



**REPORT of
DIRECTOR OF STRATEGY, PERFORMANCE AND GOVERNANCE**

to
**COUNCIL
4 FEBRUARY 2021**

CLIMATE EMERGENCY STATEMENT

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To provide a Climate Emergency Statement for Member discussion and adoption.

2. RECOMMENDATION

That the Council adopts and publishes the Climate Emergency Statement attached at **APPENDIX 1**.

3. SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES

3.1 The Inter Parliamentary Climate Commission (IPCC) (United Nations) advise we have until 2030 to take urgent action on climate change in order to keep the earth's rising temperature below 1.5 degree Celsius. This means the current global target to cut carbon emissions by 80% by 2050 is simply not enough to avoid a catastrophic change in our climate.

3.2 Climate change is the biggest environmental threat that the world currently faces and Governments and Administrations worldwide have responded to the evolving climate change issue by committing to reduce carbon emissions in the coming decades. In June 2019, the UK Government set a legally binding target for the UK to achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.

3.3 Local Context

3.3.1 The District of Maldon is bounded by 70 miles of coast line and there are a number of areas around Mayland, Tollesbury and Goldhanger where sea defences are at risk of being below the acceptable level of protection, potentially causing flooding to valuable agricultural land.

3.3.2 Areas of air quality concern have also been identified within our District due to the use of older, more polluting heavy goods vehicles.

3.3.3 With the prospect of greater development occurring across the District and the increased risk of sea levels and rising pollution, we will seek to identify ways to reduce carbon emissions across Maldon, by developing strong partnership links,

improving transport initiatives, encouraging greener developments and supporting green infrastructure.

- 3.3.4 Declaring a Climate emergency will be the first step in working toward a cleaner and more sustainable Council working for the benefit of our residents and future generations.

3.4 Next Steps

- 3.4.1 Maldon District Council will be developing a Climate Strategy, to set out how we intend to protect the environment and work with partner to address climate change.

4. CONCLUSION

- 4.1 Business as usual is no longer an option and the publishing of a Climate Emergency Statement seeks to demonstrate Maldon District Councils commitment to playing its part in helping the District reduce carbon dioxide by agreeing to reduce carbon emissions and become a net zero carbon organisation by 2030.

5. IMPACT ON STRATEGIC THEMES

- 5.1 The Climate Emergency has a wide effect across our strategic themes, impacting on Place, Community and potentially the prosperity of the District.

6. IMPLICATIONS

- (i) **Impact on Customers** – Recognition of the Climate Emergency and development of a Climate Strategy will potentially benefit all customers.
- (ii) **Impact on Equalities** – None.
- (iii) **Impact on Risk** – Environmental impacts, including flooding and air quality are significant risks to the District.
- (iv) **Impact on Resources (financial)** – The statement will require no financial input, but the development and delivery of a Climate Strategy will require a financial commitment by the Council in due course.
- (v) **Impact on Resources (human)** – Officer time to develop the commitments in the Statement.
- (vi) **Impact on the Environment** – First step towards a zero carbon Maldon District
- (vii) **Impact on Strengthening Communities** – The Statement seeks to engage communities in the environmental action.

Background Papers: None.

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