

## FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

<b>Date of Meeting</b>	Tuesday, 27 September 2022
<b>Report Subject</b>	Climate Change Committee
<b>Report Author</b>	Chief Officer (Governance) Chief Officer (Planning, Environment and Economy)

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

It was agreed at the Annual Meeting to establish a Climate Change Committee. Draft terms of reference for the Committee have been drawn up. The primary objectives of the Committee are to:

- 1 assist and advise the Council on how to become a net zero carbon emitter by December 2030; and
- 2 consult with, and raise awareness amongst the public, business and suppliers on steps that can be taken to reduce carbon emissions.

The Committee can advise all parts of the Council on policies or actions that will be needed to help achieve these aims. It will also engage with the public to hear their concerns about how the Council might need to adapt its services to cope with climate change and to promote reductions in carbon emissions by residents and organisations within the County.

The Committee will need a chair. As it is a non-statutory Committee there are no restrictions or requirements as to who may/must chair the Committee nor as to membership of the Committee. Council will therefore need to appoint the chair of the Committee and decide whether the role is to be remunerated.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

1	To approve the Terms of Reference of the Climate Change Committee
2	To agree that the Chair of this Committee is remunerated.
3	To appoint the Chair of the Committee.

## **REPORT DETAILS**

<b>1.00</b>	<b>EXPLAINING THE TERMS OF REFERENCE</b>
1.01	At its Annual Meeting, Council agreed to establish a Climate Change Committee. The draft Terms of Reference for the Committee have been produced and are attached at Appendix 1.
1.02	<p>The Committee is responsible for a range of functions and tasks, focussed on achieving the two primary objectives for the Committee which are to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1 assist and advise the Council on how to become a net zero carbon emitter by December 2030; and</li><li>2 consult with, and raise awareness amongst, the public, business and suppliers on steps that can be taken to reduce carbon emissions.</li></ol>
1.03	<p>One of the main tasks for the Committee will be to oversee the implementation of the Council's Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan.</p> <p>The Committee can also :</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>i. advise all parts of the Council on policies or actions that are required;</li><li>ii. submit businesses cases for revenue or capital funding;</li><li>iii. engage with the public.</li></ol>
1.04	<p>The Committee is a non-statutory Committee, that is to say, there is no legislation governing the formation or membership of the Committee. There are therefore no requirements or restrictions on who may be a member of the Committee nor on who may chair it. Council will need to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>a) decide whether the Committee chair is a remunerated position; and</li><li>b) appoint the chair.</li></ol>
1.05	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>i. The Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan were approved in February 2022. Key early actions for the Committee to oversee will be: The annual reporting of the Council's carbon emissions to Welsh Government;</li><li>ii. Overseeing and reviewing progress in the Strategy's key themes and advising on further policies and/or actions required;</li><li>iii. Reviewing and submitting business cases for appropriate revenue and capital funding to support these actions.</li></ol>
<b>2.00</b>	<b>RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS</b>
2.01	The Council still needs to develop a resourcing plan for the strategy which will be part of the Committee's work plan. That resourcing plan will need to be kept under review to accommodate emerging suggestions for actions/projects to reduce the Council's emissions. The Committee's principal main adviser will be the Programme Manager - Climate Change & Carbon Reduction, though various managers will need to report to the Committee on the steps to be taken to reduce emissions arising as a result of their services.
2.02	It is anticipated that the Committee will meet every other month.

<b>3.00</b>	<b>CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED / CARRIED OUT</b>
3.01	Group Leaders have been consulted on the Terms of Reference.
<b>4.00</b>	<b>RISK MANAGEMENT</b>
4.01	Climate Change poses a significant and existential risk to life on the planet. It also poses direct risks to the council in terms of extreme weather events, such as flooding. Lastly, some of the steps needed to address climate change will pose financial challenges to the council, although with rising energy costs it may create opportunities to save money as well. The Committee will need to highlight these issues for the council and help it to build them in to its financial planning.
<b>5.00</b>	<b>APPENDICES</b>
5.01	Appendix 1 – Terms of Reference.
<b>6.00</b>	<b>LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS</b>
6.01	<b>Contact Officer:</b> Gareth Owens, Chief Officer Governance <b>Telephone:</b> 01352 702344 <b>E-mail:</b> <a href="mailto:gareth.legal@flintshire.gov.uk">gareth.legal@flintshire.gov.uk</a>
<b>7.00</b>	<b>GLOSSARY OF TERMS</b>
7.01	None