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|  <b>Overview &amp; Scrutiny 9<sup>th</sup> July 2019</b>   |   | <b>Agenda Item No. 6</b> |
| <b>Title</b>  | Review of Council's Sustainability and Climate Change Approach  |                          |
| <b>For further information about this report please contact</b>   | Alice Ellis, Sustainability Officer, Health & Community Protection<br>Alice.Ellis@warwickdc.gov.uk<br>Tel: 01926 456102 |                          |
| <b>Wards of the District directly affected</b>  | All   |                          |
| <b>Is the report private and confidential and not for publication by virtue of a paragraph of schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, following the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006?</b> | No<br>If yes state why  |                          |
| <b>Date and meeting when issue was last considered and relevant minute number</b>   | Date of meeting when issue was last considered 26/06/2018:  |                          |
| <b>Background Papers</b>  |   |                          |

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| <b>Contrary to the policy framework:</b>                                   | No  |
| <b>Contrary to the budgetary framework:</b>                                | No  |
| <b>Key Decision?</b>   | No  |
| <b>Included within the Forward Plan? (If yes include reference number)</b> | No  |
| <b>Equality Impact Assessment Undertaken</b>                               | Yes |
|  |     |

|  |             |  |
|--|-------------|--|
| <b>Officer/Councillor Approval</b>   |             |  |
| <b>Officer Approval</b>  | <b>Date</b> | <b>Name</b>                                      |
| Chief Executive/Deputy Chief Executive   | 25/06/2019  | Chris Elliott                                    |
| Head of Service  | 19/06/2019  | Marianne Rolfe                                   |
| CMT  | 25/06/2019  | Chris Elliott                                    |
| Section 151 Officer  | 25/06/2019  | Mike Snow  |
| Monitoring Officer   | 25/06/2019  | Andy Jones and Bill Hunt                         |
| Finance  | 25/06/2019  | Andrew Rollins                                   |
| Portfolio Holder(s)  | 25/06/2019  | Councillor Alan Rhead and Councillor Judith Falp |
| <b>Consultation &amp; Community Engagement</b>   |             |  |
| Insert details of any consultation undertaken or proposed to be undertaken with regard to this report. |             |  |
| Consultation with the Sustainability Officer Group on 20/06/2019.                                      |             |  |
| <b>Final Decision?</b>   | No          |  |
| <b>Suggested next steps (if not final decision please set out below)</b>                               |             |  |

## 1. **Summary**

- 1.1 This report summarises the Council's latest position in relation to Sustainability & Climate Change including a refresh of the Sustainability Approach document and the Council's achievements in the last year.

## 2. **Recommendation**

- 2.1 The Committee note the achievements of the Council against the thematic priority of Sustainability.

## 3. **Reasons for the Recommendation**

- 3.1 Significant achievements have been made by the Council in delivering against the sustainability agenda.

## 4. **Policy Framework**

### 4.1 **Fit for the Future (FFF)**

The Council's FFF Strategy is designed to deliver the Vision for the District of making it a Great Place to Live, Work and Visit. To that end amongst other things the FFF Strategy contains several Key projects. This report shows the way forward for implementing a significant part of one of the Council's Key projects for 'Green, Clean and Safe'.

The FFF Strategy has 3 strands – People, Services and Money and each has an external and internal element to it. The table below illustrates the impact of this proposal if any in relation to the Council's FFF Strategy.

| <b>FFF Strands</b>  |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| <b>People</b>   | <b>Services</b>  | <b>Money</b>   |
| <b>External</b>   |  |  |
| <b>Health, Homes, Communities</b>   | <b>Green, Clean, Safe</b>  | <b>Infrastructure, Enterprise, Employment</b>  |
| <u>Intended outcomes:</u><br>Improved health for all<br>Housing needs for all met<br>Impressive cultural and sports activities<br>Cohesive and active communities | <u>Intended outcomes:</u><br>Area has well looked after public spaces<br>All communities have access to decent open space<br>Improved air quality<br>Low levels of crime and ASB | <u>Intended outcomes:</u><br>Dynamic and diverse local economy<br>Vibrant town centres<br>Improved performance/productivity of local economy<br>Increased employment and income levels |
| <b>Impacts of Proposal</b>  |  |  |
| Homes that are warmer and more energy efficient directly improve the health and wellbeing of residents.   | The Sustainability approach directly links to green travel projects that link to the objective of improving air quality.   | Energy efficiency measures and technological advancements improve the performance of the local business economy.   |

| <b>Internal</b>   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| <b>Effective Staff</b>  | <b>Maintain or Improve Services</b>   | <b>Firm Financial Footing over the Longer Term</b>  |
| <u>Intended outcomes:</u><br>All staff are properly trained<br>All staff have the appropriate tools<br>All staff are engaged, empowered and supported<br>The right people are in the right job with the right skills and right behaviours | <u>Intended outcomes:</u><br>Focusing on our customers' needs<br>Continuously improve our processes<br>Increase the digital provision of services | <u>Intended outcomes:</u><br>Better return/use of our assets<br>Full Cost accounting<br>Continued cost management<br>Maximise income earning opportunities<br>Seek best value for money |
| <b>Impacts of Proposal</b>  |   |   |
| A greener staff culture will help empower staff to feel they can make a positive contribution to reducing their impact on the environment and also contribute to wider work on this agenda within the District.                           | Embedding sustainability within the organisation rather than it being a stand-alone area of work will help improve our processes.                 | Improved energy efficiency will lower operational costs particularly as energy prices are expected to continue to rise.   |

## 4.2 Supporting Strategies

Each strand of the FFF Strategy has several supporting strategies and the relevant one for this proposal is the Sustainability Approach. There are other strategies that link to the sustainability agenda but which are addressed by other means; these aspects include strategies at a District level, for example, the Warwick District Air Quality Strategy, and other strategies that are more widely set at a County level, such as Warwickshire's Municipal waste Management Strategy.

## 4.3 Changes to Existing Policies

None.

## 4.3 Impact Assessments – Not applicable

## 5. Budgetary Framework

5.1 There are no budget implications for this report. However, should there be budget implications identified in relation to further work on this agenda, these will be subject to future Executive reports.

## 6. Risks

6.1 By not delivering on the Sustainability Approach, carbon emissions will remain the same, if not increase, contributing to global warming, and local air quality

will not be improved which will have adverse effects on the health of local residents. This will, in turn, risk negative opinion from the local community. Where particular projects require investment, financial risks will be identified and approval sought through the appropriate channels.

## **7. Alternative Option(s) considered**

7.1 Not applicable as the report is providing an update of the work against the Sustainability Approach.

## **8. Background**

8.1 In 2016, an annual review of the Council's Strategic Approach to Sustainability, shown in Appendix 1, was undertaken to ensure that the emphasis was in the right areas and actions were being delivered.

8.2 In 2018, a Sustainability Officer was appointed to coordinate the delivery of the Sustainability Approach and to facilitate progress which has resulted in a re-energised Sustainability Officer Group (SOG) with meetings being held on a regular basis with representation from across the authority.

8.3 The SOG is responsible for reviewing progress against the Sustainability Approach, raising any issues of concern and identifying new opportunities for improvement. There is a lot of enthusiasm within the group currently to look even further at the Council's current position to make improvements in relation to the Council's operations, to help residents lower their energy bills and to adopt low-carbon technologies within local communities.

8.4 There are three Strategic Aims of the Sustainability Approach which are as follows:

- Strategic Aim 1 – Embed sustainability at a strategic level within the organisation (Warwick District Council).
- Strategic Aim 2 – Address the council's own impacts relating to sustainability and ensure its physical assets and operations remain resilient in the face of a changing climate.
- Strategic Aim 3 – Promote and enable sustainability and climate change resilience in the wider district.

8.5 For each of these strategic aims, a number of specific objectives were defined based around the priorities which are shown in Appendix 2.

8.6 Sitting behind the Strategic Aims and the Priorities is the Action Plan in Appendix 3, where the progress is clearly visible.

## **9.0 Strategic Aims Progress**

### **Strategic Aim 1**

9.1 A 'Clean, Green, Safe' element has been included in the Fit for the Future (FFF) table contained within all report templates and construction of supporting guidance to authors on how to complete the Clean, Green and Safe element is to be developed.

- 9.2 An intranet page for staff has been developed outlining the work of the Sustainability Officer Group and progress in this area. We launched SOG to staff in conjunction with new plastic recycling streams. In addition, further information has been added to the sustainability and climate change website pages with additional development of this page planned for later in the year.
- 9.3 A Plastics Policy was adopted in November 2018 with a number of actions already delivered outlined in further detail in the Strategic Aim 2 Section.

## **Strategic Aim 2**

- 9.4 The District Heating scheme has moved onto the next stage with a tender being awarded to Encraft Ltd who have completed feasibility studies of District Heating schemes within the areas of Myton Gardens and Leamington Spa Town Centre. The costs and feasibility of these scheme are now being considered.
- 9.5 The authority now has 6 electric and hybrid pool vehicles which includes a new electric van for Neighbourhood Services. The original funding from the Office of Low Emission Vehicles (OLEV) has come to an end, but it was agreed to continue with the electric vehicles for a further 4 years. In addition, the provision of a further electric van is being explored for the pest control team, with the electric charging infrastructure being explored. Branding for the vehicles has been developed to help promote our work within the local community and encourage others to do the same.
- 9.6 Annual paper use has been calculated to the equivalent of 211 trees. Paper use reductions since the introduction of the multi-function devices is 15%. A trial has just begun with Councillors and Officers with electronic only Committee papers, with consideration to be made for those who specifically request paper copies.
- 9.7 A staff travel survey has been completed. This showed that over 30% of staff are interested in car sharing to work and consequently the feasibility of introducing a car share scheme is being considered. A postcode mapping exercise has been undertaken with the organisation Liftshare which highlighted that 84% of staff have a sustainable travel option available in terms of cycling, walking, car sharing or public transport. A staff car share scheme could potentially be delivered either through Liftshare or developed internally to include dedicated car share spaces at Riverside House.
- 9.8 We have worked with county colleagues to develop and submit a bid to OLEV (Office of Low Emission Vehicles) to install electric chargepoints in car parks. Included in the bid are 8 dual chargepoints (16 points in total) in Warwick District along with some on-street charging. Locations to install the chargepoints include the following Warwick District Council owned car parks: Abbey End in Kenilworth, Abbey Fields in Kenilworth, St Mary's Land 2 in Warwick, West Rock in Warwick and Bath Place in Leamington Spa. On-street charging areas include Northgate Street in Warwick, Market Square in Warwick and Kenilworth Road in Leamington Spa. We are currently waiting for a response from OLEV on the bid.
- 9.9 The new HQ is expected to achieve at least a BREEAM (Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method) 'very good' rating with provision to be made for the installation of solar PV, LED lighting, a highly

energy efficient air-conditioning system and high levels of insulation. Cycle infrastructure storage and showers for cyclists will be provided. In addition, a starting number of 86 electric vehicle chargepoints are to be installed including provision for additional chargepoints in the future.

### **Strategic Aim 3**

- 9.10 Fuel poverty work is continuing via a Service Level Agreement with the local charity Act on Energy. The key focus of this work is promoting the free help and support available particularly through the Winter Warmth Campaign. Act on Energy also offer a Freephone telephone line to help all residents in the District with home energy efficiency advice and home visits can also be undertaken for complex cases.
- 9.11 An initiative to contact private sector landlords with Energy Performance Certificates (EPCs) of 'F' and 'G' has been undertaken, and we have signposted such landlords to information to help make improvements. However, the Government guidance in this area has stalled in terms of the landlord contribution requirements to making energy efficiency improvement work and exemptions to make improvements are currently too easily made.
- 9.12 Act on Energy has attended a number of 'drop-in' home energy efficiency events during the Winter months at community Forums, local community hubs and dementia groups and cafes.
- 9.13 ECO (Energy Company Obligation) funding is provided by energy providers and is aimed at householders on means tested benefits to help cover the cost of installing boilers and insulation measures. A Statement of Intent has been signed by the authority in relation to ECO Flex, which is an extension of ECO. The 'flex' element enables the authority to provide funding to vulnerable residents not necessarily on means tested benefits such as those on a low income, with small children, a disability or health condition and on a pre-payment meter. There have been over 80 ECO installs during 2018/19. There are also a significant number of grants delivered under the HEART Partnership (Home Environment Assessment Response Team) which provides advice and home improvement and adaptation work to disabled residents including home energy efficiency improvements.
- 9.14 A Home Energy Conservation Act (HECA) Report has been developed to provide an overview of the work that is being undertaken on fuel poverty and this will be submitted to the Department for Business Energy Industrial Strategy.
- 9.15 A bid was submitted to the Ultra-Low Emission Bus Scheme to have electric buses and charging infrastructure on Route 67 (Sydenham – Leamington – Cubbington). This was submitted by a consortium of organisations including Warwick District Council; Volvo, Stagecoach Midlands, Warwickshire County Council, Stratford District Council and Greenwatt Technology. Although this was unsuccessful, funding is being explored through the Commonwealth Games bid.
- 9.16 A bid was submitted to Defra to fund the following: a full-time air quality Officer for two years; an electric taxi project, a media campaign in relation to log burner stoves and fires and a Countywide air quality study to obtain background emissions data to support future planning decisions. Unfortunately, the bid was also unsuccessful.

- 9.17 In relation to the Plastics Policy, work has started on eliminating single-use plastic from district council buildings. On-going support is being given to the Plastic Free Leamington and Warwick group to achieve 'plastic free' status for the towns of Leamington and Warwick. In conjunction with the University of Warwick and other partners, the Council coordinated a plastic free stall during 'Green Week' We have worked with other organisations and Media to develop a plastic animation to communicate our policy and what residents can do.
- 9.18 A successful 'Ecofest' event took place on Sunday 5 May with over 1,500 residents attending. This was building on the previous Eco Fun Day with a number of environmental stalls and health and well-being activities.
- 9.19 Extreme weather risks are assessed as part of the Warwickshire Local Resilience Forum (LRF). In addition, the Council's Significant Business Risk Register addresses the potential impacts from extreme weather events.
- 9.20 A large amount of work has been carried out by the Green Spaces Team on reducing environmental impacts. The new Open Spaces Supplementary Planning Document includes sustainable planting requirements for new developments. The work also includes minimising water use by reducing the number of tubs on poles and hanging baskets in the town centre along with sustainable 'drought tolerant' planting. There has also been work to slowly reduce the amount of peat that is used. Grass cutting in relation to woodland path clearance has reduced and a number of areas have been planted with bulbs. Meadow areas have been introduced at St. Nicholas Park and other areas.

## **10.0 Upcoming Significant Projects of Interest**

- 10.1 There are a number of significant additional projects currently being explored, including a bike share scheme, a solar farm project, and an electric taxi scheme working with local taxi companies.
- 10.2 Work is progressing on the commitment in relation to sustainable homes and the HRA (Home Repair Assistance) capital investment reserve. A Sustainable Homes Board has been created to develop a plan to incorporate high sustainability standards in new-builds and retrofitting of existing properties. A further progress update on this will be provided in the Autumn.
- 10.3 Although the Fuel Poverty Strategy hasn't progressed as much as anticipated, work has been happening on this Agenda as outlined above and the Winter 2019 campaign with Act on Energy is being planned. Also, a joint 'Warm Homes Fund' bid with other local authority partners along with E-ON and the HEART Partnership is being developed; this funding is offered by Affordable Warmth Solutions, in partnership with National Grid to install first time central heating systems into homes.
- 10.4 It should be noted that one area of further improvement relates to benchmarking of the Council's own data in relation to carbon emissions. A recent development has been with the United Nations 'One Carbon World' scheme that will help the authority to monitor carbon emissions and off-set these where necessary to achieve carbon neutrality. Warwick District Council has recently become the first Local Authority to take part in this international

programme. In addition, the Council has passed a Climate Emergency Motion, which is shown in Appendix 4.

- 10.4 In addition, two students from The University of Warwick will be supporting the Health and Community Protection Team over the summer months of 2019. The main work areas will include the following; climate change plans and reporting, sustainability promotion for staff, electric charging point installs as part of evaluating developer contributions, vehicle idling research and green roof opportunities.