2 The membership of this Committee includes Councillors B Anderson, J Bentley, D Blackburn, N Buckley, A Garthwaite, K Groves, J Illingworth, M Midgley, L Mulherin, M Shahzad, P Wadsworth, N Walshaw (Chair) and P Wray.
- 2.3 The first meeting of the Climate Change Advisory Committee was held on 2nd July 2019. The terms of reference relating to the function of the Committee were approved during this meeting (see Appendix 1). However, a decision was also made during this meeting to change the name of the Committee to the 'Climate Emergency Advisory Committee'.

3. Main issues

- 3.1 The Chair of the Climate Emergency Advisory Committee attended the initial meeting of the Environment, Housing and Communities Scrutiny Board in recognition that the Executive functions surrounding climate change and sustainable energy and carbon reduction fall within the remit of this Scrutiny Board. However, it was noted at that stage that the Committee was yet to formally meet and so it was agreed that a further update surrounding the work priorities of the Committee would be considered during the Scrutiny Board's September meeting.
- 3.2 During its first meeting on 2nd July 2019, the Climate Emergency Advisory Committee approved a forward plan of the content of its forthcoming meetings as follows:

Meeting Date	Proposed Topic	Cabinet Member
25 th September	Transport/ Active Travel Fleet/ Grey Fleet	Cllr Mulherin/ Cllr Charlwood Cllr Lewis
23 rd October	Planning Buildings, including corporate buildings and housing Presentation on December's Executive Board report	Cllr Mulherin Cllr Coupar/ Cllr Lewis
13 th January	Biodiversity Food	
10 th March	Annual Report for Full Council	

- 3.3 The Committee also agreed to hold a number of working groups outside of the formal meetings in relation to the following areas:

Transport

This group will focus on the challenges facing active transport in the city and consider how the vision for the city should develop. It is intended that the group will look at areas of the city where connectivity by active travel could be improved as well as looking at good practise.

Planning (including buildings and energy)

This group will initially focus on Planning. Specifically, the group aims to:

1. Identify short term opportunities to maximise carbon reductions and improve environmental sustainability via existing planning policies (i.e. core strategy, site allocation plan, etc).
2. Identify short term priorities to strengthen planning policies within the existing regional/national policy framework.

3. Identify priorities which can only be achieved by influencing regional/national policies and develop specific asks of the region/national government.

Biodiversity and Food

This working group will consider current operational practises that are in place across the council and their impact on biodiversity, with the aim of identifying immediate opportunities to improve the biodiversity within the district. This group will also start to look at the longer term vision for the city in terms of biodiversity.

- 3.4 An invitation has been extended to the Chair of the Climate Emergency Advisory Committee; Executive Board Member for Climate Change, Transport and Sustainable Development and relevant senior officers to attend today's meeting to address any further queries from Board Members.

4. Consultation and engagement

- 4.1.1 This report provides the opportunity to engage with the Scrutiny Board in relation to the function and work priorities of the Climate Emergency Advisory Committee.

4.2 Equality and diversity / cohesion and integration

- 4.2.1 There are no equality and diversity, or cohesion and integration implications as a result of this report.

4.3 Council policies and the Best Council Plan

- 4.3.1 In March 2019, Full Council passed a resolution declaring a Climate Emergency and the Climate Emergency Advisory Committee was established to reflect the Council's policy objectives in this area.

Climate Emergency

- 4.3.2 The role and priorities of the Climate Emergency Advisory Committee will support the work that the council needs to undertake to meet its targets as part of the Climate Emergency declaration.

4.4 Resources, procurement and value for money

- 4.4.1 There are no specific implications as a result of this report.

4.5 Legal implications, access to information, and call-in

- 4.5.1 There are no specific legal implications as a result of this report.

4.6 Risk management

- 4.6.1 This report has no specific risk management implications.

5 Conclusions

- 5.1 At the request of the Scrutiny Board, this report provides a further update surrounding the function and work priorities of the Council's Climate Emergency Advisory Committee.

6 Recommendations

- 6.1 Members are asked to note the content of this report.

7 Background documents¹

- 7.1 None.

¹ The background documents listed in this section are available to download from the council's website, unless they contain confidential or exempt information. The list of background documents does not include published works.