



# Doncaster Council

Date: 18 November 2019

To the Chair and Members of the  
**COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

## **CLIMATE CHANGE LOCAL COMMISSION AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT STRATEGY**

<b>Relevant Cabinet Member(s)</b>	<b>Wards Affected</b>	<b>Key Decision</b>
Chris McGuinness	All	No

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

1. The Doncaster Local Commission on Climate and Biodiversity Crisis ('the Commission') exists to advise Doncaster Council and Team Doncaster on strategies and best practices to respond to climate change and the issues it presents to us. The Commission is meeting on a 6-weekly basis between September 2019 and April 2020. Members include the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust, Doncaster Chamber, elected members, Council officers, Doncaster Youth Parliament and other private and public sector organisations.
2. A refreshed Doncaster Environment Strategy is also being produced. Progress is in the early stages of data and opinion collection and analysis, which will be followed by the development of costed proposals for additional activity. The Environment Strategy is expected to be finalised at the same time as the new borough strategy around the start of the new financial year.

### **EXEMPT REPORT**

3. Not exempt.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

4. This is an update report. The Committee should note the progress described and seek additional information or clarification if required.

### **WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR THE CITIZENS OF DONCASTER?**

5. The new Environment Strategy, informed by the direction provided by the Commission, will identify policies and specific activity to help maintain and improve a range of environment-related matters; thus making Doncaster a more pleasant place to live, work and visit.

## BACKGROUND

6. The purpose of the Doncaster Local Commission on Climate and Biodiversity Crisis ('the Commission') exists to advise Doncaster Council and Team Doncaster on strategies and best practices to:
  - Promote leadership in the borough on climate change, encouraging stakeholders to take effective action now, while maintaining a long term perspective;
  - Establish the borough's carbon reduction target and road map to delivery, based on scientific advice and independent verification;
  - Advise on the assessment of climate-related risks and adaptation opportunities in the borough; and on progress towards climate resilience in the short and long term;
  - Bring together major organisations and key groups in Doncaster to collaborate on projects that result in measurable contributions towards meeting the borough's carbon reduction target and climate change resilience;
  - Make the economic case for innovation and investment in low carbon and climate resilient projects in the borough;
  - Promote best practice in public engagement on climate change, and its impacts, in order to support robust decision-making;
  - Consult and advise regional and national bodies on issues affecting the effectiveness of local climate action.
7. The Commission is chaired by Ed Miliband and is made up of the following membership:
  - Doncaster councillors: Chris McGuinness, Cabinet Member for Communities, Voluntary Sector, and the Environment; Mark Houlbrook, Chair of Communities & Environment Overview and Scrutiny Panel; Jane Cox, Leader of the Conservative Group & Vice-Chair of Communities & Environment Overview & Scrutiny Panel; Dave Shaw, Member for Doncaster Town
  - Doncaster Green Party representative – Tony Nicholson
  - Doncaster Youth Parliament Representatives – Anna Russin, Alannah White
  - Local Voluntary Community Faith Sector Representative – Warren Draper, Bentley Urban Farm/Doncopolitan
  - Yorkshire Wildlife Trust – Caroline Thorogood, Interim Chief Executive
  - Doncaster Chamber of Commerce – Dan Fell, Chief Executive Officer
  - University of Leeds – Dr Alice Owen - Associate Professor in Business, Sustainability and Stakeholder Engagement
  - Engie Ltd. – Chris Saunders, Strategic Regeneration Manager
  - Doncaster Sheffield Airport (Peel Group) – Jo Holden, Sustainability Manager
  - Business representative – Roger Wells, Go Green
  - Doncaster Council - Damian Allen, Chief Executive Officer; Gill Gillies, Assistant Director of Environment; Rupert Suckling, Director Of Public Health.
8. The following organisations are also expected to form part of the Commission, but a named representative has not yet been confirmed:
  - Trade Union/National Farmers Union representative(s)
  - Institute for Public Policy Research representative
  - Natural England
  - Doncaster Bassetlaw Hospital Trust
  - Business representatives
9. The Commission has met twice since its conception in September, with the third meeting taking place on November 15<sup>th</sup>. The first meeting included discussions on terms of reference and group membership, and an agreement to invite subject area

experts to contribute to specific discussions on a meeting-by-meeting basis. There was also a review of analysis of Doncaster's emissions by Leeds University and the Place-based Climate Action Network (PCAN). It was agreed that PCAN would develop a Roadmap to Zero Carbon to illustrate how Doncaster can meet the zero carbon by 2050 target set by National Government. This roadmap was presented at the second meeting and it was agreed that all work coming out of the Commission should align with it.

10. The second meeting also included a presentation from Yorkshire Wildlife Trust (YWT) titled Land Use, Biodiversity and Natural Capital – a formative approach to tackling climate change using natural solutions. The Commission endorsed the existing activity, current objectives and future aspirations of work relating to Land Use and Biodiversity to help secure strategic investment and support delivery of land use initiatives in Doncaster. The Commission also endorsed the establishment of a Doncaster Nature Alliance to champion the development, delivery and monitoring of objectives as set out by YWT.
11. Future meetings will cover the following topics:
  - Energy Production
  - Business, Economy and Green Technology Opportunities
  - Waste, Sustainable Consumption, Food Networks
  - Sustainable Transport, Active Travel, Low-Emission Vehicles
  - Buildings, Housing Standards, Retrofitting, Environmentally Friendly Builds
12. Commission engagement will include the Team Doncaster Summit in early November, meeting with the Institute for Public Policy Research (IPPR) and Local Trust, a Green Business event, an Open Space event with Young people and an Inter-faith Event on Climate Change.
13. A communications plan is in development by the Council Communications team to ensure the work of The Commission is communicated in a creative way. A microsite is also being developed to allow the public to access information about the purpose, members and outcomes of the Commission. This is anticipated to be online by the end of the first week of November.
14. Alongside the work of the Commission, Strategy and Performance Unit (SPU) officers have been undertaken preliminary data and insight collection to inform the new Environment Strategy.
15. A working group of appropriate officers from a range of services areas has identified a list of sub-sections for the strategy:
  - Household waste & recycling
  - Fly-tipping and street cleansing
  - Noise, odour and light pollution
  - Air quality
  - Highways
  - Transportation
  - Energy efficiency of buildings & sustainable energy
  - Woodlands, trees & green spaces
  - Biodiversity and biosecurity
  - Peatland and soil
  - Green and innovative economy
  - Natural flood management & sustainable drainage
  - Water quality
  - Contaminated land
  - Food and farming
  - Health implications/benefits
  - Comms and engagement/education
  - Green tourism

16. SPU officers have worked with the group to identify the data/ current situation associated with each, and collate ideas and proposals for new priorities/ activity.
17. Specific sessions with elected members have taken place across the second half of October. At the time of writing, 8 out of 21 wards having been represented at these sessions, or have taken the option to present their views in writing. A further session has been scheduled at the end of October to give the remaining ward members the chance to have their say.
18. Analysis from the 'Doncaster Talks' community engagement exercise is in the process of being analysed to identify any Environment-related issues or priorities that residents/visitors want to see addressed.
19. The new Environment Strategy is currently planned to be finalised and published alongside the refresh of the 'Doncaster Growing Together' borough strategy, which is expected early in the new financial year.

### OPTIONS CONSIDERED

20. There are no options to consider. This is an update report only.

### REASONS FOR RECOMMENDED OPTION

21. N/A

### IMPACT ON THE COUNCIL'S KEY OUTCOMES

- 22.

Outcomes	Implications
<p><b>Doncaster Working:</b> Our vision is for more people to be able to pursue their ambitions through work that gives them and Doncaster a brighter and prosperous future;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Better access to good fulfilling work</li> <li>• Doncaster businesses are supported to flourish</li> <li>• Inward Investment</li> </ul>	<p>This is purely an update report. The finished Environment Strategy will contribute to this outcome. E.g. If we commit to taking advantage of opportunities presented by growth in 'green economy' sectors will provide employment opportunities for residents of Doncaster.</p>
<p><b>Doncaster Living:</b> Our vision is for Doncaster's people to live in a borough that is vibrant and full of opportunity, where people enjoy spending time;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The town centres are the beating heart of Doncaster</li> <li>• More people can live in a good quality, affordable home</li> <li>• Healthy and Vibrant Communities through Physical Activity and Sport</li> <li>• Everyone takes responsibility for keeping Doncaster Clean</li> <li>• Building on our cultural, artistic and sporting heritage</li> </ul>	<p>This is purely an update report. The finished Environment Strategy will contribute to this outcome. E.g. maintaining and improvement of air quality, green and open spaces.</p>

Outcomes	Implications
<p><b>Doncaster Learning:</b> Our vision is for learning that prepares all children, young people and adults for a life that is fulfilling;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Every child has life-changing learning experiences within and beyond school</li> <li>• Many more great teachers work in Doncaster Schools that are good or better</li> <li>• Learning in Doncaster prepares young people for the world of work</li> </ul>	<p>This is purely an update report. The finished Environment Strategy will contribute to this outcome. E.g. education and awareness raising of behavioural changes that can reduce our individual and collective (negative) impact on the environment we live in; and increase the positive impact we can have to tackle climate change and improve our neighbourhoods and town.</p>
<p><b>Doncaster Caring:</b> Our vision is for a borough that cares together for its most vulnerable residents;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children have the best start in life</li> <li>• Vulnerable families and individuals have support from someone they trust</li> <li>• Older people can live well and independently in their own homes</li> </ul>	<p>This is purely an update report. The finished Environment Strategy will contribute to this outcome. E.g. improve air quality, improve access to green space and parks for leisure activity.</p>
<p><b>Connected Council:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A modern, efficient and flexible workforce</li> <li>• Modern, accessible customer interactions</li> <li>• Operating within our resources and delivering value for money</li> <li>• A co-ordinated, whole person, whole life focus on the needs and aspirations of residents</li> <li>• Building community resilience and self-reliance by connecting community assets and strengths</li> <li>• Working with our partners and residents to provide effective leadership and governance</li> </ul>	<p>This is purely an update report. The finished Environment Strategy will contribute to this outcome. E.g. potential streamlining of functions /services delivered by the council.</p>

## RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS

23. Limited engagement from elected members so far. A number of specific sessions have been scheduled and members have had the option to provide written comments or hold telephone conversations or schedule alternative meeting dates. Only a small proportion of those contacted have attended or been in contact so far.

## LEGAL IMPLICATIONS [NC 29/10/19]

24. There are no direct legal implications at this stage, but legal advice may need to be sought as the proposed Environment Strategy develops.

## FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS [RT 29/10/19]

25. There are no financial implications associated with the implementation of the Environmental strategy. However, when the individual proposals associated with the strategy are proposed the specific financial implications will need to be considered.

## HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS [KG 29/10/19]

26. There are no specific HR implications to this report.

## **TECHNOLOGY IMPLICATIONS [ET 29/10/19]**

27. There are no specific technology implications in relation to this report. However, ICT must always be involved via the technology governance model where technology-based procurements, developments or enhancements are required. This ensures all information is safe and secure and the use of technology is maximised providing best value. Where there is a requirement for new, enhanced or replacement technology to support the delivery of this work and/or resulting outcomes – such as the development of a new microsite – then a Business Case must be submitted for consideration by the Technology Governance Board.

## **HEALTH IMPLICATIONS [CT 01.11.19]**

28. The role of Public Health is to protect and improve the public's health. It is imperative that, as a Local Authority we lead the way for Doncaster by working with partners on looking at ways to mitigate the impacts that climate change has on human health. The challenge going forward is to pull together a coherent, practical programme of effective action that our elected members, local, regional and national partners are confident in endorsing.

## **EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS [AB 29/10/19]**

29. There are no specific equality implications arising from this update report. A Due Regard statement will be produced as part of the development of the Strategy.

## **CONSULTATION**

30. No specific consultation has taken place on a proposed strategy, but a range of appropriate stakeholders (mainly Council services) and elected members have been engaged to gather their views on the current issues and ideas/proposals for new activity. Doncaster Talks analysis will be used to identify residents' views on environmental issues.

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

31. None.

## **GLOSSARY OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS**

All acronyms are expanded/defined within the report.

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