

Environment and Sustainability Working Group:

Approved by Prosperous Communities Committee

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.

To assist the Council in achieving this position, work has been completed to produce a Sustainability, Climate Change and Environment Strategy and action plan for the Council. The production of this was overseen by a previous Environment and Sustainability Working Group. Now that work has been completed, a revised terms of reference is required for the Group.

2 Purpose of the Working Group

To oversee the delivery of the Council's Sustainability, Climate Change and Environment Strategy and action plan, designed to reduce the impact of the Council's activities to a net-zero carbon position by 2050, or earlier, and for a similar position to be achieved across the District within the same timescales.

To use their influence to promote carbon reduction and sustainability within their respective Groups and across the Council, District and Greater Lincolnshire.

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.
 - 3.2 The remaining five Members will be made up from serving Members of either of the Council's policy committees (Prosperous Communities Committee and Corporate Policy & Resources 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.
 - 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 inform the respective Committee Chairmen who will identify and nominate replacement(s). Change in representation by this means will be recommended to the Prosperous Communities Committee for approval.
- 3.6 Other elected Members may attend the Working Group, but their level of contribution will be at the discretion of the Chairman.
 - 3.7 Officers, on behalf of the Working Group, may commission the services of experts, residents, and partners as it considers necessary. Such attendees will not be voting Members of the Working Group but will be present on an information sharing/gathering basis.

4 Frequency of Meetings and Quorum

- 4.1 The quorum for a meeting shall be four members.
- 4.2 The Working Group shall determine its own meeting frequency dependent upon need. But meetings will be called with at least seven 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 Progress reports on the delivery of the action plan will be presented to the Prosperous Communities Committee at least annually, with the first report due by the end of March 2022.
- 7.2 Any significant additions to, or deviations from, the action plan will be reported to the Prosperous Communities Committee for approval as necessary.