



**CAMBRIDGESHIRE
& PETERBOROUGH**
COMBINED AUTHORITY

Agenda Item No: 4.9

Cambridgeshire Climate Commission

To:	Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority Board
Meeting Date:	19 October 2022
Public report:	Yes
Lead Member:	Councillor Bridget Smith, Lead Member for the Environment and Climate Change
From:	Adrian Cannard, Strategic Planning Manager
Key decision:	Yes
Forward Plan ref:	KD2022/033
Recommendations:	<p>The Combined Authority Board is recommended to:</p> <p>Approve £50k per annum from the Climate Commission subject to approval line in the medium-term financial plan (MTFP) in FY22/23 and FY23/24 to support the work of the Independent Commission on Climate.</p>
Voting arrangements:	<p>A simple majority of all Members present and voting</p> <p>To be carried, the vote must include the vote of the Mayor, or the Deputy Mayor when acting in place of the Mayor.</p>

1. Purpose

- 1.1 The Combined Authority established the Independent Commission on Climate to assess the implications of climate change on Cambridgeshire and Peterborough and make recommendations to inform action. The medium-term financial plan (MTFP) contains a revenue budget allocation to support the ongoing work of the Commission. The next phase of the Independent Commission's work is to consider more detailed advice on one of the climate themes. This report seeks approval of the existing budget provision to enable the Commission to put in place policy secretariat support to commence this work in 22/23.

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. Provision was made in the MTFP to support ongoing work of the Commission.
- 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.
- 2.3 The Combined Authority made provision in the MTFP for a range of capital and revenue projects totalling £10.5m to take forward actions on climate. Business cases for the majority of these were agreed by the Board in July 2022. Progress on Action Plan is to be considered by the Climate Working Group in October, with subsequent reporting to Board and the Independent Commission.
- 2.4. 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. There is an action in the Climate Action Plan to undertake such 'deep dives'. 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 is proposed for policy secretariat support (the Commission's original investigations and report was supported by a fixed term consultant). Discussions are underway with potential external partners to match some of the CPCA's revenue support to increase the resources available.

Significant Implications

3. Financial Implications

- 3.1 The Medium-Term Financial Plan has the following provision for Climate Commission revenue support, including for Fenland SOIL activity. Note that the existing Approved budget line shown in the table below is for the Fenland SOIL programme. Approval of this recommendation will shift £50k from the Subject to Approval line to Approved in 22/23 and 23/24.

	22/23	23/24	24/25	25/26	Total Project Budget
	£'000s	£'000s	£'000s	£'000s	£'000s
Delivery and Strategy Revenue Budget					
Climate Commission (inc. Fenland SOIL)					
Approved	100	50	-	-	150
Subject to Approval	50	50	100	100	300

4. Legal Implications

- 4.1 This Board is empowered by the Constitution to approve carry forward of any underspent balances between financial years.

5. Public Health Implications

- 5.1 None.

6. Environmental and Climate Change Implications

- 6.1 The advice of the Independent Commission supports the work of the Combined Authority in understanding the risks and opportunities of the changing climate and in developing appropriate responses.

7. Other Significant Implications

- 7.1 None.

8. Appendices

- 8.1 None.

9. Background Papers

- 9.1 [Combined Authority Board report Climate Action Plan \(Item 3.4\) March 2022](#)
- 9.2 [Independent Climate Commission Full Report October 2021](#)