



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

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**to  
STRATEGY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE  
11 NOVEMBER 2021**

**CLIMATE ACTION STRATEGY**

**1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

The purpose of this report is to seek approval for the Climate Action Strategy,  
**APPENDIX 1.**

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- (i) That the progress that has been made in developing the Climate Action Strategy through the work of the Climate Action Member Working Group be noted and its recommendation for approval acknowledged;

To the Council:

- (ii) that the Climate Action Strategy be approved and endorsed .

**3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 On 4 February 2021, the Council declared a Climate Emergency and stated it was the first step towards a cleaner and more sustainable Council, benefitting both residents and future generations.
- 3.2 Between the period of March 2021 and now, development of a Climate Action Strategy (the Strategy) has taken place and has been informed by officers from across the Council and by Members of the Climate Action Strategy Working Group.
- 3.3 The Strategy sets out the local and national picture, the 2050 carbon net zero target set by government and the pivotal role the Council has in helping to achieve these at a local level.
- 3.4 The Strategy sets out a number of Climate Action aspirations for the district, they are:
- a) To be a carbon neutral District by 2030 and ensure that all our strategic decisions, budgets and approaches to planning and regulatory decisions are in line with a shift to net-zero carbon by 2030;
  - b) To improve our flood resilience and defences to protect the land and homes in the District;
  - c) To lead by example as a local authority and encourage local businesses, residents and parishes to make positive changes;
  - d) To give our younger people a voice by launching the **Our Home, Our Future**, community engagement group;

- e) To challenge perceptions and encourage positive, long-term behaviour change leading to healthier, greener lives;
- f) To identify and deliver economic benefits, leading to sustainable businesses, energy and environment related skills and jobs;
- g) Give residents, businesses and visitors the choice and opportunity to make greener, less harmful decisions;
- h) Reduce use of oil, natural gas and coal. Support the energy sector generating green energy to secure, low cost and low carbon energy supply.

3.5 The Strategy then sets out the Council's willingness to take action through the following approach:

- a) Understand better the wider carbon footprints of residents and businesses caused by the energy and transport we use and the from the things we buy from around the world;
- b) Identify where we can influence and what we can directly control and act on to ensure we make a difference by 2030;
- c) To springboard action, the Council will align its pledges to the capabilities of its partners and adopt a partnership-based approach to local climate action. This approach will mobilise the energy and expertise of the private and public sector, as well as the wider community;
- d) Importantly, the Council will work hard to develop a climate funding plan to evidence the plan of action, to mobilise local savings and to attract wider pools of capital to fund the implementation of the action plan;
- e) Find out what residents and young people really think about climate change and give our young people a lead role in shaping their future. Understand perceptions and work with feedback and ideas to stimulate positive behaviour change, and local business and community led initiatives;
- f) Continue to lobby government and industry for substantial investment. As a local authority we have a role to lobby Westminster to provide the powers and resources to make all carbon reduction targets possible. Maldon District Council is committed but it needs a fair and inclusive transition to net zero;
- g) Finally, we must look outward and ensure Maldon District's Climate Annual Action Plan is aligned to [Essex County Council's Climate Action Commission](#), [Transport East](#), and links in with the Districts' and Boroughs' Climate Group, and further still listens to the insight from the [Place-Based Climate Action Network](#). We must also endorse and help to promote pilots and initiatives that the District will benefit from 'Cleaner, Greener, Healthier'.

3.6 The Strategy sets our five Climate Action Pledges. The pledges enables the Council to engage with communities, businesses, local and national partners by setting out five key priority areas, delivering a broad range of activities under each of the pledges, leading up to 2030.

3.7 The Climate Action Pledges are:

- a) Kick the car habit
- b) Create Less Waste
- c) Show Nature We Care
- d) Be an authority that Leads by Example
- e) Have a strong policy commitment to Climate Action.

- 3.8 The Strategy goes on to identify what we know about the District today in terms of Carbon Emissions, behaviours and recycling performance, and also sets out what further information and data is needed to inform the Climate Action work of the District, to help identify carbon reducing pathways.
- 3.9 Existing Policies and Strategies are listed, setting out the work that is already defined and carried out by current corporate plan, policies and strategies and further acknowledges current national policy.
- 3.10 It's important the work of the strategy is done in partnerships to enable the Council to have access to funding and shared resource, data and climate specific tools. The Council's current list of partners is set out in the Strategy, acknowledging this is not exhaustive but provides the main bodies and organisations.
- 3.11 The Strategy also sets out known grant funds and incentives and states that these are often available to residents, landlords, housing developers, businesses, community groups, schools and in some cases local authorities depending on the criteria for application and the responsibilities to spend monies.
- 3.12 A large part of delivering the Strategy will be through the "**Our Home, Our Future**" campaign. The aim is to develop a large database of local Climate Action Friends who will come together to drive behaviours change, share ideas and take forward local initiatives. We have already seen interest from local businesses, residents (both younger and older), churches and community groups who are keen to take part. Using an Asset Based Community Development approach (ABCD) which in-essence results in activity being led by the community - for the community. Through this approach we will aim to bring about positive and healthy changes, and to help each other understand what Climate Action can be taken forward. It also provides an opportunity to listen to the needs of our residents, visitors, schools and businesses to ensure all Climate Action is accessible and inclusive, and this means being affordable too.
- 3.13 The final section of the Strategy sets out next steps, including:
- a) Recruit a Climate Action Officer;
  - b) Climate Action Officer to produce 2022-2023 action plan, setting out outcomes for this period;
  - c) Continue to present strategy to partners and developers;
  - d) Launch the Our Home, Our Future engagement activities;
  - e) Set out short, medium, long-term actions, recognising some will be beyond 2030;
  - f) Gather local District data and set out known trends and behaviours;
  - g) Continue to build database of Climate Action Friends;
  - h) Commission carbon net zero pathways and opportunities District study;
  - i) Report on and monitor any committed, secured or allocated funding;
  - j) Review any announcements from COP26, UN Climate Change conference in November 2021.
- 3.14 An Equality Impact Assessment of the Climate Action Strategy is set out in **APPENDIX 2** for completeness.

## 4. CONCLUSION

- 4.1 Climate Action continues to be a priority topic for government. The Council is somewhat behind the curve in comparison to other local authorities and would benefit from having a Climate Action Strategy, to ensure it actively reduces impact and harm to the environment and to build resilience for the future.
- 4.2 Having a Climate Action Strategy will enable the Council to apply for funding to ensure better outcomes for the District and gain access to Climate Action tools and support both locally and nationally
- 4.3 The Strategy also provides a great opportunity to engage with the full spectrum of the community. It will give people a voice and a reason to come together to offer their time, skills, knowledge. Ideas can be shared about how lives can be lived and the changes that are needed, after what has been and is still a challenging time.

## 5. IMPACT ON STRATEGIC THEMES

- 5.1 The Climate Action Strategy provides co-benefit to the Strategic Themes of Place, Prosperity and Community and will assist the thematic strategies in achieving outcomes.

## 6. IMPLICATIONS

- (i) **Impact on Customers** – The Our Home, Our Future community engagement approach to the development of the Action plan will enable those that wish to engage with the Council in developing our Climate actions to do so effectively and help influence the creation of an updated and robust approach for the District.
- (ii) **Impact on Equalities** – Appropriate Equalities Impact Assessments will take place throughout the lifetime of the Climate Action Strategy to ensure requirements of the Equality Act 2010 and Human Rights Act 1998 are met. The initial assessment is set out in **APPENDIX 2**.
- (iii) **Impact on Risk** – The Climate Action Strategy will help the Council reduce the risk of carbon emission increase and being better prepared for when climate and environment legislation and standards come into force. It also reduces the risk of missing out on funding opportunities to support climate action and resilience for the authority and the district.
- (iv) **Impact on Resources (financial)** – Resource to deliver the work of the Climate Action Strategy is dependent on growth bid approval for 2022 - 2023. Further implications could arise from any decisions taken to 'green' corporate policy, contracts and any vehicle or machinery purchases. All future projects managed through the Project Management Office will include project costs relating to Climate Action.
- (v) **Impact on Resources (human)** – This is currently supported by existing officers, Members. If the growth bid is approved, a Climate Action Officer will be recruited, and they will deliver the programme of work.

- (vi) **Impact on the Environment** – Positive outcomes for the environment based on the aspirations and approach set out in the Climate Action Strategy.
- (vii) **Impact on Strengthening Communities** –Through the Our Home, Our Future campaign the Climate Action Strategy will provide an excellent opportunity for communities to engage in Climate Action. It should help to maximise engagement with communities and ensure that their perception and ideas and skills can be shared and considered in the formulation of the annual Climate Action Plan. Using an Asset Based Community Development Approach engagement will be coordinated ‘with’ and ‘by’ the community, for the community.

Background Papers: None.

Enquiries to: Paul Dodson, Director of Strategy, Performance and Governance.