

CUSPE - Policy Challenge on How Can We Use Community-based Resources to Jointly Tackle the Climate Emergency Within our Communities?

To: Environment and Sustainability Committee

Meeting Date: 11th March 2021

From: Director of Business Improvement and Development, Amanda Askham

Electoral division(s): All

Key decision: No

Outcome: Improved community engagement, particularly by young people, in local climate action.

Recommendation: The Environment and Sustainability Committee is being asked to:

Note and consider the findings and recommendations resulting from the Cambridge University Science and Policy Exchange's (CUSPE) Policy Challenge research into the question of how can we use community-based resources to jointly tackle the climate emergency within our communities.

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1. Research Report

- 1.1 In October 2016, Cambridgeshire County Council initiated an annual collaboration with the Cambridge University Science and Policy Exchange (CUSPE). The programme, known as the CUSPE Policy Challenges, brings teams of researchers from the University of Cambridge together alongside supporting members and officers to explore challenges the Council faces in the form of research questions.
- 1.2 In February 2020, the question of how can we use community-based resources to jointly tackle the climate emergency within our communities was formulated by Cllr Joshua Schumann and Sheryl French, Programme Director for Mobilising Action on Climate Change and Local Energy Investment. The question was pitched to researchers at the programme's 2020 launch event at the University of Cambridge. In March 2020, the researchers who expressed high interest in this question were formed into a research team that began work in April 2020 with Cllr Schumann, Sheryl French and Amanda Askham's support. The research report under consideration here is the outcome of the researchers' development of and response to this question.
- 1.3 We are grateful to the CUSPE research team - Emma Clarke, Eleanor Fox, Elizabeth Hampson, Lisa Hecker, William Moody, Timea Nochta and Olivia Shears – for preparing and presenting their research report, which can be read in full at Appendix 1.

2. Alignment with corporate priorities

- 2.1 A good quality of life for everyone
- 2.2 Thriving places for people to live
- 2.3 The best start for Cambridgeshire's children
- 2.4 Net zero carbon emissions for Cambridgeshire by 2050

The report recommends initiatives and engagement which support all four of the Council's corporate priorities.

4. Significant Implications

At this stage, the research report is for noting and consideration. As actions plans are developed from the report recommendations, they will be brought through relevant governance with full consideration of any significant implications.

5. Source documents

- 5.1 The full research report is included in Appendix 1