



**Prosperous Communities
Committee**

Tuesday, 13 July 2021

**Subject: Review of the Terms of Reference of the Council's Environment
and Sustainability Working Group**

Report by:

Monitoring Officer

Contact Officer:

James O'Shaughnessy
Head of Policy, Strategy and Sustainable
Environment / Monitoring Officer

Purpose / Summary:

To present a revised terms of reference for the
Council's Environment and Sustainability
Working Group

**RECOMMENDATION(S): That Members approve the revised terms of
reference for the Council's Environment and Sustainability Working Group**

IMPLICATIONS

Legal: None

(N.B.) Where there are legal implications the report **MUST** be seen by the MO

Financial:

(N.B.) All committee reports **MUST** have a Fin Ref

Staffing: None – Officer support for the Group will be drawn from within the current establishment

(N.B.) Where there are staffing implications the report **MUST** have a HR Ref

Equality and Diversity including Human Rights : None

NB: Please explain how you have considered the policy's impact on different groups (for example: young people, elderly, ethnic minorities, LGBT community, rural residents, disabled, others).

Data Protection Implications : None

Climate Related Risks and Opportunities: The Working Group will oversee delivery of the Council's Sustainability, Climate Change and Environment Strategy and action plan. Individual projects falling out of this work will fully detail the sustainability, environments, climate and carbon reduction related risks, benefit and opportunities

Section 17 Crime and Disorder Considerations: None

Health Implications: None

Title and Location of any Background Papers used in the preparation of this report : [Prosperous Communities Committee 3rd Dec 2019](#)

*Wherever possible please provide a hyperlink to the background paper/s
If a document is confidential and not for public viewing it should not be listed.*

Risk Assessment :

Call in and Urgency:

Is the decision one which Rule 14.7 of the Scrutiny Procedure Rules apply?

i.e. is the report exempt from being called in due to urgency (in consultation with C&I chairman)

Yes

No

Key Decision:

A matter which affects two or more wards, or has significant financial implications

Yes

No

1 Introduction

1.1 In December 2019, the Prosperous Communities Committee agreed terms of reference for the Council's Environment and Sustainability Working Group – Appendix One.

1.2 This group was formed to oversee the development of a new strategy for the Council related to sustainability, climate change and the environment.

1.3 The requirement for the strategy arose following Council in November 2019 having noted that the impacts of climate change are a cause of serious environmental issues both locally and around the world and also taking account of the 'Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C', published by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change in October 2018 which:

- (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

passed a motion to make the Council's activities net-zero carbon by 2050, in line with the UK Government's target.

1.4 Over the last 18 months or so, Members will be aware that the group has worked with officers to develop a strategy and that this work culminated in the adoption of the Council's Sustainability, Climate Change and Environment Strategy and action plan by Full Council on 28th June 2021.

1.5 It is therefore considered that the terms of reference of the group have been fulfilled. Hence a refresh is required to oversee the delivery of the actions contained within the strategy, which are designed for the Council to achieve a net-zero carbon position by 2050 and for the District to achieve the same position within the same timescale.

2. Revised Terms of Reference

2.1 A draft of the proposed terms of reference is available for review at Appendix Two. Members are asked to consider these and accept them as being of relevance; offering appropriate steerage for the purpose and functions of the Group.