



Environment & Sustainable Communities Committee	Agenda Item
12 June 2023	10

Title:	Climate Action Plan
Report of:	Lead Member for Climate and Environment
Lead Member:	Cllr. Bridget Smith, Lead Member for the Environment
Public Report:	Yes
Key Decision:	No
Voting Arrangements:	A simple majority of voting Members

Recommendations:	
A	To note current progress on the Climate Action Plan
B	To support the proposal for a climate engagement event in the autumn
C	To approve the arrangements for an officer group to approve applications under the Climate Change Care Homes Programme.

Strategic Objective(s):	
The proposals within this report fit under the following strategic objective(s):	
X	Achieving ambitious skills and employment opportunities
X	Achieving good growth
X	Increased connectivity
X	Enabling resilient communities

1. Purpose

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| 1.1 | To brief the Committee on the Climate Action Plan 2022-2025 (CAP) and seek endorsement of specific pieces of activity being progressed as part of the Action Plan. These are a climate partnership event; and care home programme delivery. |
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2. Proposal

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| 2.1 | To note progress on the CAP and Combined Authority funded projects. |
| 2.2 | In June the Climate Partnership will be considering a proposal that a stakeholders climate engagement event be arranged for autumn 2023. The Committee is invited to endorse this proposal. |
| 2.3 | The Combined Authority's Climate Change Care Homes Programme is underway with expressions of interest received from eligible independently owned nursing and residential care homes. This is one of our demonstrator programmes for addressing/reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The Committee is recommended to approve the arrangements for project approvals. |
| 2.4 | The Climate Action Plan is relevant to all four of the Corporate Objectives, as climate related issues run through all aspects. Climate is one of the six capitals for assessing activity. |

3. Background

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| 3.1 | The Combined Authority approved the Climate Action Plan 2022-2025 in March 2022 and updates in March 2023. The CAP is part of the Combined Authority's response to mitigating and adapting to climate change. Oversight of the delivery of the Action Plan is within the terms of reference of the Environment and Sustainable Communities Committee. |
| 3.2 | The CAP sets out 40 actions arranged across 11 themes, focused on collaborative action over the three year period across a range of stakeholders. It was a direct response to the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Independent Commission on Climate recommendations. The Action Plan is supported by the multi-sector Climate Partnership, chaired by the Mayor, who make recommendations for action (for the Combined Authority the Environment and Sustainable Communities Committee leads on the CAP implementation). |
| 3.3 | Progress on the CAP will be considered by the Climate Partnership at its meeting on the 19 June. The summary of progress is attached as Appendix A for information. |
| 3.4 | The Combined Authority in its functions delivers a range of activities that impact on climate change mitigation and adaptation (such as active travel or support for green skills through the adult education budget). It has also funded specific programmes of activity that fall within the CAP. Progress on these is summarised in Appendix B. |
| 3.5 | The latest set of national statistics on emissions that provide Combined Authority area figures are due in June. These will be reported to the next meeting of the Committee. These monitor progress towards achieving Net Zero targets. Net Zero in this context means total greenhouse gas emissions of the area would be equal to or less than the emissions removed from the environment. The government has a legal requirement under the Climate Change Act (link) to achieve Net Zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 and a commitment under the Paris agreement – the nationally determined contribution (NDC) – to cut emissions by 68% by 2030 compared with 1990 levels. The Combined Authority has set a target for its own operations to be Net Zero by 2030, and for the area to achieve Net Zero by 2050. Other organisations have different targets. These are challenging targets, and at the national level the Climate Change Committee (CCC) have warned that the UK is not on track to meet the carbon budgets set for the current period 2023 to 2027 or the next (2028-2032). |

3.6	Confusion can arise over Net Zero targets because organisations might express these only for emissions they directly control (such as owning and operating fossil fuel power generation), include emissions they indirectly control (such as staff commuting) or set ambitions for a geographic area.
3.7	A data group is being drawn together to share best practice regarding Net Zero target definitions within the Combined Authority and constituent councils. The next Climate Partnership meeting will hear from the Centre for Climate Engagement, Hughes Hall on their research into the potential to set Locally Determined Contributions, as complement for the NDC. Progress on the Combined Authority's own operations target of 2030 will be brought to a future meeting of the Committee.
3.8	The Climate Partnership are proposing a stakeholder event in November. This would review progress on climate change mitigation and adaptation, look to identify new opportunities for collaboration and consider gaps. It would also be able to link into the awareness raising publicity in the lead up to the United Nations global climate conference (COP28) at the end of November. The Climate Partnership are due to consider this at their meeting on the 19 th June. This event will support the engagement strand of the Climate Action Plan and it is recommended that the Committee endorse the proposal. Officers of the Combined Authority will be involved in organising the event.
3.9	One of the Combined Authority funded climate projects is a £2m demonstrator programme focussed on supporting care homes across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough to enable them to become more energy efficient, to help meet climate change goals and reduce risks to the more vulnerable residents. The scheme provides grants on a match-funded basis. A guide of the scheme is included as Appendix C. After consultation with the sector and care leads within councils the programme was launched to care homes in spring 2023 and expressions of interest have been received from 10 care homes.
3.10	It is proposed that the care homes grant applications are considered and approved by an officer group, chaired a Combined Authority officer. As organisations with lead social care responsibilities Peterborough City Council and Cambridgeshire County Council officers would be invited to participate in the appraisal process. Successful applications will be reported for information at the next available Environment and Sustainable Communities Committee. Under the Constitution (Section 18.2) the Executive Director would have delegated authority to approve appropriate contracts, depending on value.

4. Appendices

4.1	Appendix A: Climate Action Plan Progress Report
4.2	Appendix B: CPCA Climate programme progress
4.3	Appendix C: Guide to the Climate Change Care Home programme

5. Implications

Financial Implications

5.1	The Combined Authority agreed the updated MTFP in January 2023 that included budget allocations for named climate programme activities.
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Legal Implications

6.1	None.
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Public Health Implications

7.1	Reducing fossil fuel and other greenhouse gas emissions has beneficial public health outcomes locally (for example through reducing air pollution). Adapting to impacts of climate change can reducing risks to vulnerable residents, such as heat-related illness. Nature-based solutions can have wider benefits to health, particularly mental health.
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Environmental & Climate Change Implications	
8.1	Climate change mitigation and adaptation are fundamental drivers for action via the CAP.
Other Significant Implications	
9.1	None.
Background Papers	
10.1	The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Independent Commission on Climate report link
10.2	Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Climate Action Plan 2022-2025 link
10.3	Revisions to CAP, March 2023 link
10.4	Care Homes Programme Business Case link