



Reigate & Banstead
BOROUGH COUNCIL
Banstead | Horley | Redhill | Reigate

SIGNED OFF BY	Director of Place
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TO	Executive
DATE	Thursday, 7 November 2019
EXECUTIVE MEMBER	Portfolio Holder for Neighbourhood Services

KEY DECISION REQUIRED	N
WARDS AFFECTED	(All Wards);

SUBJECT	Response to Motions: Declaring a Climate Emergency and Wildlife Friendly Public Spaces
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RECOMMENDATIONS

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| <p>(i) To note the information in response to the motions around declaring a Climate Emergency and creating wildlife friendly public spaces.</p> |
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REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

<p>To consider an update on the Council's current work around Environmental Sustainability. This will support the objectives in the Council's current and emerging 5 Year Corporate Plans around making the borough a great place to live and work, and being proactive about climate change and reducing environmental impact.</p>

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Reigate and Banstead Borough Council is seeking to take action to address climate change and to make the Council and the Borough more environmentally sustainable.2. This forms part of the Council's draft 5 Year Corporate Plan and is in line with a motion approved by Council in February of 2019.3. This reflects recent reports from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the UK's Climate Change Committee (CCC), and the UK government's commitment to net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.4. Environmental sustainability and action to address climate change has not been a significant focus for the Council in recent years, and we are therefore seeking |
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consultancy advice from those with expertise in this field on the most effective options available to the organisation.

Executive has authority to approve the above recommendations

STATUTORY POWERS

5. Section 1 of the Localism Act 2011 gives local authorities a general power of competence that enables them to do anything that a private individual is entitled to do, as long as it is not expressly prohibited by other legislation.

KEY INFORMATION

6. Reigate & Banstead Borough Council had engaged an Environmental Sustainability Consultancy service to prepare an Environmental Sustainability Strategy, setting out how the Council will deliver its 5 Year Corporate Plan ambitions, accompanied by an Action Plan recommending short, medium- and longer-term activities and interventions to deliver the Strategy.
7. An officer working group has been created to consider the outcomes of the options assessment and review the draft Action Plan and Strategy.
8. A Member working group has been set up to provide input in to the process, led by Cllr Bramhall, Executive Member for Neighbourhood Services. This group will meet initially to review the draft options assessment, once it has been received from the consultants.
9. The strategy and supporting work is targeted for completion in in 2020.
10. The consultants will help identify what are the best options available to the Council to address climate change at a Council level, to be environmentally sustainable, and to support our residents and businesses in the Borough, and will make recommendations as to the most appropriate options for the Council to pursue.
11. The Strategy, and Action Plan, will address the following points:
 - How the Council can best make its own operations environmentally sustainable and reduce its contribution to climate change, including an assessment of by what point(s) the Council could become net carbon neutral under a range of resourcing assumptions. This is likely to include delivering more areas of Wildlife friendly public spaces, in addition to those we already have within our Borough.
 - How the Council can encourage the Borough's residents and Businesses to be environmentally sustainable and reduce its contribution to climate change.
 - How the Council can best work with other organisations to support environmental sustainability and reduced contributions to climate change in the wider area.
12. The final outcomes of the commission will therefore be:
 - A training session on environmental sustainability and climate change for elected Members; this was held in October and was well received.
 - An Options Assessment for the environmental sustainability actions available to the Council; to inform

- An Environmental Sustainability Strategy for the Council; and
- An Action Plan to deliver the Environmental Sustainability Strategy.

13. Once the Options assessment has been reviewed, and a draft Action Plan & Strategy has been developed, an Executive Report with full recommendations will be brought forward for the Committee to consider.

OPTIONS

14. The options available to the Executive are set out below:

Option 1: To note the information in response to the motions around declaring a Climate Emergency and creating wildlife friendly public spaces. **This is the recommended option** as it will support effective consideration around the objectives in the Council's current and emerging 5 Year Corporate Plans around making the borough a great place to live and work, and being proactive about climate change and reducing environmental impact

Option 2: To not note this information in response to the motions around declaring a Climate Emergency and creating wildlife friendly public spaces. **This is not the recommended option** as it will not support effective consideration around the objectives in the Council's current and emerging 5 Year Corporate Plans around making the borough a great place to live and work, and being proactive about climate change and reducing environmental impact

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

15. There are no direct legal implications of this report. Any legal implications of the developing Environmental Sustainment Strategy will be considered as part of associated Executive Reports.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

16. There are no direct financial implications of this report. Any financial implications of the developing Environmental Sustainment Strategy will be considered as part of associated Executive Reports.

EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

17. The Council has a Public Sector Equality Duty under the Equality Act (2010) to have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited under the Act;
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share those protected characteristics and people who do not;
- Foster good relations between people who share those characteristics and people who do not.

18. The three parts of the duty applies to the following protected characteristics: age; disability; gender reassignment; pregnancy/maternity; race; religion/faith; sex and sexual orientation. In addition, marriage and civil partnership status applies to the first part of the duty.

19. There are no direct equalities implications of this report. Any equalities implications of the developing Environmental Sustainment Strategy will be considered as part of associated Executive Reports and will be supported by an equalities impact assessment.

RISK MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

20. There are no direct risk management implications of this report. Any risk management implications of the developing Environmental Sustainment Strategy will be considered as part of associated Executive Reports.

POLICY FRAMEWORK

21. The recommendations of this report are not in conflict with the Council's Policy Framework.
22. All actions undertaken by the Council shall have regard to the objectives of the Council's Corporate Plan and supporting policy framework, unless otherwise specified by statute.