

<b>TITLE</b>	<b>Climate Emergency Task &amp; Finish Group – Officer Response to Recommendations</b>
<b>FOR CONSIDERATION BY</b>	Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee on 18 October 2021
<b>WARD</b>	None Specific
<b>DIRECTOR</b>	Graham Ebers, Resources and Assets

## **OUTCOME / BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY**

The Climate Emergency Task & Finish Group's recommendations brought "critical friend" challenge to the Council's Climate Emergency Action Plan which is a crucial document impacting on all the Borough's residents

## **RECOMMENDATION**

The Committee is requested to:

- 1) consider the officer response to the Task and Finish Group's recommendations for 2021 (attached);
- 2) consider progress against the Task and Finish Group's recommendations for 2020 (attached);
- 3) note that the next update report on the Climate Emergency Action Plan will be submitted to the Committee's meeting in January 2022;
- 4) consider any specific issues to be requested for inclusion in the next update report.

## **SUMMARY OF REPORT**

The Climate Emergency Task and Finish Group submitted its 2021 report to the Committee in June 2021. The Group's recommendations, as amended, were then submitted to the Executive in September 2021. The report to the Executive included an officer response to each of the recommendations.

Councillor Gregor Murray, Executive Member for Resident Services, Communications and Emissions, introduced the Executive report and highlighted that the Task and Finish Group had made 25 recommendations, many of which had been agreed by officers. He provided an update on the implementation of some of the recommendations; work was being undertaken to ease commute related emissions; the Bus Service Improvement Plan was under development; roads not yet built would be reviewed where possible. In addition, a house refit trial was already in place. Revenue from the Barkham Solar farm would be reinvested into further climate initiatives, and a number of behaviour change experts had been invited to pitch ideas which could be implemented across the Borough. **The Executive resolved** "That the Officers' responses to the recommendations from the Climate Emergency Task and Finish Group, as set out in the report, be approved".

It is proposed to bring the next update report on the Climate Emergency Action Plan to the Committee in January 2022. Members may wish to consider any specific issues to be considered as part of that update report.

## FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATION

The Council faces severe funding pressures, particularly in the face of the Covid-19 crisis. It is, therefore, imperative that Council resources are focussed on the vulnerable and its highest priorities.

	How much will it Cost/ (Save)	Is there sufficient funding – if not quantify the Shortfall	Revenue or Capital?
Current Financial Year (Year 1)	N/A	N/A	N/A
Next Financial Year (Year 2)	N/A		
Following Financial Year (Year 3)	N/A		

### Other financial information relevant to the Recommendation/Decision

None

### Cross-Council Implications

The Climate Emergency Action Plan impacts on all Council services and partnership working across the Borough.

### Public Sector Equality Duty

Due regard to Public Sector Equality Duty and equalities assessments are taken into account as part of the implementation of the Climate Emergency Action Plan.

### Climate Emergency – The Council has declared a Climate Emergency and is committed to playing as full a role as possible – leading by example as well as by exhortation – in achieving a carbon neutral Wokingham borough by 2030

The Task and Finish Group has acted as a critical friend to the Council in the development and implementation of the Climate Emergency Action Plan.

### List of Background Papers

None

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