



**CAMBRIDGESHIRE
& PETERBOROUGH**
COMBINED AUTHORITY

Agenda Item No: 3.1

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Independent Commission on Climate: Full Report

To:	Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority Board
Meeting Date:	24 November 2021
Public report:	Yes
Lead Member:	Councillor Smith, Lead Member for the Environment and Climate Change
From:	Paul Raynes, Director of Strategy
Key decision:	Yes
Forward Plan ref:	KD2021/025
Recommendations:	<p>The Combined Authority Board is recommended to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) Thank the Commissioners for their work in developing the climate recommendations.b) Support the Commission's call for more devolved funding to implement the recommendations.c) Agree the development of actions to implement the CPCA recommendations in Appendix 2, subject to appropriate funding and business case assessments.d) Request the Climate Working Group consider the additional recommendations for other stakeholders in Appendix 3 as part of its work on the action plan due in February 2022.e) Note the recommendation on the future of the Commission and invite officers to develop revised terms of reference with the Chair of the Commission.
Voting arrangements:	A simple majority of all Members present and voting

To be carried, the vote must include the vote of the Mayor, or the Deputy Mayor when acting in place of the Mayor.

1. Purpose

- 1.1 To agree a response to the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Independent Commission on Climate additional recommendations.

2. Background

- 2.1 The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Independent Commission on Climate (the Commission) published its full report on 18 October. This provided updates to its March report and made 27 new recommendations. These new recommendations are for action to be taken by the Combined Authority, individuals, businesses, organisations and all tiers of government.
- 2.2 The Board agreed in June 2021 a response to the 31 initial recommendations of Independent Commission on Climate, initially focussing on actions as they relate to the Combined Authority. A range of actions to address the Combined Authority's operations were endorsed at the October Board. The multi-stakeholder Climate Working Group has been asked to prepare a more developed action plan for the recommendations. The October Board also agreed that this action plan be developed by February 2022.
- 2.3 The Environmental Recovery Group established as part of the Covid-19 response has been reconvened to provide a senior officer group to support the Climate Working Group. Its membership will be expanded to include the senior officer leads on climate from each council and an invitation will be extended to the NHS to join the group. This provides a link to the existing best practice on climate issues in the area and can draw upon local climate action plans and organisations' climate ambitions.
- 2.4 The United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26) was held in Glasgow this month. This considered nations plans to reduce emissions and whether the world is on track to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees. To have a chance to achieve this, COP26 heard that global emissions must halve by 2030 and reach net-zero by 2050. Reducing emissions from Cambridgeshire and Peterborough is part of this wider picture and the Commission's report underlines that.
- 2.5 Strengthening the ability to adapt to climate change impacts is an equally important element as mitigating emissions. This includes the need to deal with economic and non-economic harms caused by climate change impacts. The Commission makes recommendations on adaptation issues in its report.
- 2.5 The Commission's report updates emission figures and adds new themes:
 - Financing
 - A just transition
 - Business, commerce and waste
 - Adapting to climate change
 - Nature-led solutions and water
- 2.6 The report includes 27 additional recommendations, of which 12 are directed at the CPCA, 3 are for government, 6 for businesses, and 10 reference local councils or their core activities (some overlap). The recommendations aimed at the CPCA are summarised in Appendix 2, and other organisations in Appendix 3. The Commission particularly focuses on the challenge of how to ensure that changes are as equitable as possible, and

vulnerable residents and communities supported.

- 2.7 The report recommends that a blend of additional government funding, public and private investment, and behaviour change is required. The Commission calls for significant additional funding to be devolved to the area to implement the recommendations. The scope of the Combined Authority and others to respond is very dependent on the opportunities for future funding arising from the Spending Review, implementation of the Shared Prosperity Fund and other future devolved funding, as local funding is heavily constrained. Appendix 4 maps the CPCA recommendations against two criteria, cost to deliver and relative impact on greenhouse gas emissions or adaptation. This type of analysis will inform the development of specific action responses.
- 2.8 The Government has updated national emissions data to 2019 but also changed the methodology to include emissions from peatland. Given the extensive area of the Fens this change adds 33% to estimated all-source emissions in the CPCA area. The Commission recognises the uncertainty with the underlying data on peat emissions and mapping of remaining peat deposits. It therefore provides per capita rates without the contributions from peat – however, there was little change in the relative rates from 2018 to 2019, with a per capita average that remains 25% higher than the UK.
- 2.9 The Commission’s report highlights the slow national progress on adapting to the risks from the changing climate already locked in due to past emissions. It highlights the increasing risks to Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, particularly flooding and overheating. It makes recommendations on adaptation and risk assessment, particularly the role of nature-led solutions. Actions for the CPCA already considered by the Board would support this theme, such as developing the pump-priming Fund for Nature and more climate-based risk assessments. The Local Resilience Forum provides the fora to discuss and make plans to mitigate risks.
- 2.10 There is a strong link from adaptation across to the just transition theme, because funding of infrastructure to reduce risks can impact on future utility bills, affect the viability of new development, and/or impact on vulnerable communities. The just transition theme picks up on the feedback that residents least able to enact change were also those most exposed to the negative impacts of climate change, or disengaged from decisions. It recommends a set of principles to be used in decision making (Appendix 1). These emphasise tailored support to reflect local circumstances, communication, and increased engagement. These principles needed to be seen in the context of not overriding requirements to take into account statutory responsibilities, and that decisions often needed to balance sometimes conflicting factors.
- 2.11 The business theme recommends a focus on green skills, net zero economy, and encouraging innovation. This is in line with the emerging work on the CPCA’s economic and skills strategies.
- 2.12 The waste theme falls outside the CPCA’s statutory responsibilities. Councils have worked jointly through the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Waste Partnership (RECAP) since 1999. This has overseen the significant increase in recycling rates. Various trials are underway to reduce emissions, including vehicles with electrically powered bin hoppers and a fully electric vehicle. RECAP are awaiting the government’s Resources and Waste Strategy to update the Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy (2008-2022) which will inform the response the recommendations.

- 2.13 Finally the Commission recommends that there is an ongoing need for an independent oversight of progress, and the scope for future review of the evidence base. It suggests funding of a small secretariat function and for the Commission to continue and undertake one or two 'deep dives' on specific issues, with annual reporting and a refresh of their recommendations by the end of 2023. The Board is invited to agree that appropriate revisions to the Commission's terms of reference should be made to enable this ongoing role.

Significant Implications

3. Financial Implications

- 3.1 Proposed actions with budget implications in the Action Plan will be brought forward in line with the Assurance Framework requirements and are being considered as part of the ongoing Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) process.

4. Legal Implications

- 4.1 None.

5. Other Significant Implications

- 5.1 Addressing climate change has potentially significant equalities implications. The second report of the CPICC contains recommendations relating to equality and fairness under the heading "Just Transition".

6. Appendices

- 6.1 Appendix 1 – Commission recommended Just Transition principles
6.2 Appendix 2 – Recommendations for the Combined Authority
6.3 Appendix 3 – Actions to be considered via the Climate Working Group and individual organisations.
6.4 Appendix 4 – Indicative cost and impact of actions
6.5 Accessible versions are available on request from democratic.services@cambridgeshirepeterborough-ca.gov.uk

7. Background Papers

- 7.1 [Full report of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Independent Commission on Climate Change](#)
7.2 [Combined Authority Board 27 October 2021 - Items 2.4, 2.5 and 2.6 refers](#)
7.3 [Combined Authority Board 30 June 2021 - Item 4.3 refers](#)