



**CAMBRIDGESHIRE  
& PETERBOROUGH**  
COMBINED AUTHORITY

Agenda Item No: 8

## **Climate Action Plan Update**

To: CA Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Meeting Date: 28 November 2022

Public report: Yes

From: Adrian Cannard  
Strategy Planning Manager

Recommendations: The Overview & Scrutiny Committee is recommended to:

a) Note and comment on this report

Voting arrangements: A simple majority of all Members

### **1. Purpose**

1.1 This paper has been written to update members on progress on the Combined Authority's climate-related activity and the Climate Action Plan.

### **2. Background**

2.1 The Independent Commission on Climate examined the risks and opportunities of the changing climate and made recommendations to the Combined Authority and other stakeholders in its report of October 2021.

- 2.2 The Combined Authority established the multi-sector Climate Working Group to develop an Action Plan in response. This Action Plan was agreed in March 2022. The Action Plan notes that many climate-related actions are being undertaken by organisations across the Combined Authority area – the intention of the Action Plan was to identify collaborative actions that would add value to this existing activity.
- 2.3 In June the government published the latest estimates of end-user greenhouse gas emissions for local authority areas in the UK. Previous versions of this publication only covered carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions, but it has been expanded this year to also include estimates of methane (CH<sub>4</sub>) and nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O). Overall UK emissions in 2020 fell by 9% largely attributed to reductions in road traffic and business activity as a result of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and the resulting restrictions. The Combined Authority area was estimated at 8039 ktCO<sub>2</sub>e in 2020, a drop of 6.4% on the previous year. This was a smaller drop than the UK average, partly reflecting the larger proportion of land-use emissions in the area, which were less affected by the pandemic.
- 2.4 The Combined Authority made provision in the MTFP for a range of capital and revenue projects totalling £10.5m to take forward specific actions in the Climate Action Plan. Business cases totalling £6.115m have been agreed by the Board in June and July 2022. In addition, a Climate Change Projects Officer role was established and the post holder commenced work in November. Two additional business cases are due to be considered for approval at the November Board meeting, totalling £3.12m.
- 2.5 As part of its recommendations the Independent Commission proposed to reconvene to consider one or more of its major climate themes in more detail to support policy action on that topic. To enable the Commission to undertake this next phase of activity the release of the £50,000 revenue support in the MTFP per annum for FY 22/23 and FY 23/24 was agreed at the October Board meeting for policy secretariat support. Discussions are underway with potential external partners to match some of the CPCA's revenue support to increase the resources available.
- 2.6 The Climate Working Group chaired by the Mayor met in November 2022. It considered activity to date on the Climate Action Plan and areas where additional resources might be required to take forward actions. Its work is intended to inform the budget setting processes of the Combined Authority and the partner organisations. The Climate Working Group will provide its annual monitoring report on the Action Plan to the Combined Authority Board in March 2023.
- 2.7 A key commitment in the Climate Action Plan related to the transport functions of the Combined Authority was the reduction of emissions from road transport. The recent consultation on the Local Transport and Connectivity Plan has sought views on the achievement of a 15% reduction in car usage (taking into account predicted growth). Consultants WSP have been engaged to provide technical advice on this issue and to examine a variety of future traffic scenarios, including comparison to pathways to Net Zero targets.

### 3. Next Steps

- 3.1 The Combined Authority's November Board will consider the business cases for release of MTFP allocations for the Waterbeach Renewable Energy Network project, and the Greater Cambridge Chalk Streams programme.
- 3.2 Annual progress on the Action Plan is to be formally reported to the Independent Commission in the new year, and to the Combined Authority Board at its March meeting.

## Significant Implications

### 4 Financial Implications

- 4.1 The MTFP made a series of Subject to Approval allocations for climate projects. The current status of approvals of business cases against those allocations are as shown:

<b>CLIMATE ALLOCATIONS</b>			
<b>Project Title</b>	<b>Total cost (£k)</b>	<b>Funding Type</b>	<b>Business Case approved</b>
Nature and Environment Investment Fund	1000	Capital	Yes
Natural Cambridgeshire	210	Revenue	Yes
Care Home Retrofit Programme	2000	Capital	Yes
Huntingdonshire Biodiversity for all	1200 150	Capital Revenue	Yes
Logan's Meadow Local Nature Reserve extension	280	Capital	Yes
Doubling Nature Metrics	125	Revenue	Yes
Rewilding Programme	150	Revenue	Yes
Net Zero Villages Programme	1000	Capital	Yes
<b>Approved Business Cases</b>	<b>6115</b>		
Waterbeach Renewable Energy Network Project	2700	Capital	No - Nov Board
Greater Cambridge Chalk Stream Programme	300 120	Capital	No - Nov Board

Core Site, North East Cambridge	1000 120	Capital Revenue	No
<b>Subject to Approval</b>	<b>4240</b>		
<b>Totals</b>	<b>10355</b>		

4.2 In addition the Board has agreed £50k per annum revenue to support the work of the Independent Commission.

## 5. Legal Implications

5.1 None.

## 6. Public Health Implications

6.1 Evidence work for the Independent Commission highlighted risks to the area from climate-change related impacts, particularly flooding and drought. Actions to reduce emissions and increase resilience to impacts will support public health. The use of nature-based solutions can have associated benefits on local air quality.

## 7. Environmental and Climate Change Implications

7.1 The Climate Action Plan is delivering action on both mitigation of greenhouse gases emissions and adaptation to the impact of climate change.

## 8. Appendices

8.1 None.

## 9. Background Papers

9.1 Climate Action Plan: Item 3.4 March 2022 Board Meeting: [CMIS > Meetings](#)