

# ARUN DISTRICT COUNCIL

## REPORT TO ENVIRONMENT AND LEISURE WORKING GROUP ON 7 NOVEMBER 2019

### PART A: REPORT

**SUBJECT:** Climate Change and Sustainability

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**DATE:** September 2019

**EXTN:** 37813

**PORTFOLIO AREA:** Services Directorate

#### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

This report summarises the current situation on climate change and sets out a suggested corporate response from Arun District Council working across all elements of the Council and with the community, partners, contractors and businesses. The whole of our Council needs to take a lead in ensuring each service is part of the solution.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS:

Members are asked to consider recommending to Cabinet and Full Council that:

1. Arun District Council declares a Climate Emergency
2. The impact and mitigation of climate change is considered and incorporated into all policy and key decision making.
3. Officers work through the Environment & Leisure Working Group to produce an action plan with milestones to make the activities of Arun District Council carbon neutral by 2030.
4. A supplementary estimate be approved for up to £180k to fund the post of Climate Change Manager for three years, including consultancy advice to support the calculation of carbon budgets both within the Council and more widely through its role in community leadership and work with partners and local businesses.

#### 1. BACKGROUND:

##### 1.1 Introduction

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) was established by the United Nations in 1988 as it was widely recognised that climate change in general and global warming specifically is a global issue. The IPCC reports outline the problem of climate change and the level of scientific consensus on it. It concluded that global temperature increase needs to be limited to 2 degrees above pre-industrial levels in order to have a chance of reducing the risks of dangerous and irreversible climate change in the future.

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) was signed

at the Rio summit in 1992 by 166 countries. Subsequently, in Paris in 2016 all major countries signed up to the Paris Agreement (Accord) which contained legally binding targets for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions; these are currently being implemented.

However, the IPCC have lowered the target limit of global warming to 1.5 degrees above pre-industrial levels, in the context of the 1 degree warming that has already taken place. It is very concerning that due to the delay in harmful effects becoming apparent it is predicted that the current situation will result in a world temperature increase of 3 degrees leading to harmful and irreversible changes to the climate, such as drought, floods, extreme heat and poverty for hundreds of millions of people.

## 1.2 Action

In November 2018 the Councils of Bristol and Manchester passed motions declaring a climate emergency and set targets aiming to be carbon neutral by 2030 and 2038 respectively. Carbon is the principal human-activity related source of greenhouse gas

Currently 180 Councils in England have declared climate emergencies in response to public pressure and a momentum driven by activists and environmentalists such as Greta Thunberg and David Attenborough (Appendix 1)

Local Government has the chance to turn this public concern into action and to drive change both through the services provided directly and through its role as a community leader.

This report is merely the start of what will be a significant challenge for Arun District Council. It is intended to be the start of a Council wide conversation on how to run our services more sustainably and accelerate the pace of change both within the Council and across our District, whilst acknowledging difficult times.

It is anticipated that Arun District Council will work with others including experts, businesses, contractors and residents throughout the Arun District to improve local sustainability.

## 2. **PROPOSAL(S):**

- 2.1 It is proposed that an action plan is developed, initially to meet the objective of making Arun District Council carbon neutral by 2030. Then delivery plans can be produced and costed with a timetable and presented for discussion at the Environment and Leisure Working Group and approved by Cabinet/Full Council.
- 2.2 It is suggested that this progress is reported to the Environment and Leisure Working Group on a six monthly basis.
- 2.3 A group of officers will be drawn together to assist with a draft action plan and coordinate the key strands set out across Arun District Council.
- 2.4 It is proposed that five key strands are initially examined within the overarching action plan; pulling together the work of other committees into a corporate high-level document: -

## 1. House building, retrofitting and efficiency

Arun District Council is a social landlord with approximately 4000 properties and an ambitious target of building or acquiring 35 additional units per annum. We are able to retrofit our existing homes and build or acquire new ones to exemplary energy efficiency standards.

The Director of Place and his team are presenting a report to the Planning Policy Sub-Committee on the 15 October 2019 covering the issues around how Arun District Council can secure zero carbon developments through the planning system to improve the level of sustainability of all new developments including:

- i. Guidance of renewable energy for individual homes
- ii. Improved standards for insulation, heat recovery and water usage.
- iii. Guidance for renewable energy schemes.
- iv. Guidance on planting of woodland
- v. Improved and more rigorous standards for the prevention of flooding.

## 2. Transport

Improvements to cycle and pedestrian infrastructure through master planning new developments and work to create a walking and cycling strategy which will be led by the Directorate of Place. Arun District Council has a role to play in the provision of electric vehicle charging points and a strategy needs to be drawn up to this end. Neighbouring authorities have introduced a policy for purchasing electric vehicles in its fleet and a salary sacrifice scheme for staff to purchase low emission vehicles.

## 3. Air Pollution

Although air pollution and climate change are closely aligned, carbon and methane emissions to the atmosphere are the principle human-activity derived emissions that create climate change. It is expected that air quality benefits will arise out of carbon reduction initiatives.

The Council have undertaken assessments of air quality in the district to identify which pollutants are of concern to air quality from a human health perspective (though ozone levels will be elevated because of the sea). Only NO<sub>x</sub> is of concentrations which warrant ongoing monitoring. The monitoring that is undertaken, and a wider review of air quality is reported on annually to DEFRA and published on Arun's website. There are no areas where NO<sub>x</sub> exceeds the legal limit, and therefore no Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA) have been declared. It is only where an AQMA has been declared that air quality action plan is needed. Arun is a member of the Sussex Air Quality Partnership.

## 4. Community Leadership

Arun District Council has a role in leading, coordinating and facilitating the work to make the Council carbon neutral through our policies such as procurement and planning, our housing management and our regulatory role.

However, the work we do with our partners such as Chichester University, local businesses and stakeholders (such as our principal contractors) is also a powerful force for change. In addition, as an authority we can work through the District

<p>Council Network (DCN) to lobby the Government to provide additional resources and powers to meet the 2030 carbon reduction target.</p> <p>5. <u>Procurement</u></p> <p>All purchasing decisions to include a carbon audit.</p>		
<p>2.5 It is proposed that a supplementary estimate be approved for up to £180k to fund the post of Climate Change Manager for three years, including consultancy advice to support the calculation of carbon budgets both within the Council and more widely through its role in community leadership and work with partners and local businesses.</p>		
<p><b>3. OPTIONS:</b></p> <p>a) To approve the recommendation that Arun District Council declares a climate emergency.</p> <p>b) For Arun District Council to recognise that there is a problem with climate change but not to declare a climate emergency.</p> <p>c) To approve the production of a costed work programme with milestones.</p> <p>d) Not to approve the production of a costed work programme with milestones.</p>		
<p><b>4. CONSULTATION:</b></p> <p>Members of the Environment and Leisure Working Group</p>		
Has consultation been undertaken with:	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>
Relevant Town/Parish Council		✓
Relevant District Ward Councillors		✓
Other groups/persons (please specify)	✓	
Input from officers and members		
<b>5. ARE THERE ANY IMPLICATIONS IN RELATION TO THE FOLLOWING COUNCIL POLICIES: (Explain in more detail at 6 below)</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>
Financial	✓	
Legal		✓
Human Rights/Equality Impact Assessment		✓
Community Safety including Section 17 of Crime & Disorder Act		✓
Sustainability	✓	
Asset Management/Property/Land	✓	
Technology		
Other (please explain)		
<p><b>6. IMPLICATIONS:</b></p> <p>Additional funding is sought via a supplementary estimate to enable this work to be</p>		

undertaken. Work will commence to enable the Council's property, open spaces and new build to be managed to sustainable principles resulting in a reduction in carbon emissions.

**7. REASON FOR THE DECISION:**

A response to climate change has been requested by the Leader of the Council and his Cabinet

**8. BACKGROUND PAPERS:**

N/A