



**CAMBRIDGESHIRE  
& PETERBOROUGH**  
COMBINED AUTHORITY

Agenda Item No: 4.3

## Climate Change

To:	Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority Board
Meeting Date:	30 June 2021
Public report:	Yes
Lead Member:	Mayor Dr Nik Johnson
From:	Paul Raynes, Director of Delivery and Strategy
Key decision:	Yes
Forward Plan ref:	2021/023
Recommendations:	<p>The Combined Authority Board is recommended to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a) Agree the response to the Independent Commission on Climate initial recommendations as set out in Appendix 1; and</li><li>b) Approve £50,000 from the allocated climate change budget for development of the Commission's final recommendations.</li></ul>
Voting arrangements:	A simple majority of all Members present and voting

## 1. Purpose

- 1.1 To agree a response to the Initial Recommendations of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Independent Commission on Climate.
- 1.2 To approve the budget allocation to support the work of the Commission during 2021/22.

## 2. Background

- 2.1. The Combined Authority set up the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Independent Commission on Climate, under the chairmanship of Baroness Brown, to examine the local causes and local impacts of climate change and to make recommendations on actions needed to meet the statutory target of net zero carbon emissions by 2050 in this area.
- 2.2. The Commission published its initial report on 15 March, covering transport, buildings, energy and peat, and also made a number of overarching recommendations. The Commission's recommendations were reported to the March Board meeting and the Board agreed to prepare a response. The Commission's report provides a local evidence base – including the results of public engagement with communities in Greater Cambridgeshire – and makes locally-tailored recommendations to underpin action on the local causes and impacts of climate change. Few areas are in this position.
- 2.3. The Commission found that emissions per person in the Combined Authority area were above average and have been reducing more slowly than nationally. The area also has specific vulnerabilities to the impact of a changing climate, especially concerning overheating, water supply and flood risk. Although residents with higher incomes on average generated higher emissions per head, residents on some of the lowest incomes had high emissions. In many cases those residents live or work in areas of higher climate risks. The Commission also found that at current rates the area would within 6-9 years exceed its share of the global emissions need to keep global temperatures below 2°C.

### **Key implications for the Combined Authority**

- 2.4. The Commission's recommendations provide the opportunity for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough to endorse an urgent and effective collective approach to tackle climate change. This would be the first phase of an action plan. It can be further developed following receipt of the Commission's second report later in the year.
- 2.5. The second report will cover issues relating to business, and to "just transition" – the need to ensure that climate action does not disadvantage or stigmatise communities and individuals who already face challenges and would find it very hard to adapt their lifestyles to low-carbon norms. This will be particularly important for areas within Cambridgeshire and Peterborough where high car use is an inevitable feature of life, homes are often not built to high environmental standards, and average incomes are low. The Combined Authority will wish to pay close attention to this issue.
- 2.6. Of the Commission's 31 recommendations, 6 are aimed at government or its regulators and seek to give local partners the powers and funding they need to take effective action. The Combined Authority will press government to respond to those recommendations.

- 2.7. The remaining 25 recommendations, all call on the Combined Authority to take action or cover topics in which it has a contribution to make. Many are also addressed to the Combined Authority's member councils.
- 2.8. Appendix 1 sets out a proposed response to those recommendations. This response has been prepared by Combined Authority officers working with officers from member councils and has been discussed by the Growth Ambition Board, which is composed of Chief Executives and other senior officers from member councils. That reflects the fact that effective collaborative arrangements on the practical implementation and funding issues will be crucial. The aim of joint working is to identify the many areas where collective action can achieve more than organisations acting in isolation. The Climate Working Group established in response to recommendation 1, to be chaired by the Mayor, will oversee this collaboration, and will be supported by an action-focussed group at officer level.
- 2.9. It is recognised the constituent councils have their own climate strategies or local ambitions, and a range of ongoing activities. The response in Appendix 1 sets out the aspirations and actions for the Combined Authority. It does not override the ability of local areas to determine their own targets and climate policies taking into account their specific circumstances. The Commission was clear that circumstances did differ across the Combined Authority area, and so might the mitigation or adaptation actions needed. 13 of the recommendations refer to the role of councils.
- 2.10. The Combined Authority has already committed to activity that will progress the Commission's recommendations. An early review of the Local Transport Plan is being undertaken and includes a specific examination of the strategy for alternative fuelled vehicles and their infrastructure needs. This is complimented by the Bus Strategy Review that is looking to transform public transport provision. Other activity underway includes on skills, with the latest allocation of adult skill funding including support to enable the workforce to adapt to the growing needs of low carbon business activity and growth in retrofit/green construction.

### **The impact on communities and residents**

- 2.11. The Commission highlighted that the impacts of a changing climate in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, such as flooding or overheating, could fall disproportionately on those least able to respond. This could also be the case for the costs of mitigation and/or adaptation. The Commission is examining how mitigating and adapting to climate change can be achieved in a fair manner and will report its findings in its final report.

## **Significant Implications**

### **3. Financial Implications**

- 3.1. There is a budget allocation of £100,000 in the MTP for 2021/22 for the climate commission activity. £50,000 was approved at March Board for the peat research activity. Approval of the remaining £50,000 is required to support the development of the second phase of the Commission's report, due in autumn 2021. Further proposals for budget allocations needed to implement individual recommendations will be developed through the Climate Working Group and brought back to the Board in due course.

## 4. Legal Implications

4.1. None.

## 5. Other significant implications

5.1. There are significant and increasing social, economic and environmental risks to residents, business and quality of life in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough arising from a changing climate over the next 80 years (as set out in report on risks prepared by the University of Cambridge). Without mitigation of emissions, flood risk could increase by a factor of 10, with 1 in 10 homes in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough at risk of flooding, and 1 in 4 agricultural and industrial facilities. If globally temperatures are heading to a temperature rise closer to 3°C, by 2100 winter rainfall could be 50% higher and summer 60% lower. Summer temperatures could regularly reach 40°C. The extent of those risks depend on progress on reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases, but certain changes to climate are already happening and need to be adapted to.

5.2. The need to reduce the emission of greenhouse gases, and adapt to a climate with more extremes, will have significant implications for both the Combined Authority's operations and the area as a whole. How we work, travel, and the quality of our natural environment all need to be considered. For example, emissions from surface transport (road and rail) make up around 44% of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in CPCA, a significantly higher share than in the UK (37%).

5.3. A changing climate provides not just risks but can also include opportunities through the growth or creation of new industries, new technologies or different agricultural growing conditions. The Commission highlighted that action on climate can also have a range of co-benefits – such as emissions reduction leading to improved air quality, the health and wellbeing aspects of improved green spaces, or reductions in fuel poverty through more efficient buildings. The Combined Authority and Business Board's programmes of activity will look to maximise those co-benefits and opportunities.

## 6. Appendices

6.1. Appendix 1 – Response to the Independent Cambridgeshire Commission on Climate.

## 7. Background Papers

7.1 Initial report, Cambridgeshire Peterborough Independent Commission on Climate, March 2021:

[https://f.hubspotusercontent40.net/hubfs/6985942/CLIMATE%20COMMISSION%20REPORT\\_Final.pdf](https://f.hubspotusercontent40.net/hubfs/6985942/CLIMATE%20COMMISSION%20REPORT_Final.pdf)

7.2 Preliminary report on Risk, University of Cambridge.

[https://f.hubspotusercontent40.net/hubfs/6985942/Preliminary%20report%20on%20climate%20risk%20in%20the%20Cams%20Peterborough%20region%202020-2099\\_final.pdf](https://f.hubspotusercontent40.net/hubfs/6985942/Preliminary%20report%20on%20climate%20risk%20in%20the%20Cams%20Peterborough%20region%202020-2099_final.pdf)