



**REPORT of
DIRECTOR OF SERVICE DELIVERY**

**to
STRATEGY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE
16 MARCH 2023**

CLIMATE ACTION PLAN FOR 2023 / 24

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update Members on the Council's annual Climate Action Plan for 2023 / 24.

2. RECOMMENDATION

That Members' note the Council's annual Climate Change Action Plan for 2023 / 24 attached at **APPENDIX 1** and approve that it will be monitored quarterly via quarterly performance reports to the Performance, Governance and Audit Committee.

3. SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES

- 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 Following the declaration, the Council produced a Climate Action Strategy (CAS), which contains five pledges and over 60 actions. The CAS was adopted by the Council on 23 December 2021.
- 3.3 The agreed Climate Action Pledges are:
- Kick the Car Habit;
 - Create Less Waste;
 - Show Nature We Care;
 - Be an Authority that Leads by Example;
 - Have a Strong Policy Commitment to Climate Action.
- 3.4 As part of the CAS, the Council committed to developing a yearly Climate Action Plan (CAP). This would align to and complement existing national, regional and local policies and legislation, whilst promoting 'Cleaner, Greener, Healthier' pilots and initiatives that the District will benefit from.
- 3.5 The CAP will be delivered within existing resources, although external funding opportunities will also be sought. If funding constraints arise these will be reported.
- 3.6 The CAP 2023 / 24 (**APPENDIX 1**) has been developed over a period of four months, in collaboration with officers across all services and functions to ensure actions to be

delivered are SMART (Specific, Measurable, Agreed, Realistic and Time-Bound). These actions will be delivered holistically with these services.

- 3.7 The actions comprise of activities that will either be undertaken by the Council or in partnership. At a local level, the Council already works with several statutory bodies and local agencies. We will continue to work with them to progress the work of the CAS; an updated list of external partners is set out in the CAP 2023 / 24.
- 3.8 The CAP 2023 / 24 shows the priority actions aligned to each of the CAS Climate Action Pledges. All actions have been prioritised according to their impact on carbon emissions and their ability to kick-start the necessary change or generate the understanding needed to help us meet the aspiration be a carbon neutral District by 2030.
- 3.9 The actions and initiatives within the CAP have been categorised into short-, medium- and long-term objectives, where:

Short-term	Medium-term	Long -term
Actions that will be completed in 2023 / 24	Actions that begin in 2023 / 24 but are not due for completion until 2025 / 26. In this case updates will be published in annual action plans up to 2025 / 26.	Actions that begin in 2023 / 24 but are ongoing and updated in each annual action plan

- 3.10 The CAP 2023 / 24 sets out the community engagement activities that will take place during the period 2023 - 24. These will be implemented through an Asset-Based Community Development (ABCD) approach, which encourages communities and individual households to identify their existing assets and to use what they already have more efficiently and effectively to improve their own lives. It is based on three principles: 'everyone has gifts', 'relationships build a community' and 'start with what you have'.
- 3.11 The co-benefits of Climate Action have been identified against each pledge action and include improved health and wellbeing, increased social equity, economic opportunities and increased resilience to extreme weather events and rising fuel prices.
- 3.12 It should be noted that the CAP will evolve in response to emerging local, regional, and national policy and legislation.
- 3.13 The actions within the 2023 / 24 CAP will be monitored and reported quarterly through the Council's Performance, Governance and Audit Committee.

4. CONCLUSION

- 4.1 The CAP demonstrates strategy through to delivery and is a positive step to identifying ways to reduce carbon emissions and increase climate resilience across the District.
- 4.2 The CAP informs, helps enable, and updates the Maldon District community about the Council's work on the climate emergency.

- 4.3 Having a CAP will enable the Council to actively deliver against its Pledges, and will positively support bids for funding and tools, to ensure better outcomes for the District.

5. IMPACT ON STRATEGIC THEMES

- 5.1 The CAS 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 enables those that wish to engage with the Council, to develop 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** – Any activity undertaken as part of the CAP will be designed to enable all persons to engage to ensure there is a significant customer benefit from its outputs. This process will meet the Public Sector Equality Duty.
- (iii) **Impact on Risk** – The CAP will help the Council reduce the risk of carbon emission increase and be better prepared for when future climate and environment legislation and standards come into force.
- (iv) **Impact on Resources (financial)** – By having a robust CAP, it increases the authority and District's eligibility for funding opportunities to support climate action and resilience. Leveraging external funding will reduce the Council's own financial commitment to delivery.
- (v) **Impact on Resources (human)** – This work is being led by the Climate Action Lead Officer and they will collaborate with internal and external partners to deliver the programme of work.
- (vi) **Impact on the Environment** – Positive outcomes for the environment based on the actions. Supports the Council's aspiration to be a carbon neutral District by 2030.
- (vii) **Impact on Strengthening Communities** - Through the Our Home, Our Future campaign the CAP will provide increased opportunities for communities to engage in Climate Action. It will ensure that the community's perception, ideas and skills can be shared and considered in the formulation of the annual CAP. By using an ABCD Approach engagement will be coordinated 'with' and 'by' the community, for the community.

Background Papers:

Maldon District Council's [Climate Action Strategy - "Our Home, Our Future"](#)

YouTube video: - [kickstarting a climate action culture at mdc](#)

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