



**CAMBRIDGESHIRE  
& PETERBOROUGH**  
COMBINED AUTHORITY

Agenda Item No: 11

## Audit and Governance Committee – Climate Working Group

To: Audit and Governance Committee

Meeting Date: 11<sup>th</sup> March 2022

Public report: Public Report

From: Adrian Cannard  
Strategic Planning Manager

Recommendations: The Audit and Governance Committee is recommended to:  
a) note the Terms of Reference of the Climate Working Group.

Voting arrangements: Note only item, no vote required.

# 1. Purpose

- 1.1 To note the Terms of Reference of the Climate Working Group.

# 2. Background

- 2.1 The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Independent Commission on Climate (CPICC) recommended that the Combined Authority convene a “climate cabinet” to provide system-wide coordination in taking forward the Commission’s recommendations to the wider public and private sector. Membership should include representation from public sector organisations, businesses, research and higher education providers, and environmental groups. The Board endorsed this recommendation, with the climate cabinet to be called the Climate Working Group.
- 2.2 The first meeting of the Climate Working Group took place in December 2021, and has met twice more in January and February 2022. Terms of reference (Appendix 1) were considered and adopted by the Working Group. Sector representation is described in Appendix 2.
- 2.3 CPICC recognised that mitigating and adapting to climate change involved interconnected system-wide issues, both nationally and locally. The Climate Working Group provides a forum to formulate collective responses at the local level. Agreement and accountability for delivery of action remain with organisations and individuals.
- 2.4 The Combined Authority Board further resolved on the 27 October 2021 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.”*
- 2.5 In the spirit of cooperative working the supporting officer group arrangements are chaired by a senior officer of the County Council and draw from across the organisations represented on the Climate Working Group and others where appropriate expertise is required.
- 2.6 Prior to the output of the Climate Working Group the Combined Authority is already taking opportunities to work collaborative with stakeholders to respond to climate change issues. As an example, the Combined Authority led a successful bid with local partners to the Zero Emission Buses Regional Allocation grant scheme, which will result in 30 zero emission buses entering into operation in the area in 2022.

## Significant Implications

# 3. Financial Implications

- 3.1 Proposed actions with budget implications for the Combined Authority will be brought forward for consideration in line with the Assurance Framework requirements. The CPCA Board in January 2022 made budget provisions of circa £10m in the Medium-Term Financial Plan for climate-related actions, subject to business case approval.

## 4. Legal Implications

- 4.1 None.

## 5. Other Significant Implications

- 5.1 Addressing climate change has potentially significant equalities implications. The full report of the CPICC (October 2021) contains recommendations relating to equality and fairness under the heading “Just Transition”. The Board has resolved that all projects should be subject to a climate assessment.

## 6. Appendices

- 6.1 Appendix 1 Terms of Reference.
- 6.2 Appendix 2 Sector representation

## 7. Background Papers

- 7.1 [Full report of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Independent Commission on Climate Change](#)
- 7.2 [Combined Authority Board 24 November 2021 - Item 3.1 refers](#)
- 7.3 [Combined Authority Board 27 October 2021 - Items 2.5 refers](#)
- 7.4 [Combined Authority Board 30 June 2021 - Item 4.3 refers](#)