

ADDRESSING CLIMATE CHANGE IN RUSHMOOR – NEXT STEPS

SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

This report starts the process of taking forward the contents of a Notice of Motion that was agreed at the June Council meeting. It seeks approval for:

- (i) setting up an all group Cabinet working group to progress the scoping and development of a plan to enable a green and sustainable Rushmoor and, by 2030, a carbon neutral Council; and
- (ii) the Head of Democracy, Strategic and Partnership to appoint the Members of the Group in consultation with the Group Leaders.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. At the June Council meeting, the following motion was agreed unanimously by Members:

“This Council acknowledges a ‘Climate Emergency’.

Taking into account the responses from residents to the recent public engagement on a long-term vision for the Borough, this Council agrees to develop a plan to enable:

- a green and sustainable Rushmoor; and
- a carbon neutral Council by 2030.

In developing this plan, Rushmoor Council will:

- seek to improve the Borough’s recycling rates;
- explore the adoption of a ‘green’ procurement policy;
- aims to eliminate its use of single-use plastics; and
- by working with partner agencies encourage greener transport usage.

Using the full democratic processes of the Council and encompassing all members in the development, scrutiny and implementation of this plan, it will be brought back to this Council by year end.

Thereafter, an annual report will be presented to this Council.”

- 1.2. During the debate many Members stressed the need for the Council to get on with the work to address the issues raised in the Motion. This report sets out some of the initial steps to ensure that progress takes place without delay.

2. SETTING UP A CABINET WORKING GROUP

- 2.1. Working towards enabling a green and sustainable Rushmoor and being a carbon neutral Council by 2030 are both challenging and sizable tasks. In order to do that, a group of Members will be required to drive the process and work within and outside the Council. To give the work focus and reflect the ownership indicated by Cabinet Members, it is proposed that a Cabinet working group should be established under the following principles:

- Membership of eight Members, with political balance of 5 Con: 2 Lab: 1 Lib Dem in 2019/20
- Members to include two Cabinet Members with the Deputy Leader holding lead responsibility for the Cabinet
- Initial scope of the working group will be to:
 - Undertake research to understand the issues to be addressed in achieving the defined goals
 - Carry out consultation both inside and outside the Council, including engagement with Members and a range of stakeholders in the Borough
 - Develop a strategy and action plan to work towards a green and sustainable Rushmoor
 - Prepare an action plan for the Council to be carbon neutral by 2030 to complement the priorities set out in the Rushmoor Council Plan
 - Consider the implications of delivering the plan

3. NEXT STEPS

- 3.1. It is proposed that the first meeting of the working group could be held during August with the main purpose of scoping the work and planning the process to be followed. An initial paper would be prepared for the meeting in order to set the scene. The work would also involve:

- Member workshops to provide the opportunity for all to have an input into the work
- An assessment of the wider issues and their impact on Rushmoor

- Looking at best practice both inside and outside the Borough eg by TAG
 - Develop ideas to form part of a plan to move the issue forward
- 3.2. The work would become an important part of the Council's corporate planning process and would be supported by a team of officers drawn from across the Council. There is also a role to play for all Members and officers as community leaders to encourage action within the local community.

4. CONCLUSIONS

- 4.1. The Council has made clear the importance of taking action by declaring a climate emergency. This has been reflected in decisions made by many other local authorities including Hampshire County Council and a number of districts in Hampshire. The importance and implications of the work should not be underestimated, and the leadership of the Cabinet will be crucial in ensuring that the plan is effective and practical. Once the work is underway there will be regular reports to Members.

Ken Muschamp

Deputy Leader and Customer Experience and Improvement Portfolio Holder

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:

None

CONTACT DETAILS:

Andrew Colver, Head of Democracy, Strategy and Partnerships,
Tel: 01252 398 820, email: andrew.colver@rushmoor.gov.uk