



COMMITTEE TITLE: Clean & Green Committee

DATE: 11 September 2023

REPORT TITLE:	Climate Emergency Working Group
REPORT OF:	Marcus Hotten, Director of Environment

REPORT SUMMARY

This reports sets out a summary of the Climate Emergency Working Group meeting, agreeing to its scope and frequency of meetings. The main aim of the group will be to keep on track the progress of Environment Strategy action plan, with one exception, that the Council is now to achieve carbon net-zero by 2030, rather than 2040 as set out in the Strategy, reflecting the subsequent declaration of a Climate Emergency and the alteration of the net-zero target to 2030.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Members attended an initial meeting of the Climate Emergency Working Group to discuss the Working Group Scops and Terms of Reference.

It was agreed that its remit would reflect the declaration of a Climate Emergency as made by Ordinary Council on 21st June, 2023. That is for the Council to achieve carbon net-zero for its own estate by 2030, and for the Borough to be carbon net-zero by 2050.

A Carbon Reduction Plan – setting out the basis of route to net-zero for the Council, is to be finalised soon, currently a reduction of approximately 50% has been identified in the footprint has been identified. The high level plan setting out the pathway to reducing the Councils estates carbon footprint will also provide approximate costs so as to provide an indicative budget that will be required should the reduction be taken forward. There were concerns raised regarding the accuracy of the energy data being presented, Officers explained that it has been challenging to obtain, but it is expected that this prove to be easier to obtain going forward rather than obtain retrospectively for previous years.

Questions were asked regarding how will the Committee function, and whom will it report to, given the needs to address carbon reduction across all departments and

teams. It was requested that representation from the Housing and Asset Management Teams are present at future meetings of the Working Group to assist in a coordinated and joined up approach to carbon reduction.

Set Agenda items for the Working Group meetings will be based on reporting upon progress against two action plans:

- Internal Audit Plan – Climate Change Advisory Review – April 2023
- Brentwood Council's Environment Strategy 2022-2025

It was agreed that the Working Group Meeting would be held at a minimum of quarterly intervals throughout the year, with other meetings to be arranged as and when required.

An annual report is to be presented to the Clean & Green Committee to set out progress made in that year, a suggested draft format and content was presented to the Working Group, it was felt more time was required to consider its content. A request was made tree planting numbers, and subsequent survival rate of the trees should also be included in Annual report.

Members raised their concern that existing projects, in particular, EV chargers – are not progressing as originally planned – it was agreed that a review and an update to the working group of the actual plan of EV charging installation would be presented at the next meeting of the Working Group.

2.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Name & Title: Tim Willis, Director – Resources & Section 151 Officer
Tel & Email: 01277 312500 / tim.willis@brentwood.rochford.gov.uk

There are no financial implications.

3.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Name & Title: Claire Mayhew, Joint Acting Up Director People & Governance & Monitoring Officer
Tel & Email 01277 312500 / claire.mayhew@brentwood.rochford.gov.uk

Any work undertaken by the Council, either by itself or in partnership will be in line with statutory legal guidance.

4.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: STAFFING, ICT AND ASSETS

Resourcing of the working group meetings can be met within existing resources.

5.0 RELEVANT RISKS

None, the report is at this time, effectively setting out the scope of the working group.

6.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

None has been considered at this time.

7.0 EQUALITY & HEALTH IMPLICATIONS

Name & Title: Kim Anderson, Corporate Manager - Communities, Leisure and Health
Tel & Email 01277 312500 kim.anderson@brentwood.gov.uk

The Public Sector Equality Duty applies to the Council when it makes decisions.

8.0 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS

Name & Title: Phil Drane, Director - Place
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None identified

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APPENDICES

None

BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

None