

Cabinet

17 June 2021

UK100 Climate Change Network

Recommendations

That Cabinet

1. Agrees that the Council joins UK100, by signing up to the UK100 pledge set out in the **Appendix**.
2. Adopts and merges the targets and actions set out in the UK100 pledge with those already agreed by Cabinet at its meeting on the 30th January 2020 and adopted by Council in the Council Plan on the 18th February 2020, and develops detailed and costed action plans for these, to be agreed and managed as part of the Council's Climate Change Programme.

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 The Council has implemented an ambitious plan of action to reduce emissions and achieve net zero targets in response to it declaring a climate emergency in July 2019. This is based on the approved recommendations in January 2020 of the Member Task and Finish Group on Climate Change Mitigation, adopted in the Council Plan 2025 in February 2020.
- 1.2 The Council has established a Climate Change Programme of wide-ranging activity. This includes tackling the Council's carbon emissions by decarbonising its estate and fleet, supporting Warwickshire communities to reduce their carbon emissions through Green Shoots community grant scheme, Switch and Save energy buying scheme, Solar Together buying scheme, installing electric charging points, safe and active travel schemes for schools to promote cycling and walking, and continuing strategic countywide activity in areas like waste, flood prevention, transport policy and planning development.
- 1.3 In November, the World's leaders gather in Glasgow for the United Nations Climate Change Conference, known as COP26. This is a golden opportunity to bring all sectors together to act on climate change. The Council is exploring the opportunity to convene a Warwickshire conference on climate change, with parties from across sectors and industry that could lead to a plan to deliver individual and collective ambitions for the county on climate.

- 1.4 Clearly climate change is a long-term challenge that requires significant partnership working. The Council has established partnership working through its own Climate Emergency Cross Party Group, and with borough and district Councils through the Warwickshire Local Councils Climate Emergency Partnership and the Climate Change All Councils Officer Group.
- 1.5 Officers continue to explore more and more opportunities to deliver this Programme, which continues to need long term financial planning, resourcing, partnerships and expertise. The proposal in this report is one such opportunity.

2.0 The Proposal

- 2.1 UK100 is a network of local government leaders focused on tackling the climate emergency through the promotion of rapid action across a spectrum of climate change mitigation and adaptation work. Further detail can be found at www.uk100.org
- 2.2 Joining the network will enable the Council to work directly with other Council's facing the same climate challenges. Joining will enable the Council to become part of the Countryside Climate Network which amplifies the rural voice in advocating national policy to tackle climate change. Joining will enable the Council direct access to climate research, campaigns, publications, innovative funding models and private sector expertise.
- 2.3 In order to join the UK100 and the Countryside Climate Network (CCN), the Leader of the Council to sign the Net Zero pledge, see **Appendix** with its associated guidance. The Net Zero pledge entails committing to a 2030 target for Council emissions and a target for 2050 (or before) for area wide emissions.
- 2.4 In addition, UK100 are also asking signatories to join the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Race to Zero initiative, which is effectively the global campaign and movement akin to the aims of UK100, to help build international as well as domestic momentum ahead of COP26 in Glasgow in November 2021.
- 2.5 Once membership is completed, the Council's Leader, or designated portfolio holder responsible for climate change, join UK100's quarterly meetings and other networking events, supported by officers.
- 2.6 UK100 would publicise the Council's membership in its media

3.0 Financial Implications

- 3.1 The Council has put in place a £4m Climate Change investment fund which is delivering a range of projects in the Climate Change Programme. As was stated in the January 2020 Cabinet report, some of the actions and targets are already funded through the Council's business planning and budgetary processes, others are likely to be supported by "invest to save" business cases, subject to capital funding being available. Some schemes will not be self-financing but offer other benefits and where this is the case this will need to be clearly stated and evaluated.
- 3.2 This long-term challenge will need further significant investment. Detailed and costed action plans will need to be developed for any future actions and targets adopted and these will be agreed and managed as part of the Council's Change Portfolio and financial processes. The investment needs of Climate Change will feed in to medium to long term financial planning, the prioritising of future revenue and capital funding and pipelining of future programmes of work.
- 3.3 There is a financial risk that the programme of capital and revenue investment requirement may not be affordable given the wider priorities for the use of the Council's scarce resources. This will not be known until the work on the development of the costed action plans is completed.
- 3.4 There is no cost to join UK100.

4.0 Environmental Implications

- 4.1 The Council's current Climate Change Programme and the targets to achieve net zero emissions proposed by this report are fundamental to mitigating the effects of climate change on the environment and on the lives of Warwickshire residents.

5.0 Conclusions

- 5.1 As was the conclusion in the January 2020 report, Climate change is a pressing issue for the Council and the whole of Warwickshire and remains so in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 5.2 The Council should continue to push ahead with this important agenda ensuring its ambitions are deliverable within an affordable financial framework.
- 5.3 The proposal in this report is a further commitment to the Council's clear action on climate change and is a demonstration of the Council's leadership for other organisations to follow and act.

Background papers

None

Supporting Papers

Cabinet 30th January 2020 - Report and Recommendations of the Climate Change Mitigation Task and Finish Group

Full Council 18th February 2020 – Council Plan 2025

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The report was circulated to the following members prior to publication: Cllrs Clarke, D’Arcy, Fradgley, Chilvers.

Local Member(s): None

Appendix – UK100 Net Zero Pledge

APPENDIX



Membership Pledge

The people who live in the cities, towns and villages we serve deserve warm homes, secure and affordable energy, clean air and water, and local and seasonal food. They deserve access to thriving nature and healthy landscapes, and to live in a place they can be proud of.

As **local leaders across the UK** we see the challenges our communities face. We recognise our responsibility to tackle the climate emergency and protect our environment to secure the future for them and for people around the world.

In 2019, the UK Parliament passed legislation to bring all greenhouse gas emissions to Net Zero by 2050. This was to keep in line with international commitment in the Paris Agreement to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees. But science tells us **we need to start now and make rapid reductions** much sooner.

We will do everything within our power and influence to rapidly reduce our greenhouse gas emissions. We will bring our **council emissions to Net Zero by 2030*** and we will work with our residents and businesses to bring our wider **communities' emissions in line with Net Zero as soon as possible** (and by 2045* at the latest).

We will continue to lead the UK's response to Net Zero, going ahead of the government goal and taking the first steps with urgency. We will make substantial progress within the next decade to deliver Net Zero. With greater powers, we would go further, faster.

We will be **bold and brave**, carrying out strong climate action now and building prosperous, secure and more resilient communities that are healthier, cleaner and safer, in ways that follow the science and are practical and achievable.

We pledge to **assess** our largest impacts on climate change, **prioritise** where action needs to be taken and **measure** and **monitor** progress towards targets. We will reduce our emissions at source and limit the use of carbon offsets, to play our part in the global effort to avoid the worst impacts of climate change.

As local leaders, **we are uniquely placed to help tackle the climate emergency**. We are closer to the people who live and work in our communities, so we have a better understanding of their needs. This means we can collaborate with them to build consensus for the solutions we need to transition to a Net Zero society that delivers multiple benefits and is fair, just and works for everyone.

We have come together from local authorities across the UK to share knowledge and collaborate with each other, with businesses and our residents to deliver action now. And we will also use our experience of our ability and achievements to advocate to the UK government in order to accelerate the transition to a Net Zero society.

As a nation, we have demonstrated throughout our history that we are able and willing to lead on finding solutions to the challenges the world faces. The success and prosperity of our nation has largely rested on our ability to harness the power of dirty fossil fuels. It is now our shared responsibility to turn this ingenuity to solving the climate emergency in a way that has a positive impact on our communities. **We need to ensure our future is better than our past.**



UK100 Net Zero Pledge – guidance and clarifications

- **Net Zero target date:** council operations/estate by 2030*, whole area by 2045* at the latest.
- *** Countryside counties can have a Net Zero target date of 2050 for their area-wide emissions, with the aim of moving towards an earlier Net Zero target date as soon as possible.** The different date for countryside counties is because of the specific challenges they face due to their rural geography, scale powers and responsibilities. We will engage with these countryside counties via our Countryside Climate Network to identify specific challenges they face in setting an earlier Net Zero date, to advocate to national government for policy change that will enable them to move to an earlier Net Zero target date as soon as possible.
- *** Combined authorities and city regions should have set a Net Zero target date before 2045 for both their council emissions and their areawide emissions,** to reflect their strategic scale and wide-ranging responsibilities.
- **Offsets:** The use of offsets should be limited and used only as a last resort when reducing emissions to Net Zero at source is not possible. Offsets should aim to be as local as possible.
- **Reporting:** Reporting should be annual, from 2022 onwards.
- **Scopes:** At least scopes 1 and 2 for council emissions and area wide emissions.
- **Baseline of emissions:** from 1990 levels, in line with IPCC. For councils that have been established after that, this needs to be clarified on an individual basis.
- Those pledging should set **interim targets**, focusing on early actions and prioritising sectors that will contribute to rapid reductions in GHG emissions.
- The **focus of the pledge is mitigation**, which is UK100's focus on work. The ecological emergency, biodiversity and adaptation are important related issues but not specific targets of this pledge.
- The pledge is designed to **demonstrate the ambition and ability** of democratically elected local leaders to deliver on Net Zero.
- It is also intended to **create the conditions for stronger climate action at national level** to help local authorities reach Net Zero faster.