



**CAMBRIDGESHIRE
& PETERBOROUGH**
COMBINED AUTHORITY

Agenda Item No: 10

Report title: Climate Change Commission

To: Audit and Governance Committee

Meeting Date: 25th June 2021

Public report: Public Report

From: Paul Raynes
Director for Delivery and Strategy

Recommendations: The Audit and Governance Committee is recommended to:
a) Note the content of this report.

1. Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to describe the development of climate change recommendations through the work of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Independent Commission on Climate.

2. Background

- 2.1 On 27 November 2019 the Combined Authority Board approved the establishment of an Independent Commission on Climate Change. The Board authorised the chief executive, in consultation with the Mayor, to appoint a chairperson and members of the Commission (none of the roles to be remunerated). It was to include a broad spread of expertise with at least four members each from business and the voluntary/community sector.
- 2.2 The Commission has been established, and is led by Dame Julia King, Baroness Brown of Cambridge. It presented its first report in March 2021 and will present its second report in Autumn 2021. In its first report the Commission has made 31 recommendations for action.
- 2.3 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.

- 2.4 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 also 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 exceed its share of the global emissions need to keep global temperatures below 2oC within 6-9 years.

DEVELOPING THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.5 The Commission split its activity into two phases. The first phase looked at climate related risks for the Combined Authority area and provided recommendations on the topics of transport, buildings, energy and peat. It also looked at what advice could be given to residents on how they could individually help to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to a changing climate. The second phase, currently underway, is looking at business, innovation, adaptation to a changing climate, nature-based solutions, water, and how to ensure that outcomes are fair.
- 2.6 The approach the Commission took to develop its independent recommendations was to convene sub-groups on each topic, each led by a Commissioner and co-opting additional advisers and guest speakers from that field of interest. That approach was supported by the national evidence and advice, local research studies and online surveys. The existing activity of councils was input through an analysis of existing and emerging climate change strategies and policies, and officer input on specific topics.
- 2.7 National evidence and advice is available through the Climate Change Committee. The Climate Change Committee (CCC) is an independent, statutory body established under the Climate Change Act 2008. Its purpose is to advise on emissions targets and to report to Parliament on progress made in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and preparing for and adapting to the impacts of climate change. Dame Julia King is also the Chair of the CCC's Adaptation committee. During work on phase one the Committee published its Sixth Carbon Budget, updating the trajectory of emissions targets.
- 2.8 The Commission also undertook two research studies: one on climate risks from the University of Cambridge and one on a net-zero carbon road-map (looking at the carbon reduction effectiveness of different measures, and the costs of such measures) from the University of Leeds. The climate risks study provided the Commission with the long-term impacts of a changing climate under different emissions scenarios and highlighted different vulnerabilities of the Combined Authority area as a result. This will also feed into the second phase, which is looking at how the area can adapt to the changing climate that is already happening.
- 2.9 The University of Leeds net-zero road map analysis provided the Commission with a view on what the most cost and carbon effective measures might be. The Commission did not, in its initial recommendations, identify how (and by whom) costs of implementation might be met. It noted that costs might have a disproportionate impact on residents less able to

respond and so has set up a sub-group to provide recommendations on that issue for the second phase.

- 2.10 The Commission launched its report in March 2021. The March meeting of the Combined Authority Board welcomed the report and the work of the Commission. It agreed that a climate action plan responding to the recommendations for the Combined Authority be developed with the input of councils and be brought to a future Board meeting. Discussions have subsequently been had with officers and leaders of the councils on the recommendations and the potential routes to implement them, including a comparison with the climate change ambitions and strategies of each council. That work is ongoing and a report on the action plan is scheduled to be debated at the June Board meeting.

3. Financial Implications

- 3.1 There is an agreed budget of £100k/annum for the Commission's research, public engagement, and development of its recommendations.
- 3.2 Costs of implementation of the Commission's recommendations need to be identified as part of the action planning process. The Commission's evidence base does provide the Combined Authority with a strong basis for securing additional funding from government and other sources into the area.

4. Legal Implications

- 4.1 None

5. Other Significant Implications

5.1 **EQUALITIES IMPLICATION**

- 5.2 The Commission identified the climate change risks to the Combined Authority area. Their initial recommendations seek to mitigate those risks by reducing the emission of greenhouse gases (which will also have beneficial impacts on air quality and the health implications). Implementing the recommendations can have a range of equalities co-benefits, such as improved access to greenspace or improved public transport. However, depending on the nature of the response there is a risk of reinforcing inequalities. The Commission has a specific workstream ongoing that is looking at how mitigating and adapting to a changing climate can be achieved in a manner that supports those less able to respond and supports the sustainable growth of our communities, environment and economy.

6. Appendices

- 6.1 Appendix 1 - Summary of the Recommendations.

7. Background Papers

- 7.1 [Report to CPCA Board, 27th November 2019](#)
- 7.2 [Initial report of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Independent Commission on Climate \(also contains the link to the University of Leeds report, and University of Cambridge report on risks\).](#)

Appendix 1: Summary of the Commission's recommendations

In this Appendix, each recommendation of the Independent Commission is summarised in the table to highlight the topic area it covers. The full text of the recommendations as provided by the Commission can be found here: <https://cambridgeshirepeterborough-ca.gov.uk-6985942.hs-sites.com/cpicc-initial-report>.

Summary of the Independent Commission's recommendations
Overarching 1: A Climate Cabinet chaired by the Mayor, a climate action plan, and officer capacity to implement. Arrangements for independent monitoring.
Overarching 2: A climate change assessment undertaken for all decisions
Overarching 3: Net zero target of 2030 for CPCA and Council operations
Overarching 4: Assess opportunities for green finance
Overarching 5: Lead engagement with local people and businesses
Overarching 6: Leadership role in Doubling Nature
Overarching 7: Training and upskilling to support climate response
Overarching 8: Support innovation and net-zero business opportunities
Overarching 9: Broker and invest in demo projects for decarbonisation
Overarching 10: Government to devolve increased funding
Overarching 11: Government to require higher standards for development
Transport 1: Develop a plan for rollout of charging infrastructure, focused on districts with lowest levels
Transport 2: Buses to be zero emission by 2030 (2025 on CPCA subsidised routes), taxi 30% by 2025, council fleets by 2030
Transport 3: Reduction in car miles driven by 30%, prioritise alternatives to road investment, and implement a Bus Review
Transport 4: Diesel vans and trucks to be excluded from urban centres by 2030
Building 1: Support local energy planning
Building 2: New buildings net zero ready by 2023, and with tighter water efficiency
Building 3: New developments must prioritise sustainable principles, including biodiversity and transport
Building 4: All buildings, starting in 2025 with the most inefficient, to have renovation plans to full decarbonisation. Roll out retrofit of measures.
Building 5: Performance to reflect real world use and effective enforcement
Building 6: CPCA and councils own estate is net zero by 2030, plans by 2025
Energy 1: Develop a local energy plan
Energy 2: Prioritise consideration of hydrogen from surplus electricity generation
Energy 3: OfGem to allow investment ahead of need
Energy 4: OfGem to reduce connection charges for decarbonisation projects
Energy 5: Government to clarify hydrogen potential in gas grid
Energy 6: Simplify schemes for local energy projects
Peat 1: Funding for a Peat Committee to inform the evidence base on emissions
Peat 2: More funding for scientific evidence and best practice
Peat 3: Develop role of County Farms as exemplars
Peat 4: Consult and develop a vision and strategy for the Fens that takes account of economic impact.