

## Environment and Sustainability Working Group – Draft Terms of Reference v1.1 – prepared November 2019.

### **1 Background**

The Council notes that the impacts of climate change are a cause of serious environmental issues both locally and around the world

The 'Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C', published by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change in October 2018

- (a) describes the enormous harm that a 2°C average rise in global temperatures is likely to cause compared with a 1.5°C rise, and
- (b) Confirms that limiting Global Warming to 1.5°C may still be possible with ambitious action from national and sub-national authorities, civil society and the private sector

Policies to reduce environmental damage caused by human activity can also have associated health, wellbeing and economic benefits

Council at its meeting passed a resolution to make the Council's activities net-zero carbon by 2050, in line with the UK Government's target

### **2 Purpose of the Working Group**

To develop a new strategy on sustainability, climate change, and the environment for the Council

Such a strategy will also consider:

- o Achieving 100% clean energy across the Council's full range of functions by 2040;
- o How to ensure that all strategic decisions, budgets and approaches to planning decisions are in line with a shift to zero carbon by 2050, working to ensure that the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan review embraces this approach;
- o How to support and work with all other relevant agencies towards making the entire area zero carbon within the same timescale;
- o Suggestions for budget actions and a measured baseline;

- o How the Prosperous Communities Committee can consider the impact of climate change and the environment when reviewing Council policies and strategies;
- o Any available research (that is expected to be forthcoming) from APSE relevant to this work
- o Report on the level of investment in the fossil fuel industry that our pensions plan has.
- o Ensure that all reports in preparation for the 2021/22 budget cycle and investment strategy will take into account the actions the council will take to address this agenda;
- o Call on the UK Government to provide the powers, resources and help with funding to make this possible, and ask local MPs to do likewise

### **3 Membership of the Group and Chairmanship and Appointments**

- 3.1 The Working Group shall comprise six Members including the Member Champion for Environment and Climate Change, Councillor Tracey Coulson.
- 3.2 The remaining five Members will be made up from serving Members of either the Prosperous Communities Committee or the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- 3.3 Membership will comprise cross party representation.
- 3.4 The Working Group shall be chaired by the Member Champion for Environment and Climate Change, Councillor Tracey Coulson
- 3.5 For continuity purposes the Membership of the Group shall remain in place until Annual Council 2023. Re-appointments will be made each Election Cycle, until such time as the Group's work has concluded. \*
- \* Members who are designated to serve on the Working Group should give this work priority. Should any Member find that they are unable to maintain commitment, the Chair will liaise with the respective Committee Chairmen to identify alternative representation. Change in representation by this means will be reported to the Prosperous Communities Committee.
- 3.6 Other elected Members may attend the Working Group, but their level of contribution will be at the discretion of the Chairman.

## **4 Frequency of Meetings and Quorum**

- 4.1 The quorum for a meeting shall be 4 members.
- 4.2 The Working Group shall determine its own meeting frequency dependent upon need. But meetings will be called with at least 7 days notice.
- 4.3 Members may be required to engage with partners and gather information between meetings.

## **5 Reporting Lines and Accountability**

- 5.1 The Working Group is directly responsible to the Prosperous Communities Committee.
- 5.2 The Working Group has no direct decision making powers and will make recommendations to the Prosperous Communities Committee.

## **6 Resources**

- 6.1 The Working Group does not have a supporting budget. Budgets will be identified on recommendations made to the relevant Policy Committee.
- 6.2 Officers will support the Working Group and provide advice, information, guidance and logistical support.
- 6.3 Administrative support will be provided by Democratic Services and notes from each meeting will be retained.

## **7 Milestones**

- 7.1 Full Council have requested an initial outline of the Strategy be presented to Annual Council in May 2020.
- 7.2 The draft Strategy will be considered by Prosperous Communities Committee at its April Meeting
- 7.3 The Group will be required to report at least every 9 months on any progress (if it has not recommendations within that period)

7.4 Additional Milestones will be identified, once an Action Plan has been agreed (again by the Prosperous Communities Committee)