



**CAMBRIDGESHIRE  
& PETERBOROUGH**  
COMBINED AUTHORITY

Agenda Item No: 3.4

## Climate Change Action Plan

To:	Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority Board
Meeting Date:	30 March 2022
Public report:	Yes
Lead Member:	Councillor Bridget Smith, Lead Member for the Environment and Climate Change
From:	Paul Raynes, Director of Delivery and Strategy
Key decision:	Yes
Forward Plan ref:	2022/001
Recommendations:	The Combined Authority Board is recommended to:  Agree the Climate Action Plan.
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.

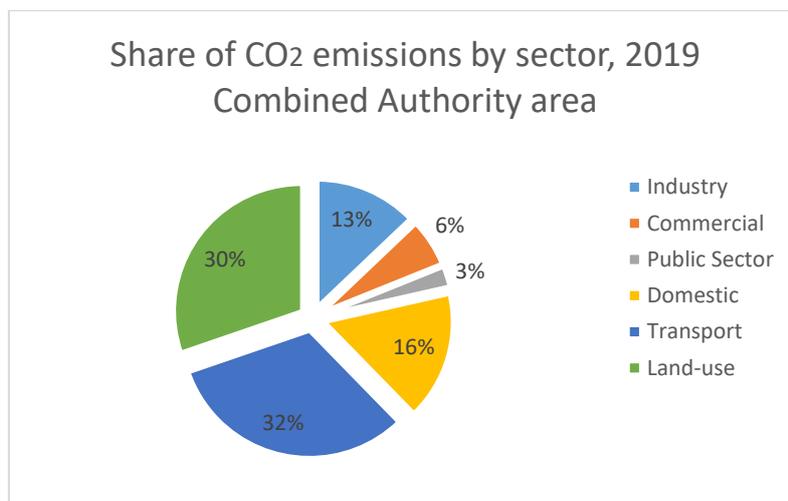
## 1. Purpose

- 1.1 To agree the Climate Action Plan recommended by the Climate Working Group. This sets out strategic actions on climate issues for implementation by the Combined Authority in collaboration with other organisations over the period 2022-2025.

## 2. Background

- 2.1 The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Independent Commission on Climate launched its full report October 2021. Its recommendations were considered at the November CPCA Board meeting. The Board agreed that a Climate Working Group (comprising the Leaders or nominees and representatives of business, housebuilders, environmental groups, climate groups, government and infrastructure providers) should develop a cross-sector Action Plan by February 2022, to be considered by the CPCA Board in March 2022.
- 2.2 The Climate Working Group convened in December, chaired by the Mayor. Technical support for developing the Action Plan was provided by Climate Working Group (Officers) group, chaired by a Director from Cambridgeshire County Council. Further technical input on individual themes was led by representatives of existing specialist groups.
- 2.3 The Climate Working Group and the Officer Group have met monthly. A three-stage approach was adopted to fit the timeline: initial mobilisation; gap analysis (January); action planning (February). The recommended Action Plan is attached as Appendix 1.
- 2.4 The Climate Working Group agreed to focus on developing a set of actions that could be implemented over the period to 2025, with a regular review process to monitor progress and update actions. The Climate Working Group acknowledged the breadth of individual actions that participant organisations were taking to mitigate and adapt to climate change, and associated actions such as reducing economic inequalities. In order to focus the action plan on additionality they set out five principles to guide the identification of new actions:
  - Is the action establishing the crucial building blocks to support the whole range of Climate Commission recommendations?
  - Is the action bigger than any one organisation to scope and/or deliver?
  - Does the action directly cut carbon emissions or improve nature?
  - Can the action deliver adaptation benefits in addition to carbon emissions or nature improvement?
  - Will the action have a strategic impact to make best use of the resources we have?
- 2.5 Excluding those actions to be taken forward by individual organisations, the majority of the Commission's recommendations are addressed in this Climate Action Plan. The exceptions are collective net zero standards for new buildings, waste targets and a long-term vision for the Fens. All three of these topics are subject to emerging government policy. Developing the actions under the various themes (such as transport, waste etc) were led by officers or organisations operating in that space.
- 2.6 Public sector CO<sub>2</sub> emissions comprised 3% of the total attributed to the Combined Authority area in 2019 (based on the latest data from BEIS) as shown on the graphic. Public bodies, including constituent members of the Combined Authority, are taking their own actions to

mitigate emissions under their control through decarbonisation schemes and specific action plans. The Climate Action Plan 2022-2025 recognises that and focuses on additional collaborative action that can be delivered at a Cambridgeshire and Peterborough level.



- 2.7 Since 2005 the carbon emissions attributed to the area have decreased by 24% from 9.5 million tonnes to 7.2 million tonnes. These reductions are largely due to the decarbonisation of electricity generation for domestic, commercial and industrial usage, plus energy efficiency. This decrease is against the backdrop of the rising population and economic growth in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough over that period. However, acceleration of this change is needed to meet the carbon reduction pathway recommended by the Independent Commission. The Climate Action Plan acknowledges that significant behaviour change and funded interventions are needed to support this shift.
- 2.8 The Climate Working Group has agreed to reconvene to consider proposals for monitoring and supporting the Action Plan.

## Significant Implications

### 3. Financial Implications

- 3.1 The Climate Action Plan has financial implications for the Combined Authority. Directly, it contains a set of costed proposals for action by the Combined Authority totalling £10.5m. These are consistent with the Medium Term Financial Plan budget allocations on climate-related activity agreed at January 2022 Board (subject to approval of relevant business cases). The Climate Action Plan also identifies policy development activity where interventions need to be scoped, such as financial mechanisms to increase investment in infrastructure. As per the Constitution any financial requirements will be brought to the Board for consideration.
- 3.2 The Climate Action Plan recommends that the impacts of the changing climate and the need to respond are considered in the ongoing revisions to the Local Transport and Connectivity Plan and the Economic Growth and Skills Strategy, both of which will guide future expenditure. This is underway in the development of those strategies.

## 4. Legal Implications

4.1 None.

## 5. Public Health Implications

5.1 The Climate Action Plan has positive implications for public health. It has a specific action to support coordinated work with the new Integrated Care System organisation on the green plan for the NHS. This promotes the link between taking action on climate and a range of health benefits, such as improving air quality. The Climate Action Plan also identifies funding allocated by the Combined Authority to enable care homes to invest in climate adaptation measures.

## 6. Environmental and Climate Change Implications

6.1 The Climate Action Plan has positive implications for the environment and climate change. As well as climate change mitigation and adaptation aspects, the Plan promotes wider use of nature-based climate solutions which will also benefit nature and the environment.

## 7. Other Significant Implications

7.1 The Climate Action Plan recognises that there are existing inequalities in the area that would be negatively impacted by the changing climate (as some of the more vulnerable areas are where residents and business have the least capacity to respond). It encourages appropriate action to support the costs of transition.

## 8. Appendices

8.1 Appendix 1 – Climate Action Plan

8.2 An accessible version of Appendix 1 is available on request from [Adrian.Cannard@cambridgeshirepeterborough-ca.gov.uk](mailto:Adrian.Cannard@cambridgeshirepeterborough-ca.gov.uk)

## 9. Background Papers

9.1 [Full report of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Independent Commission on Climate Change](#)

9.2 [Combined Authority Board 24 November 2021 - Item 3.1 refers](#)

9.3 [Combined Authority Board 27 October 2021 - Items 2.5 refers](#)

9.4 [Combined Authority Board 30 June 2021 - Item 4.3 refers](#)