

## **Climate Working Group**

**Mission:** to demonstrate local leadership and ensure coherent, system-wide action on tackling the causes and effects of climate change, and through collaborative working ensure an effective and immediate response within Cambridgeshire and Peterborough that is fair, long lasting and appropriately timed.

### **Ways of working**

The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Climate Working Group brings together representatives of key decision makers to promote and champion collective local action on climate issues, recognising that decisions by one organisation can have impacts for others. Each organisation, and each sector, is responsible for mitigating and adapting to climate change. They will have their own plans and strategies to do that, and control over their own resources. There are also existing collaborative groups that focus on specific themes (such as the Resilience Forum, or Natural Cambridgeshire) who will need to take climate implications into account.

The Climate Working Group is an alliance and a collaboration, not a separate organisation with its own budget or powers. Its starting point is the recommendations of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Independent Commission on Climate, which addressed recommendations to actors across the public and private sector. The Climate Working Group will champion the recommendations, and keep progress on the recommendations under review.

### **Terms of Reference**

1. To work collectively to identify and implement action that can term to deliver early reductions in greenhouse gas emissions to remain within the global carbon allowance<sup>1</sup>;
2. To identify and implement system-wide actions that will achieve long term reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, to reach the target of Net Zero<sup>2</sup> emissions as soon as possible;
3. To work collectively to reduce the risk to Cambridgeshire and Peterborough from the extremes of climate change, and to develop adaptation measures to minimise impact;

---

<sup>1</sup> That proportion of cumulative emissions required to limit global warming to well below 2, preferably to 1.5 degrees Celsius, compared to pre-industrial levels.

<sup>2</sup> Achieving net-zero emissions assumes that some greenhouse gases are still released, but these are offset by removing an equivalent amount of greenhouse gases from the atmosphere.

4. To undertake its activities in a way that enables a fair transition to a low carbon future;
5. To suggest actions to better articulate climate change challenges, to increase understanding both within organisations and from a public perspective;
6. To support opportunities to co-design and develop pilot projects to test effective responses;
7. To establish and keep science-based targets up to date; and
8. To monitor, review progress against these objectives (ongoing structures to keep under review the local implications of climate change to be considered following Independent Commission's second report) and recommend corrective actions if required.
9. To deliver an initial action plan in time to be tabled at the March 2022 meeting of the Combined Authority

## **Operation**

To meet a minimum three times per year.\*

To be chaired by the Mayor.

To be supported by a Climate Working Group Senior Officers Group, providing governance link to sub-groups and specialist working groups, and task and finish groups as required.

Secretariat to be provided by CPCA.

\*The meetings schedule was revised to accommodate three meetings by February 2022 in the light of the request from the Board of the Combined Authority to:

“... ask the Climate Working Group to prepare by 28 February 2022, for subsequent consideration by the Board on 30 March 2022, a more ambitious, comprehensive and public friendly Action Plan setting out how the Combined Authority will take action to implement the recommendations of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Independent Commission on Climate, or if agreement cannot be reached among partners by that time, to report on the outstanding issues; and thereafter, ensure an updated Action Plan is brought to the Board before the end of March each year.”