

Report of: Chief Officer, Sustainable Energy and Air Quality

Report to: Outer North East Community Committee – Alwoodley, Harewood & Wetherby

Report author: Polly Cook, 07891 270928

Date: 23 September 2019

For discussion

Outer North East Community Committee - Climate Emergency and Air Quality

Purpose of report

1. This report provides an overview of the presentation that will be given to the Community Committee, to provide background on the Climate Emergency and on-going work on air quality. It will explain both the climate emergency and the air quality agenda.

Main issues

2. In March 2019 the Council declared a climate emergency with the target to work towards net zero by 2030 for the whole city.
3. Alongside the climate emergency, the Council is also focused on increasing biodiversity across the city.
4. As part of the climate emergency declaration the council committed to undertake a city conversation that included residents, Trade Unions, public sector organisations, businesses and third sector.
5. As well as the introduction of the Clean Air Zone, there is also on-going work to improve the air quality of the city, including various measures such as a scoot to school scheme, anti-idling campaign, roll out of charge points, an electric van and electric bike scheme for businesses and continual communications work to promote behavioural change.

6. It is estimated that if we are to have a good chance of avoiding dangerous climate change – that is average warming above 1.5°C, the world can emit no more than 420 giga-tonnes of greenhouse gases by 2050. Leeds' share of this on a per capita basis is estimated at 42 mega-tonnes – this is in effect our city's carbon budget to 2050. If we were to carry on at our current rate of emissions, we would have used our total budget for the period to 2050 within just 9 years.
7. This is clearly not an issue that the Council can tackle on its own. Securing public, investor and business support for carbon reduction is essential. The Council, working in partnership with the Leeds Climate Commission, is holding a 'city conversation' on climate change and the local action required before returning to Executive Board with final recommendations by the end of the year. Beyond what organisations and individuals can do in the city, the report will also seek to articulate the support, both regulatory and financial, which will be required from Government to enable the targets to be met.
8. A presentation will be provided to the Community Committee to provide the following information:
 - Outline of the climate emergency, biodiversity and air quality challenges;
 - Key actions that individuals can take;
 - Overview of the climate conversation;
 - Feedback on response rate from area;
 - Direct engagement undertaken/ planned with area;
 - Local involvement in anti-idling campaign;
 - Community car free day roll out.

Options

9. Members are asked to:
 - Receive the presentation and to offer any feedback;
 - Provide feedback on the best way to engage with the local community, including potential to link in with the youth summit;
 - Highlight any locations in the area where there is scope to increase biodiversity;
 - Highlight any areas where idling is an issue and where the promotional banners could be used to best effect;
 - Identify any schools that may be interested in hosting car free days;
 - Identify any areas that may be interested in participating in a rolling programme of car free days in 2020.

Corporate considerations

Consultation and engagement

10. There is on-going public consultation on the climate emergency.

11. The Community Committee meeting will provide an opportunity for further engagement.

Equality and diversity/cohesion and integration

12. There are no equality and diversity, or cohesion and integration implications as a result of this report.

Council policies and the Best Council Plan

13. In March 2019, Full Council passed a resolution declaring a Climate Emergency and committing to hold a city conversation. The presentation outlined in the report provides detail on the approach.

Resources, procurement and value for money

14. There are no specific resource implications as a result of this report.

Legal implications, access to information, and call-in

15. There are no specific legal implications as a result of this report.

Risk management

16. There are no risk implications as a result of this report.

Conclusion

17. In March 2019 the Council declared a climate emergency with the target to work towards net zero by 2030 for the whole city.

18. This report provides an overview of the presentation given to the Community Committee, to provide background on the Climate Emergency and on-going work on air quality. It explains both the climate emergency and the air quality agenda.

Recommendations

19. Members are asked to:

- Receive the presentation and to offer any feedback;
- Provide feedback on the best way to engage with the local community, including potential to link in with the youth summit;
- Highlight any locations in the area where there is scope to increase biodiversity;
- Highlight any areas where idling is an issue and where the promotional banners could be used to best effect;
- Identify any schools that may be interested in hosting car free days;
- Identify any areas that may be interested in participating in a rolling programme of car free days in 2020.

Background information

20. None.