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| <b>Board/Committee:</b> | CLIMATE CHANGE BOARD  |
| <b>Date of meeting:</b> | 10 <sup>th</sup> March 2022   |
| <b>Title:</b>           | Progress on Climate Change Motion and update to Climate Change Board work programme |
| <b>Author:</b>          | Climate Change Officer  |
| <b>Status:</b>          | FOR DECISION  |

## **Purpose**

This report sets out the progress that has been achieved against the Climate Change Motion that was passed at Community Board on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2020. It also proposes a change to the work programme for the Climate Change Board to reduce the frequency of future updates on the motion.

## **Recommendation**

**That the Board notes this progress update, and approves the change to the Climate Change Board's work programme set out in this report.**

### **1.0 Background**

- 1.1 The Community Board passed a Climate Change Motion on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2020.
- 1.2 The Climate Change Board has since been established which provides the governance arrangements for the Council's approach on climate change.
- 1.3 A work programme for the Climate Change Board was approved on 15<sup>th</sup> July 2021, which includes a review of progress on delivery of the Climate Change Motion in March and September each year.

### **2.0 Report**

- 2.1 Progress on delivering the Climate Change Motion was last reported to the Board on 16<sup>th</sup> September 2021. This identified four items in the Motion that were not fully delivered. Progress on each of these items is set out below, and a summary of the status of all items in the Motion has been updated to reflect this in Appendix 1.
- 2.2 Item 3: Incorporate the CCWG Strategy in its approaches to planning decisions.

The draft Gosport Borough Local Plan 2038 includes mitigating and adapting to climate change as an overarching strategic priority which informs the rest of the document. This item of the Motion is therefore expected to be delivered once the Local Plan is adopted in Quarter 4 of 2023.

- 2.3** Item 6: Develop a Citizens' Assembly in order to involve the wider population in this process. This group would help develop their own role, consider the latest climate science and expert advice on solutions and to consider systematically the climate change impact of each area of the Council's activities.

The Climate Change Board decided not to implement a citizens' assembly on 9<sup>th</sup> November 2021, so as advised in the related report, ongoing inclusion of this item is not possible, and therefore it is not referenced in the updated Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan.

- 2.4** Item 8: Report on the level of investment in the fossil fuel industry that our pensions plan and other investments have, and review the Council's investment strategy to give due consideration to climate change impacts in the investment portfolio.

At the time of the last progress review, the only outstanding part of this action was to report on the level of investment in the fossil fuel industry of the Council's pensions. These are provided by the Hampshire Pension Fund, which is administered by Hampshire County Council via the Pension Fund Panel and Board (PFPB). The PFPB has stated that as of April 2020, 1.9% of its funds are invested in fossil fuel companies, with £45.5m invested in coal and £90.5m invested in oil and gas. The Pension Fund has a Responsible Investment Policy overseen by a Responsible Investment sub-committee of the PFPB. Information about this, including annual Responsible Investment Updates, can be found at <https://www.hants.gov.uk/hampshire-services/pensions/responsible-investment>.

- 2.5** Item 9: Work with, influence and inspire partners across the borough, county and region to help deliver this goal.

The updated version of the Climate Change Strategy sets out the Council's approach to engagement and partnership working, which will ensure that its work around climate change will be aligned with the requirements on this item of the Motion. The Council has established the Climate Change Partnership to facilitate this approach and continues to work with partners including the county and neighbouring councils, the Greening Campaign, Sustrans, iChoosr and others. An updated Climate Change Action Plan that is the subject of a separate report to this Board identifies partners that the Council will work with to deliver its actions.

- 2.6** Since there is only one remaining outstanding item, the status of which will not change until Quarter 4 of 2023, it is recommended that the Climate Change Board work programme be adjusted to avoid unnecessary reports. It is proposed that the twice-yearly review of progress on delivery of the Climate Change Motion is replaced with a one-off report once item 3 of the Motion has been delivered.

#### 4.0 Conclusion

- 4.1 Progress against the Climate Change Motion is outlined which the Board is asked to note.
- 4.2 Since there is only one outstanding item remaining, the status of which will not change until Quarter 4 of 2023, a minor adjustment to the Board's work programme is proposed, which the Board is requested to approve.

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| <b>Financial Services comments:</b>           | Any costs associated with the remaining undelivered item on the Climate Change Motion will be determined, and approval sought, at the appropriate time. |
| <b>Legal Services comments:</b>               | No comment.   |
| <b>Equality and Diversity:</b>                | No equality and diversity implications.   |
| <b>Climate Change implications:</b>           | Delivery of the items on the Climate Change Motion will contribute to the targets set out in the Climate Change Strategy.                               |
| <b>Crime and Disorder:</b>                    | N/A   |
| <b>Service Improvement Plan implications:</b> | Actions required are already integrated into Service Plans.   |
| <b>Corporate Plan:</b>                        | Monitoring progress on delivering the Climate Change Motion will help deliver on strategic priorities set out in the Corporate Plan.                    |
| <b>Risk Assessment:</b>                       | Failure to achieve the motion could generate a risk in delivery of the Council's strategic approach towards climate change.                             |
| <b>Background Papers:</b>                     | None  |
| <b>Appendices:</b>                            |   |
| Appendix 1                                    | Progress on delivering Climate Change Motion  |
| <b>Report Author/Lead Officer:</b>            | Tim Pratt, 023 9254 5573  |

## Progress on delivering Climate Change Motion

The table below lists the resolutions contained in the Climate Change Motion that was passed on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2020, describes how they have been or will be achieved, and summarises their current delivery status.

| Resolution  | How achieved   | Status at previous update (16 <sup>th</sup> September 2020) | Current status | Notes   |
|---|--|---|----------------|---|
| 1. Declare that 'Climate Change is real' and requires urgent action.  | By passing Climate Change Motion.  | Complete  | Complete       |   |
| 2. Prioritise the work of the Climate Change Working Group.   | By establishing Climate Change Board.  | Complete  | Complete       | The Terms of Reference for the Climate Change Board give it oversight over delivery of the Council's Climate Change Strategy.   |
| 3. Incorporate the CCWG Strategy in its approaches to planning decisions.   | By integrating climate change considerations into the Local Plan. Planning decisions are in accordance with the Development Plan (incorporating the Local Plan) as a matter of law.  | In progress   | In progress    | The draft Gosport Borough Local Plan includes mitigating and adapting to climate change as an overarching strategic policy which informs the rest of the document, and this is expected to be adopted in Quarter 4 of 2023.   |
| 4. Ensure that political and chief officer/section head leadership teams embed this work in all areas and take responsibility for reducing, as rapidly as possible, the carbon emissions resulting from the Council's activities. | By creating, updating and delivering the Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan. These are reviewed by the Chief Officer/Section Head Leadership Team, and are approved by the Climate Change Board which provides political leadership. By creating an Integrated Impact Assessment to be used for Board reports, which includes climate change impacts. | Complete  | Complete       | The Climate Change Strategy was approved on 5 <sup>th</sup> February 2020 and the Climate Change Action Plan was approved on 17 <sup>th</sup> September 2020. These will be updated as required to ensure they meet the goal of reducing carbon emissions as rapidly as possible. An Integrated Impact Assessment was brought into use on 13 <sup>th</sup> July 2021. |

| Resolution  | How achieved   | Status at previous update (16 <sup>th</sup> September 2020) | Current status  | Notes  |
|---|--|---|---|--|
| <p>5. Take steps to proactively include young people in the process, ensuring that they have a voice in shaping the future.</p>   | <p>By creating a Climate Change Community Engagement Framework which covers engagement with young people.</p>  | <p>Complete</p>   | <p>Complete</p>                                       | <p>The Community Engagement Framework was approved on 21<sup>st</sup> January 2021. Engagement activities with young people will be ongoing in line with the Framework. So far these have included a workshop session in collaboration with Motiv8 and a survey which will be promoted in September.</p>   |
| <p>6. Develop a Citizens' Assembly in order to involve the wider population in this process. This group would help develop their own role, consider the latest climate science and expert advice on solutions and to consider systematically the climate change impact of each area of the Council's activities.</p>  | <p>By procuring delivery of a citizens' assembly on climate change from a specialist provider.</p>   | <p>In progress</p>  | <p>Ongoing inclusion of this item is not possible</p> | <p>Considerations for delivering a successful citizens' assembly have been identified and indicative costs have been obtained from suppliers. Following reports to the Climate Change Board on 21<sup>st</sup> January 2021, 11<sup>th</sup> March 2021 and 9<sup>th</sup> November 2021, Members decided not to proceed with a citizens' assembly and therefore ongoing inclusion of this item is not possible.</p> |
| <p>7. Establish a Climate Change Partnership group, involving Councillors, residents, young citizens, relevant experts, businesses, Citizens Assembly representatives and other relevant parties. It will also recommend ways to maximise local benefits of these actions in other sectors such as employment, health, transport and the local economy.</p> | <p>By engaging with a wide range of stakeholders to encourage participation, and by establishing a Steering Group to run the Climate Change Partnership.</p> | <p>Complete</p>   | <p>Complete</p>                                       | <p>A Steering Group for the Climate Change Partnership has been established and held its first meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> July 2021. Work to recruit more organisations to the Partnership is ongoing.</p>  |

| Resolution   | How achieved  | Status at previous update (16 <sup>th</sup> September 2020)                                     | Current status  | Notes  |
|--|---|---|-----------------|--|
| <p>8. Report on the level of investment in the fossil fuel industry that our pensions plan and other investments have, and review the Council's investment strategy to give due consideration to climate change impacts in the investment portfolio.</p> | <p>By reviewing the GBC investment strategy to give due consideration to climate change impacts in the investment portfolio, and by requesting information about pension fund investments from HCC.</p>     | <p>In progress regarding pension plan. Complete regarding review of GBC investment strategy</p> | <p>Complete</p> | <p>Levels of investment in the fossil fuel industry are reported in the body of this report and in the Climate Change Motion update report to the Climate Change Board on 16<sup>th</sup> September 2021. The GBC investment strategy was reviewed in Q1 2021 and no actions identified, since short term investments are deposited with financial institutions and there are no investments backed by ownership in a company.</p> |
| <p>9. Work with, influence and inspire partners across the borough, county and region to help deliver this goal.</p>   | <p>This is an aspirational statement and will be delivered through the Climate Change Action Plan and Gosport Climate Change Partnership.</p>   | <p>Ongoing</p>  | <p>Complete</p> | <p>The updated Climate Change Strategy adopted on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2022 set out the approach to ensure delivery of this item. The Climate Change Partnership was established on 8<sup>th</sup> July 2021 and will facilitate this approach. Specific partners with which the Council will work are identified in the updated Climate Change Action Plan.</p>  |
| <p>10. Call on the UK Government to provide the powers, resources and help with funding to make this possible, and ask our MP to do likewise.</p>  | <p>By sending a letter detailing powers, resources and other support that would be helpful, from the Chairman of the Climate Change Board to relevant UK Government ministers and Caroline Dinenage MP.</p> | <p>Complete</p>   | <p>Complete</p> | <p>Letter sent on 27<sup>th</sup> November 2020. Further communication with the UK Government will be recommended to the Board as appropriate.</p>   |