

Climate Change Strategy Task and Finish Group

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Cabinet Member: Cllr David Hall

Division and Local Member: N/A

1. Summary

- 1.1. During the Somerset County Council Full Council meeting of 20 February 2019, the Council affirmed its recognition of the scale and urgency of the global challenge from climate change and declared a 'Climate Emergency'
- 1.2. At the SCC Scrutiny Committee People and Place on 6 March 2019, it was recommended that a Task and Finish Group be formed to oversee the development of a Climate Change Strategy to be developed by Somerset County Council.
- 1.3. This report provides an update on progress to-date and recommends a scope for a cross-authority Joint Task and Finish Group.

2. Issues for consideration / Recommendations

- 2.1. That the Somerset County Council Scrutiny Committee People and Place recommends the formation of a Joint Task and Finish Group between Somerset County Council, Sedgemoor District Council, Mendip District Council, South Somerset District Council and Somerset West and Taunton Council
- 2.2. That the group be comprised of two members nominated by relevant Scrutiny committees from each of the respective Local Authorities.
- 2.3. That the Somerset County Council Scrutiny Committee People and Place recommend the proposed scope of the Joint Task and Finish Group

3. Background

- 3.1. During the Somerset County Council Full Council meeting of 20 February 2019, the Council affirmed its recognition of the scale and urgency of the global challenge from climate change and declared a 'Climate Emergency'.
- 3.2. The Policy and Place Scrutiny Committee were mandated to review and recommend what further corporate approaches can be taken through an SCC Climate Change Strategy and to facilitate stronger Somerset-wide action through collaboration at a strategic, community and individual level
- 3.3. At the SCC Scrutiny Committee People and Place on 6 March 2019, it was

recommended that a Task and Finish Group be formed to oversee the development of a Climate Change Strategy to be developed by Somerset County Council.

- 3.4. Conversations have subsequently been held between the Somerset County Council Economic and Community Infrastructure Director of Commissioning and her respective Somerset District Council equivalents. Through these conversations, it has been agreed by all parties that it would be most efficient, effective and economic for SCC and all District Councils to collectively develop a single Somerset-wide Climate change strategy.
- 3.5. Nominations have been received from each respective Local Authorities for officers to join an Officer Working Group to develop the strategy
- 3.6. To oversee the work, it is recommended that a cross-authority Joint Task and Finish Group be established
- 3.7. It is proposed that this group be comprised of two members nominated by relevant Scrutiny committees from each of Somerset County Council, Sedgemoor District Council, Mendip District Council, South Somerset District Council and Somerset West and Taunton Council to form a joint task and finish group to oversee the development of a Somerset-wide Climate Change Strategy
- 3.8. A proposed scope for this group has been developed and is presented as a Background Paper to this report.

4. Consultations undertaken

- 4.1. The proposals have been discussed with the Chair of Scrutiny People and Place at Somerset County Council
- 4.2. The proposals have also been discussed with the proposer and seconder of the original 'Climate Emergency' motion (Cllrs Munt and Hall respectively).

5. Implications

- 5.1. The implementation of an agreed Climate Change Strategy may have wide-ranging implications for SCC and District Council working policies, resources, estate and service delivery
- 5.2. Material changes will be subject to the agreed, constitutional decision making processes, where appropriate.

6. Background papers

- 6.1. Appendix A - Joint Task and Finish Group Scoping Document.