



**CAMBRIDGESHIRE
& PETERBOROUGH**
COMBINED AUTHORITY

Agenda Item No: 7

Climate Action Plan

To: Audit & Governance Committee

Meeting Date: 27 January 2023

Public report: Yes

From: Adrian Cannard
Strategic Planning Manager

Recommendations: The Audit & Governance Committee is recommended to:

- a) Note the revised Terms of Reference for the Climate Working Group.

Voting arrangements: A simple majority of all Members

1. Purpose

- 1.1 To update members on the governance of the Climate Working Group that developed and is now implementing 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 a multi-sector Climate Working Group to develop an Action Plan. The Climate Action Plan 2022-2025 was agreed at Board in March 2022. The Climate 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 The governance arrangements of the Climate Working Group were reported to Audit & Governance Committee in March 2022.
- 2.4 In November 2022 the Climate Working Group considered activity to date on the Climate Action Plan. As part of this, the Group considered updates to its Terms of Reference to reflect moving from the stage of developing the Action Plan to the delivery phase. These are attached as Appendix A and B.
- 2.5 The substantive changes to the Terms are to give a clearer focus on adaptation/resilience as an essential component of its work. The group also considered that Climate Partnership is a name that better reflects its ways of working and its membership. This name also avoids confusion with the supporting programme management arrangements (including multi-agency officer working groups). Other minor changes update the Terms to reflect the fact that the Action Plan has been approved.

3. Next Steps

- 3.1 A full monitoring report on the Action Plan, any revised actions, and the governance changes will be considered at the Combined Authority Board in March 2023.
- 3.2. It is anticipated that Climate activity will in future be a focus of the proposed Environment and Sustainable Communities Committee (subject to January Board decision on changes to Combined Authority committee structures).

Significant Implications

4. Financial Implications

- 4.1 The Combined Authority made provision in the MTFP for capital and revenue projects to take forward specific actions in the Climate Action Plan. Progress on the Business Cases for these projects was considered by Overview & Scrutiny Committee in November 2022, per link below.

5. Legal Implications

- 5.1 This report is for progress update only; there are no legal implications.

6. Public Health Implications

- 6.1 Evidence work highlights 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.

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.

- 7.2 In June 2022 the government published the latest estimates of end-user greenhouse gas emissions for local authority areas in the UK. 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 ktCO₂e 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.

8. Appendices

- 8.1 Appendix A – Updated Terms of Reference for the Climate Working Group – clean version
- 8.2. Appendix B – Updated Terms of Reference for the Climate Working Group – tracked changes version.

9. Background Papers

- 9.1 Audit & Governance meeting: [March 2022](#)
- 9.2 Overview & Scrutiny meeting: [November 2022](#)
- 9.3 Combined Authority Board meeting: Climate Action Plan approval: [March 2022](#)