

# ECONOMY SCRUTINY PANEL

**REPORT OF  
SUBJECT  
STATUS**

Clive Tritton – Interim Director Economy & Growth  
Climate Emergency – Carbon Roadmap  
Open

## CONTRIBUTION TO OUR AIM

This report supports delivery of the Council's Stronger Economy & Stronger Communities priorities by;

- Leading North East Lincolnshire towards consuming resources more efficiently, eliminating waste and supporting and developing the green economy and infrastructure.
- Recognising and realising the economic and social benefits of a high quality environment
- Working towards a low carbon North East Lincolnshire that is prepared for, and resilient to, the impacts of climate change,

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

At full Council on 19<sup>th</sup> September 2019, the Council resolved to declare a Climate Emergency. An all Elected Member workshop was held on 13<sup>th</sup> February 2020 to consider the implications and agree a way forward. Cabinet subsequently considered a report on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2020 which outlined the impact of that declaration and Cabinet approved the implementation of a number of actions in response, in particular to develop a roadmap for the Council and Borough to becoming carbon neutral by 2050 or before. ENGIE have been commissioned to develop the roadmap(s) and Scrutiny Panel members are asked to receive a presentation on progress to date.

## MATTER(S) FOR CONSIDERATION

Members are asked to receive a presentation on progress and to consider how the Economy Scrutiny Panel wish to be involved in the development & completion of the roadmap(s).

### 1. BACKGROUND AND ISSUES

- 1.1 At full Council on 19<sup>th</sup> September 2019, the Council resolved to declare a Climate Emergency. Declaring a climate emergency is an action being taken by many organisations across the world, bringing the issue up the agenda and making visible their commitment. The Climate Emergency declarations are voluntary. The declaration does not bind the Council to anything in terms of national legislation, but it gives the Council the opportunity to demonstrate its continued commitment to act responsibly and take action to mitigate and adapt to Climate Change.
- 1.2 There is no standard course of action after making this declaration. It is for the Council to determine the shape, scale and nature of its response. Treating climate change as an emergency by local government is relatively new. There is not therefore a large body of information about who has done what since making the

declarations.

- 1.3 At the meeting of 11<sup>th</sup> March 2020, Cabinet resolved to instruct the Director of Economy and Growth to:
- A. Commission ENGIE to undertake a carbon assessment of the Council's assets and operations and develop a roadmap to becoming a carbon neutral Council by 2050 or before;
  - B. Commission ENGIE to undertake a carbon assessment of the Borough and develop a roadmap to become a carbon neutral Borough by 2050 or before; and
  - C. To review the Council's Environment Statement and Energy and Carbon Vision as part of the above roadmap development.

In addition:

- That the Director of Economy and Growth take a report to the Economy Scrutiny Panel within six months to report progress with the above..
- That Cabinet notes the decision to procure a carbon neutral electricity supply from April 2020, as outlined in this report.

1.4 The impact of COVID has resulted in delays to the roadmap development timeframe but this report seeks to update the Economy Scrutiny Panel within 6 months in accordance with Cabinet's decision.

## **2. RISKS AND OPPORTUNITIES**

- 2.1 The development and implementation of a roadmap to becoming carbon neutral provides significant challenges and opportunities for North East Lincolnshire. The Council has a key role in enabling and delivering the agenda. The agenda can deliver environmental, social and financial benefits for North East Lincolnshire.
- 2.2 An impact assessment, regarding potential impacts on vulnerable groups, will be undertaken on any new commitments brought forward. It is important the measures to tackle Climate Change are fair and equitable.
- 2.3 It is necessary to ensure that the Council's, and Boroughs, ambitions are balanced against the resources available to it. The ongoing development of the roadmaps will consider current and future resources required and be shaped accordingly and funding sought.

## **3. REPUTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS CONSIDERATIONS**

- 3.1 There are potential positive and negative reputational implications for the Council resulting from the decisions. An action plan will be agreed with the Council's communication service as part of the roadmap development, covering all statutory, consultation and information requirements

#### **4. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

- 4.1 ENGIE will develop business cases for a range of measures to address emissions and incorporate these within the roadmap. The Capital, Revenue and Value for Money (rate of return) implications of each proposal will need to be assessed on a case by case basis by the Business Development Group. There may be scope for income generation from some of the measures / projects and this will be set out within the business case. External funding will also be explored in the development of the business case.

#### **5. CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 The issues raised in this report contribute significantly to tackling the causes and impacts of Climate Change. The Council has a strong track record of reducing its own emissions and examples are set out in this report. Establishing a clear plan to become carbon neutral will demonstrate leadership on this agenda.

#### **6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 There are no direct financial implications as a result of this report. The commissioned work from Engie is covered through the existing Engie Regeneration contract. The financial implications of any future proposals will be assessed on a case by case basis and be subject to the Council's normal governance processes

#### **7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 As outlined in the above report the declaration of a climate emergency does not bind the Council in terms of any statutory or regulatory framework. Rather, it sets a commitment to have regard to the impact on the environment and climate generally as a result of its operations, and wider influence. Having so declared, the recommendations sought are appropriate and reflect proportionate preparatory steps in taking this agenda further

#### **8. HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS**

There are no direct HR implications contained within this report

#### **MONITORING COMMENTS**

#### **9. WARD IMPLICATIONS**

Climate Change will affect all Wards

#### **10. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

[Minutes of Full Council on 19<sup>th</sup> September 2019](#)

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