

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority Climate Action Plan

To: Environment and Green Investment Committee

Meeting Date: 7 July 2022

From: Steve Cox - Executive Director, Place and Economy

Electoral division(s): All

Key decision: No

Forward Plan ref: N/A

Outcome: Endorsement of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority's (CPCA) Climate Action Plan (based on the Independent Climate Commission's Final Report and recommendations) and the Council's actions to support its implementation and delivery.

Recommendation: Committee is asked to:

- a) Endorse the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority's Climate Action Plan 2022-25
- b) Endorse the Council's contributions to support the delivery of the CPCA's Climate Action Plan as set out in section 3.0

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Member contacts:

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1. Background

- 1.1 The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Independent Commission for Climate Change (CPICC) was set up in 2020 to provide independent advice to the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority (CPCA) and stakeholders, on delivering practical action to mitigate and adapt to climate change in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough to reach net zero.
- 1.2 The Commission began its review during 2020/21 into the ways that climate change is impacting Cambridgeshire's local economy and communities. Led and chaired by Baroness Brown of Cambridge, Julia King, the Commission Board comprises expertise from business, voluntary and academic sectors including for example, Dr Emily Shuckburgh, the Director of Cambridge Zero at Cambridge University; John Shropshire an international farming businessman located in Cambridgeshire and Professor Laura Diaz Anadon, Chair of Climate Change Policy at the University of Cambridge and an award-winning economist.
- 1.3 The CPICC published its final report in October 2021, containing 58 recommendations, advising the CPCA to set up a Climate Cabinet, a green investment team and a Climate Action Plan to drive forward action. A Climate Working Group Chaired by the Mayor Dr Nick Johnson has subsequently been established including political representatives from the local authorities and reps from the Business Board, Universities, key businesses, and transport providers.
- 1.4 The Climate Working Group commissioned Officers to develop a public-friendly Action Plan, setting out how the Combined Authority, its Local Authority partners and wider stakeholders will take action to implement the Independent Commission's recommendations.
- 1.5 The outcome of this report is to share the CPCA and Partners Climate Action Plan seeking its endorsement by the Council, and to confirm the County Council's inputs to support its delivery.

2. Main Issues

2.1 Development of the CPCA Climate Action Plan

The CPICC recommendations cover eleven sustainability themes fronted by a set of key principles for a Just Transition as set out in Appendix A. To deliver the CPICC recommendations, support and co-delivery from partner Local Authorities, public sector partners, businesses and our communities is required.

- 2.2 To drive forward the development of the CPCA Climate Action plan, the senior Environment Group, established as part of the Local Resilience Forum in response to Covid-19, agreed to take on the task to develop a Climate Action Plan for 2022-25 and support the CPCA Climate Working Group. An action Plan was approved on 28th March 2022 by the CPCA Board and is attached as a link in Appendix B.

2.3 What is the added value of the CPCA Climate Action Plan?

In developing the Climate Action Plan, it was important not to duplicate the strategies, plans and ambitions set by the County, Districts and other partners but accept that the

actions and ambitions contained within these strategies would contribute to the delivery of the CPICCC recommendations. This approach not only avoids duplication but allows the CPCA Climate Action plan to focus on actions that are bigger than any one organisation and strategic building blocks. It also allows for partners to be involved in actions which are more important locally either reflecting the nature of the geography and demographic of different areas.

2.4 'Additionality' of the Action Plan was developed using the following five guiding principles:

- Is the action establishing a crucial building block to support a wide range of Climate Commission recommendations?
- Is the action bigger than any one organisation to scope and/or deliver?
- Does the action directly cut carbon emissions or improve nature?
- Can the action deliver adaptation benefits in addition to carbon emissions or nature improvement?
- Will the action have a strategic impact to make best use of the resources we have?

2.5 From these principles, actions were categorised in the following way:

- Building block projects: projects that underpin the delivery of something else
- Finance model: actions that will build the investment pot to tackle climate change
- Community Action: helping communities to help themselves
- Direct Emissions Reductions: actions that cut emissions now
- Nature based solutions: projects that benefit the natural environment and are a solution to the climate challenges

2.6 The CPCA Climate Action Plan is not covering the individual climate commitments of organisations nor actions which are reliant on further government policy after 2025, such as exploring hydrogen-based option for homes.

2.7 What will success look like?

Mindful that plan making can feel at arm's length to the community, the CPCA Climate Action Plan has looked to try to quantify what delivery could look like by the end of the Plan. The following metrics describe what the plan intends to deliver, including:

- £100m+ Energy Infrastructure Investment Programme identified to get the area to net zero at the lowest cost
- A Water Resources Plan in place to address short term and longer-term water management issues facing the County
- Twenty Communities will have cut a total of 1000 tonnes of CO2 emissions because of the Net Zero Communities Fund
- £1m Nature Fund leverages significant further investment and increases the amount of rich wildlife areas and green space, towards the Doubling Nature ambition
- High take-up of Environmental Land Management Scheme grants for landowners/farmers
- 500 charge points installed in 18 months
- 6MW of installed solar PV capacity on homeowner roofs installed by summer

2023

- 1000 homes retrofitted by summer 2023 and further investment secured for a further 2000 home retrofits

2.8 How is Cambridgeshire County Council delivering the CPICC recommendations and the CPCA Climate Action Plan?

In June, the Council approved £2.175M Just Transition Funding to 'Enable Net Zero' across all its services. This will support the Council to deliver scope 1 and 2 emission reductions to Net Zero by 2030 and a 50% reduction for scope 3 emissions. It will directly support delivery of both the Council's Climate Change and Environment Strategy (2022) and key recommendations in the CPICC Final Report targeted at Local Authorities such as decarbonisation of buildings, electrifying fleet vehicles and working on emissions reductions from large contracts such as County's waste and highways contracts.

The CPCA Climate Action Plan comprises 41 actions. Project leads have been identified for most of the actions who are now scoping projects, developing plan and identifying delivery teams and the resources to mobilise projects. The following areas have been identified for the Council to lead.

- The development of a Cambridgeshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy
- The setup of a Biodiversity Net Gain Framework
- Next steps on the Future Parks Accelerator
- The development of a Cambridgeshire Local Area Energy Plan
- Set up of a Decarbonisation Fund to support businesses and SMEs
- Engage with COP26 and 27 to influence international climate negotiations

In addition, the Council is contributing to further action areas, for example as part of the Recap Partnership, Cambridgeshire Retrofit Partnership and Fenland SOIL.

2.9 Funding the Local Nature Recovery Strategy will come from Government via the CPCA. The exact level of funding for the development of the strategy and the regulations around its development are not yet clear but the intention is to seek approval for funding to be passported to the County to lead the project on behalf of the CPCA. Funding of the Biodiversity Net Gain Framework will also involve new burdens funding from Government and discussions are in progress with all Cambridgeshire and Peterborough authorities as to how to get the best use from funds that all authorities have received.

2.10 The next steps for the Future Park Accelerator (now called the Strategic Parks and Open Spaces programme) has secured 12 months' funding from partners and original FPA funders. This will allow funding to be sought for the longer-term programme.

2.11 Funding of the Cambridgeshire Local Area Energy Plan and Decarbonisation Fund will be a combination of funding pledged from the Council and contributions from partners. The Council agreed its contributions in February Full Council as part of its 2022-23 business plan. This includes a contribution of £70,000 funding towards the set-up of a Cambridgeshire Decarbonisation Fund and £160,000 (over two years) towards staff capacity and consultancy to support the development of a Cambridgeshire Local Area Energy Plan. Discussions begin in July to secure the full budgets for these important

projects.

2.12 What has the CPCA committed to the Climate Action Plan?

The CPCA has committed £10million to support the implementation of the Climate Action Plan. A first round of business cases in June will fund the following activities:

- £2m fund to support Care Home Retrofit projects
- £280,000 to extend Logan's Meadow Local Nature Reserve and create new fen, grassland, and woodland habitats to help mitigate the biodiversity and climate crisis.
- £210,000 to Natural Cambridgeshire to bring together nature and environmental organisations active in the area together with representatives of academia, business, and the development industry to work on delivering the Doubling Nature ambition.
- £1m Nature and Environment Investment Fund project to attract additional investment into nature-based projects, build local capacity in green investment, and deliver projects on the ground.
- £1m Community Fund for the Net Zero Villages Programme to fund small-scale community-led demonstration projects to move toward the net zero emissions target or tackle climate risks, whilst also delivering co-benefits
- £125,000 to undertake Doubling Nature Metrics project to provide accurate data to measure the stated ambition to “double the amount of land devoted to nature in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough”.
- £80,000 City Portrait project to inform the strategies and interventions that will ensure sustainable economic growth and an inclusive recovery from the impacts of COVID-19.

Further rounds of Climate funding will become available for project bids from October 2022.

3 Alignment with corporate priorities

3.1 Environment and Sustainability

The CPCA Climate Action Plan is a response to the CPICC Final Report, and 58 recommendations as set out in paragraphs 2.1-3.4 above.

3.2 Health and care

Tackling climate change provides co-benefits to health including improved air quality, more active travel measures, access to nature for wellbeing.

3.3 Places and Communities

Paragraph 2.3 identifies that climate change impacts and priorities differ across Cambridgeshire according to geography, land use and demographics. Tailoring the Plan to allow places to focus on the more important actions for local areas has been part of the approach developing the action plan.

3.4 Children and Young People

Changing what and we do things in Cambridgeshire is to create a better place for future generations and young people. The plan is looking to cut carbon emissions and build resilience into infrastructure.

3.5 Transport

The Local Transport and Connectivity Plan includes the ambition to cut car miles by 15% by 2030. Delivery of this ambition will be monitored by the CPICC as part of the action plan.

4 Significant Implications

4.1 Resource Implications

Paragraphs 3.1-3.3 describe the resources allocated for the areas for the Action plan the Council will lead. In addition, the Council is leading the Officer Climate Working Group and supporting the CPCA to develop its programme. Inputs to the delivery of the CPCA Climate Action plan come from across the Council including Highways, Connecting Cambridgeshire, Rural Estates, Procurement, Natural Environment and the Climate Change and Energy Service.

4.2 Procurement/Contractual/Council Contract Procedure Rules Implications

There are no significant implications.

4.3 Statutory, Legal and Risk Implications

There are no significant implications.

4.4 Equality and Diversity Implications

The Climate Action Plan recognises that there are existing inequalities in the area that would be negatively impacted by the changing climate (as some of the more vulnerable areas are where residents and business have the least capacity to respond). It encourages appropriate action to support the costs of transition.

4.5 Engagement and Communications Implications

The CPCA Climate Action Plan includes measures to engage with the community.

4.6 Localism and Local Member Involvement

There are no significant implications.

4.7 Public Health Implications

The Climate Action Plan has positive implications for public health. It has a specific action to support coordinated work with the new Integrated Care System organisation on the green plan for the NHS. This promotes the link between acting on climate and a range of health benefits, such as improving air quality. The Climate Action Plan also identifies funding allocated by the Combined Authority to enable care homes to invest in climate adaptation measures.

4.8 Environment and Climate Change Implications on Priority Areas: Overall, the CPCA Climate Action Plan is looking to address the CPICC recommendations. These cover the issues set out in 4.8.1- 4.8.7

4.8.1 Implication 1: Energy efficient, low carbon buildings.

Positive/neutral/negative Status: Positive

Explanation:

4.8.2 Implication 2: Low carbon transport.

Positive/neutral/negative Status: Positive

Explanation:

4.8.3 Implication 3: Green spaces, peatland, afforestation, habitats, and land management.

Positive/neutral/negative Status: Positive

Explanation: Actions to support nature-based solutions and biodiversity are included in the plan

4.8.4 Implication 4: Waste Management and Tackling Plastic Pollution.

Positive/neutral/negative Status: Positive

Explanation: Actions to tackle waste are included in the Plan

4.8.5 Implication 5: Water use, availability, and management:

Positive/neutral/negative Status: Positive

Explanation: Actions to tackle water availability and management are in the plan

4.8.6 Implication 6: Air Pollution.

Positive/neutral/negative Status: Positive

Explanation: Actions to tackle air pollution from transport are in the Plan

4.8.7 Implication 7: Resilience of our services and infrastructure and supporting vulnerable people to cope with climate change.

Positive/neutral/negative Status: Positives

Explanation: Actions to support a Just transition and resilience of services are included

Have the resource implications been cleared by Finance? Yes or No

Name of Financial Officer: Sent to Sarah Heywood 21/06/22

Have the procurement/contractual/ Council Contract Procedure Rules implications been cleared by the LGSS Head of Procurement? Yes

Name of Officer: Clare Ellis

Has the impact on statutory, legal and risk implications been cleared by the Council's Monitoring Officer or LGSS Law? Yes

Name of Legal Officer: Fiona MacMillan

Have the equality and diversity implications been cleared by your Service Contact?

Yes or No

Name of Officer: Email sent 21/06/22

Have any engagement and communication implications been cleared by Communications? Yes

Name of Officer: Amanda Rose

Have any localism and Local Member involvement issues been cleared by your Service Contact? Yes

Name of Officer: Sheryl French

Have any Public Health implications been cleared by Public Health?

Yes

Name of Officer: Iain Green

If a key decision, have any Environment and Climate Change implications been cleared by the Climate Change Officer?

Yes

Name of Officer: Emily Bolton

5 Source documents

5.1 Source documents

[Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Climate Action plan 2022-2025](#)

[Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Independent Climate Commission Final Report October 2021](#)

5.2 Location

As above

Appendix A: Principles for a Just Transition as set out in the CPICC Final Report

Box 2: Principles of a Just Transition

- 1. Do no harm.** Where possible, we must end activities which are actively doing harm to the environment, for example by emitting lots of greenhouse gases, destroying or degrading natural habitats. People and organisations should do as little harm as possible and aim to do good for the environment.
- 2. Bold ideas and leadership.** We need strong action, especially in the areas where our emissions are high, with funding to support climate initiatives. Local politicians, governments and businesses should be leading by example.
- 3. Sustainability should be considered for everything.** All aspects of decision making should consider emissions and sustainability, for example development in transport planning.
- 4. Ensure clear, inclusive, meaningful communication** with citizens, businesses and civil society across the region on climate change and related issues, including the scale of the crisis, up to date information about action locally, and guidance.
- 5. Sustainable choices must be affordable, convenient and safe.** Where possible, the best option for people should be the one that is most environmentally beneficial, and people must be provided with practical support to make good decisions.
- 6. Local decision making.** While retaining a joined-up approach across the region, decision making should be as local as possible with local accountability and responsibility. It should build on local strengths. People must be able to participate in decision making, design options and be part of the change.
- 7. Protecting those on the lowest incomes.** Those who are already struggling must not be burdened by climate action. Their needs must be taken into account, as should those of other groups who could be disadvantaged by changes, such as disabled people. The benefits of climate action must reach left behind communities.
- 8. Embrace the natural world and environment.** People want and benefit from access to nature, green space and biodiversity. We should respect and value nature and the environment as we are all interconnected. As well as monitoring our progress on climate action and emissions, we should measure and value not just economic metrics but include new ways of measuring the wellbeing of people and nature.
- 9. Fairness locally, nationally and internationally.** We must take into account the global consequences of local decisions, as well as impacts on the rest of the country.
- 10. Everyone has a part to play.** It is not just the responsibility of the local government but also of local people and businesses – we all need to get involved. People want to be enabled to be involved and it should be easy for them to play their part. Key to this is funding, support and facilitation for community-based climate initiatives and grassroots approaches to implementing climate policy.
- 11. Polluters should pay.** Companies and other organisations that create pollution locally should incur a financial cost (or demonstrate how they are investing to change practices, for example in farming). Payments should be used to subsidise and incentivise greener initiatives. People and organisations creating the most emissions and who have the most money and power should lead the way.

Appendix B: Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority Climate Action Plan
2022-25

[Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Climate Action plan 2022-2025](#)