

Cherwell District Council

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

30 January 2024

Climate Action Working Group – updated Terms of Reference

Report of Principal Officer – Scrutiny & Democratic Lead

This report is public

Purpose of report

To present updated Terms of Reference for the Climate Action Working Group to the Committee, for consideration and approval.

1.0 Recommendations

The meeting is recommended:

- 1.1 To approve the amended Terms of Reference for the Climate Action Working Group (Appendix 1).

2.0 Introduction

- 2.1 In September 2022, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee agreed to establish a Climate Action Working Group ('the Working Group') to work with officers in relation to ongoing Climate Action work, and in response to the climate emergency that was declared in 2019.
- 2.2 The Terms of Reference agreed at the time require updating, to reflect changes regarding work completed so far, upcoming work and changes in membership of the Working Group as a result of elections.

3.0 Report Details

- 3.1 Appendix 1 to the report shows the revised Terms of Reference, which have been discussed and agreed by the Working Group.
- 3.2 Amendments are proposed in all sections of the document, except 'Out of Scope' and 'Site Visits'. Additions are shown in italic text, deletions are crossed through.

- 3.3 The changes reflect the appointment of the Climate Action Manager Jo Miskin, as well as the development of the Climate Action Plan that was approved by Executive in November 2023, which will provide the focus for the Working Group in the coming months.

4.0 Conclusion and Reasons for Recommendations

- 4.1 The current approved Terms of Reference are out of date, following changes to membership, officer support and approved policies and action plans. The proposed revisions ensure that the Terms of Reference accurately reflect the remit of the work of the group for the coming months.

5.0 Consultation

Climate Action Working Group.

6.0 Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection

Not to approve the amended Terms of Reference. This is rejected, as the Terms of Reference should always reflect the updated position.

7.0 Implications

Financial and Resource Implications

- 7.1 There are no financial implications identified with the updating of the Terms of Reference.

Comments checked by: Kelly Wheeler, Finance Business Partner.

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Legal Implications

- 7.2 There are no direct legal implications as a result of the proposed update to the Terms of Reference.

Comments checked by: Shiraz Sheikh, Monitoring Officer. Shiraz.sheikh@cherwell-dc.gov.uk

Risk Implications

- 7.3 There are no risk implications arising directly as a result of this report. Any future arising risk will be managed through the service operational risk and escalated to the leadership risk register as and when deemed necessary.

Comments checked by:

Celia Prado-Teeling, Performance & Insight Team Leader, 01295 221556

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Equalities and Inclusion Implications

- 7.4 There are no equalities implications arising directly because of this report. In line with our Equalities, Diversity and Inclusion framework, all proposals, changes in policies or new projects have an attached Equalities Impact Assessment .

Comments checked by:

Celia Prado-Teeling, Performance & Insight Team Leader, 01295 221556

Celia.Prado-Teeling@cherwell-dc.gov.uk

8.0 Decision Information

Key Decision N/A

Financial Threshold Met: N/A

Community Impact Threshold Met: N/A

Wards Affected

All

Links to Corporate Plan and Policy Framework

Supporting Environmental Sustainability

Lead Councillor

Councillor Dr Isabel Creed, Chair of Climate Action Working Group

Councillor Andrew McHugh, Portfolio Holder for Cleaner and Greener Communities

Document Information

Appendix number and title

- Appendix 1 – Revised Climate Action Group Terms of Reference

Background papers

None

Report Author and contact details

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