

Report of Head of Democratic Services

Report to Scrutiny Board (Environment, Housing and Communities)

Date: 25 February 2021

Subject: Climate Emergency - update

Are specific electoral wards affected? If yes, name(s) of ward(s):	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Has consultation been carried out?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Will the decision be open for call-in?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? If relevant, access to information procedure rule number: Appendix number:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

1. Purpose of this report

1.1 The purpose of this item is to provide the Scrutiny Board with an update about the work of the Council's Climate Emergency Advisory Committee and to provide an opportunity to explore the Annual Climate Emergency report.

2. Background information

2.1 In March 2019, Full Council passed a resolution declaring a Climate Emergency; Executive Board in April 2019 further considered the implications of this resolution. In May 2019, the Leader of Council reviewed the Executive arrangements for the authority to reflect the Council's policy objectives in this area, and the Climate Change Advisory Committee was established.

2.2 The first meeting of the Climate Change Advisory Committee was held on 2 July 2019. The Scrutiny Board (Environment, Housing and Communities) received an update on the Board's function and work priorities at its meeting on [12 September 2019](#). At that meeting members requested that the Scrutiny Board be kept updated on the progress of CEAC given the Scrutiny Board's remit incorporates oversight of decision making relating to climate change, sustainable energy and carbon reduction.

2.3 Also attached to this item is the [Annual Climate Emergency Report](#), which was provided to the Executive Board on [10 February](#) and sets out in particular detail the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on emissions in the city. The report further outlines how action to tackle to the climate emergency links to wider issues that are of interest

for this Scrutiny Board including reducing fuel poverty and delivering new jobs through the green economy.

3. Main issues

- 3.1 The Climate Emergency Advisory Committee was introduced following the declaration of Climate Emergency in March 2019. It is a cross party advisory committee authorised to consider and make recommendations regarding climate change and sustainability.
- 3.2 The attached annual report sets out the progress made by the main CEAC committee and each of its three current working groups. Those working groups have explored issues relating to biodiversity, planning and transport. The report further sets out the priorities for work programming within the committee and these working groups.
- 3.3 The report highlights the way in which CEAC has contributed to increasing public engagement and interest in citywide activity to tackle climate change. Particular attention is drawn to the open forum section of CEAC committee meetings and further information about the issues raised through this mechanism is set out in the appendix to the main annual report.
- 3.4 The Annual Climate Emergency Report highlights the complex effect the Covid-19 pandemic has had on emissions in the city and the ways in which recent progress can be consolidated as the city seeks to enter a long-term recovery.
- 3.5 Resourcing is noted as a specific ongoing challenge with the report also highlighting examples of successful funding to enable local investment and activity.

4. Consultation and engagement

- 4.1.1 This report provides the opportunity to engage with the Scrutiny Board in relation to ongoing work of the Climate Emergency Advisory Committee and progress towards emission reduction targets.

4.2 Equality and diversity / cohesion and integration

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

4.3 Council policies and the Best Council Plan

- 4.3.1 In March 2019, Full Council passed a resolution declaring a Climate Emergency and the Climate Emergency Advisory Committee was established to reflect the Council's policy objectives in this area.
- 4.3.2 The Scrutiny Board retains a significant interest in this agenda, which includes Best City and Best Council key performance indicators such as reduced carbon emission and the number of households in fuel poverty.

Climate Emergency

4.3.2 This item is entirely related to the Council's response to the declared climate emergency and progress towards associated priorities within the Best Council Plan.

4.4 Resources, procurement and value for money

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

4.5 Legal implications, access to information, and call-in

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

4.6 Risk management

4.6.1 This report has no specific risk management implications.

5 Conclusions

5.1 At the request of the Scrutiny Board, this report provides an opportunity to discuss the Annual Climate Emergency Report and to receive an update on the activity of the Council's Climate Emergency Advisory Committee.

6 Recommendations

6.1 Members are asked to note the content of this report.

7 Background documents¹

7.1 None.

¹ The background documents listed in this section are available to download from the council's website, unless they contain confidential or exempt information. The list of background documents does not include published works.