

Report on Climate Emergency Governance and Controls

Date: 24th September 2021

Report of: Chief Officer, Sustainable Energy and Air Quality

Report to: Report on Climate Emergency Governance and Controls

Will the decision be open for call in? Yes No

Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? Yes No

What is this report about?

Including how it contributes to the city's and council's ambitions

- A report has been requested by the Corporate Governance and Audit Committee to set out the governance and controls that are in place in relation to the Climate Emergency.
- This is the first time that such a report has been provided since the declaration of a Climate Emergency in 2019.
- Using the cycle of internal control framework, Members will be provided with an overview of how governance is managed in relation to the Climate Emergency.

Recommendations

- a) Members are requested to consider the governance and controls that are in place in relation to the climate emergency.

Why is the proposal being put forward?

- 1 The Chief Officer for Sustainable Energy and Air Quality has responsibility for ensuring that appropriate governance and controls are in place for both the Sustainable Energy and Air Quality team and their work programme, but also for ensuring that there is support for teams across the council to ensure that they properly consider the impact of their actions on the delivery of the climate emergency.
- 2 Attached as Appendix 1 is the first assurance report that has been developed and it sets out the current governance and controls that related to the climate emergency. It also reflects how governance/controls vary depending on the complexity of a specific project etc. as well as the requirement to ensure that any governance is proportionate to the work programme due to the limitations of resource.

What impact will this proposal have?

Wards Affected:

Have ward members been consulted? Yes No

- 3 Members will be able to gain insight on the different governance and controls that are in place and how they help to mitigate any potential risks.

What consultation and engagement has taken place?

- 4 This information is presented for information and comment.

What are the resource implications?

- 5 The governance described within this report is delivered within the existing resource and is considered to provide a balanced approach. An increase in reporting or governance would lead to a reduction in what the team can deliver in term of projects and given the need for swift action the focus must remain on delivery with an appropriate level of checks and balances in place.

What are the legal implications?

- 6 There are no legal implications arising from the report. Decisions taken with regards to capital investment or procurement are undertaken with due regard to the Council's framework for decision making. There are no implications for access to information; all of the procedures and protocols are already or can be available for public inspection.

What are the key risks and how are they being managed?

- 7 There are no specific risks raised by this report as the governance and controls are fit for purpose, embedded and routinely complied with.

Does this proposal support the council's 3 Key Pillars?

Inclusive Growth

Health and Wellbeing

Climate Emergency

- 8 The work undertaken to support the climate emergency primarily supports the climate emergency pillar but with frequent co-benefits within the two other pillars. For example, improving the quality of housing will help to reduce fuel bills and therefore associated cold related illnesses as well as providing opportunities for jobs, including apprenticeships. The team are undertaking a piece of work that focuses on promoting green jobs and skills in November that will again help both the climate emergency and inclusive growth.

Options, timescales and measuring success

a) What other options were considered?

9 Not applicable

b) How will success be measured?

10 Not applicable

c) What is the timetable for implementation?

11 Not applicable

Appendices

12 Appendix 1 – the assurance report for the Climate Emergency

Background papers

13 None