

INITIAL CLIMATE ACTION PLAN
WDA/07/20

Recommendation

That Members:

1. Approve the Authority's Initial Climate Action Plan attached at Appendix 1.

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INITIAL CLIMATE ACTION PLAN**WDA/07/20****Report of the Chief Executive****1. Purpose of the Report**

- 1.1 Members are asked to approve the Authority's Initial Climate Action Plan set out in Appendix 1.

2. Background

- 2.1 At the Authority meeting on 18th October 2019 Members approved a motion to 'declare a climate emergency and for the Authority to develop a new Zero Waste 2040 Strategy and an Action Plan for Resource and Waste Management at the earliest opportunity'.
- 2.2 The Initial Climate Action Plan (attached at Appendix 1) has been produced in response to the declared climate emergency and shows that the Authority is leading by example. If approved, the Authority expects to produce revised climate action plans every two years.
- 2.3 An Authority-wide Carbon Working Group has been established to quantify a whole system carbon baseline budget with reporting through the Authority's Environmental Management System (EMS). This will further refine our understanding of performance and identify how we might make further progress in carbon gains.

3. Report Content

- 3.1 Underpinned by evidence from the recent climate science literature, the Initial Climate Action Plan lays out, for the first time, the climate challenge and scope of the climate emergency for the Authority with clear links to circular economy, the role of land management and behavioural change.
- 3.2 The Initial Climate Action Plan also reports the Authority's response so far (Appendix 1, pages 8-12), with demonstrable carbon improvements made through contract delivery.

- 3.3 At the Authority meeting on 22nd November 2019, Members agreed reporting climate change impacts of waste and sustainability improvements against the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (WDA 24-19).
- 3.4 The Initial Climate Action Plan therefore lays out the Authority's immediate commitments for 2020/21 and there are nine core actions in the short- to medium-term (1-3 years) against the SDG framework (Appendix 1, pages 14-16).
- 3.5 The plan proposes that three of the core actions have the following deadlines:

Energy conservation, consumption and production

To produce a scoping report by 31st March 2020 to identify opportunities for extending solar panel use across our portfolio of sites.

Closed landfill management - Gas control

To produce a rationale report for Bidston Moss former landfill by 29 February 2020 laying out the basis of adopting passive methane oxidation with monitoring to control residual gas production and minimise methane emissions to atmosphere.

Waste stream and waste treatment impacts

To produce a report by 31 March 2021 that identifies the carbon impact of different waste stream and treatment methods (including waste collection) and identify future priority materials. Timescales are dependent on confirming a 2 or 4 season compositional analysis.

- 3.6 In addition, a report on food waste collection (Food Waste Procurement Update WDA/05/20) will be presented to members for consideration.

4. Risk Implications

- 4.1 Climate action is not currently included in the Corporate Risk Register. This position will be reviewed if Members approve the Initial Climate Action Plan.

5. HR Implications

- 5.1 There are no HR implications associated with this report.

6. Environmental Implications

- 6.1 The Authority aims to continuously improve its environmental performance as reflected in the mission statement and corporate plan.
- 6.2 It is anticipated that through delivery of core actions in the Initial Climate Action Plan, the Authority can propose informed actions to further improve carbon performance, particularly as understanding of the whole system emerges.

7. Financial Implications

- 7.1 There are no financial implications associated with this report.

8. Legal Implications

- 8.1 There are no legal implications associated with this report.

9. Conclusion

- 9.1 This Initial Climate Action Plan has been produced as a first response to the Authority's declared climate emergency of 18th October 2019.
- 9.2 The Plan reports progress made during the last decade in reducing carbon emissions as the Authority transitions to achieving net zero carbon by 2040.
- 9.3 Members are asked to agree the overall Initial Climate Action Plan. Proposed core actions collectively allow further progress to be made in parallel to the Authority determining a comprehensive carbon baseline budget.

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The background documents to this report are open to inspection in accordance with Section 100D of The Local Government Act 1972 - Nil.