

**Environment and
Sustainable Communities
Overview and Scrutiny
Committee**

4 October 2019

**Climate Emergency Update
Report - Public Consultation**



**Joint Report of Ian Thompson Corporate Director Regeneration and
Lorraine O'Donnell Director of Transformation and Partnerships**

Electoral division(s) affected:

Countywide

Purpose of the Report

- 1 The report provides members of Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee with an outline of the approach and a scope of the public consultation that is underway on proposals to achieve a reduction in the both the Council's emissions and Countywide emissions.

Executive Summary

- 2 Durham County Council declared a Climate Emergency at its meeting on 20 February 2019. Since that meeting work has been done to highlight proposals on a range of measures to achieve targets.
- 3 On 17 July Durham County Council agreed to a wider public consultation on the measures to reduce carbon emissions both for the Council and countywide.
- 4 The Head of Environment will provide the Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee with information relating to the consultation.

Recommendation

- 5 Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee are requested to:
 - a) Note the content of the report and presentation and comment accordingly.
 - b) Continue to receive updates on the Climate Emergency response and monitor its progress.

Background

- 6 On 20 February 2019, Durham County Council declared a Climate Change Emergency with ambitious targets to reduce its own carbon emissions 60% by 2030 (from a 2008/9 baseline) and to investigate what further actions are necessary to make County Durham Carbon neutral by 2050 (from a 1990 baseline).
- 7 The Council Resolution on 20 February also called for a report within six months with the actions the Council will need to take to achieve the new 2030 target and supplying an initial report on what actions would be required to achieve a carbon neutral County Durham by 2050.
- 8 Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 30 April 2019 received a report seeking the committees views on the proposed approach on a series of measures either by the Council or working with partners in achieving a reduction in carbon emissions.
- 9 On 17 July 2019 County Council received the Climate Emergency Plan for the County Council and County Durham and agreed that wider consultation on the measures outlined in the report take place from mid-September to the end of October.

Consultation

- 10 The consultation went live on 19 September 2019 and work is continuing on our existing Council and countywide carbon reduction projects.
- 11 With 97% of the county's carbon emission targets outside of the Council's direct control, they can only be addressed through an

inclusive process, harnessing the skills and enthusiasm from across the community and business sector in the county.

- 12 The aim of the consultation is to actively engage with a wide variety of individuals and stakeholders both internal and external to get opinions on the actions and priorities set out in the Climate Emergency Update Report so that the Low Carbon Economy Team can develop an action plan to help meet the Council's own carbon reduction targets as well as the county's carbon reduction targets.
- 13 Arrangements have been made for the Head of Environment to attend Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 4 October 2019 to provide members with a presentation that will address:
 - The Climate Crisis/Climate Emergency
 - Temperatures in County Durham
 - Economic, Health and Environmental Consequences
 - Two Emergency Targets Set
 - Target One: Council Emissions
 - Target Two: Countywide Emissions
 - What are we Consulting on?
- 14 Attached at Appendix 2 is the stakeholder briefing that gives the consultation questions and how to respond to it.

Conclusion

- 15 The report outlines the focus of the consultation and we are conducting wider stakeholder engagement over the period of the consultation and reporting back to Cabinet early in 2020.

Background Papers

- Council Report – Climate Change Emergency Update Report, 17 July 2019
- Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Report – Approach on the Report to Full Council regarding Climate Emergency Declaration, 30 April 2019.

Appendix 1: Implications

Legal Implications

None

Finance

None

Consultation

The consultation will inform an action plan to tackle climate change.

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty

None

Human Rights

None

Crime and Disorder

None

Staffing

None

Accommodation

None

Risk

None

Procurement

None