

CABINET – 12TH OCTOBER 2023

Report of the Scrutiny Commission

CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN

Purpose of Report

To consider the comments and recommendations of the Scrutiny Commission in relation to the Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan.

Recommendation of the Scrutiny Commission

That the Cabinet be informed that the Commission welcomes and supports the recommendations set out in the report of the Director of Commercial and Economic Development.

Reason

The Commission, having carefully considered and asked questions on the report felt the Cabinet should approve the recommendations set out.

Meeting Discussion

- i. Members felt that the report was thorough and well presented.
- ii. Alternative travel methods such as public transport use, cycling and walking would be encouraged where appropriate.
- iii. The Sustainable Urban Developments referred to in the adopted Core Strategy Local Plan approved a number of years ago in accordance with council and national policy at that time. Since that time, there had been significant technological advancements in sustainable housing, which had not been included in the Sustainable Urban Developments. It was highlighted that the Draft Local Plan did include a number of policies to reduce impact on the climate, including policies concerned with sustainable construction and sustainable transport. The Planning Authority had limited control to demand the inclusion of sustainability measures, such as installing electric vehicle charging points and solar panels to new build properties, but could encourage this. Regulation was secured through the Building Act, rather than the Planning Acts.
- iv. The Council's draft Local Plan encouraged developers to use sustainable technologies. It was highlighted that it was a considerable task for the industry to adapt to incorporate newer technologies and that these changes were happening gradually.
- v. The Council consulted with a number of stakeholders when it prepared the draft Local Plan in order to understand the impact of developments identified,

including their individual and cumulative flood risk. Following this process, the council could implement any mitigation measures required, such as urban drainage schemes, to ensure development was brought forward satisfactorily.

Policy Justification and Previous Decisions

Scrutiny Commission Procedure Rule 11.12 sets out the procedure by which a report of a Scrutiny Committee should be considered by Cabinet.

Implementation Timetable including Future Decisions and Scrutiny

The information on this in the Cabinet report is not affected by the recommendation of the Scrutiny Commission.

Report Implications

The following implications have been identified for this report.

Financial Implications

There are no further financial implications associated with the recommendation of the Scrutiny Commission.

Risk Management

There are no specific risks associated with the recommendations of the Scrutiny Commission.

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| Key Decision: | Yes |
| Background Paper: | Scrutiny Commission Minute 49 2023/24, 9th October 2023. |
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