

Overview and Scrutiny Committee  
10<sup>th</sup> November 2020

**Title:** Annual Review of Plastics Policy, Sustainability Approach and Climate Emergency Action Programme

**Lead Officer:** Dave Barber

**Portfolio Holder:** Cllr Alan Rhead

**Public report**

**Wards of the District directly affected:** All

Contrary to the policy framework: No

Contrary to the budgetary framework: No

Key Decision: No

Included within the Forward Plan: N/A

Equality Impact Assessment Undertaken: N/A

Consultation & Community Engagement: N/A

Final Decision: No

Accessibility checked: Yes

**Officer/Councillor Approval**

<b>Officer Approval</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Name</b>
Chief Executive/Deputy Chief Executive	27/10/20	Chris Elliott
Head of Service	27/10/20	Marianne Rolfe
CMT	27/10/20	Chris Elliot, Andrew Jones, Bill Hunt, Dave Barber
Section 151 Officer		N/A
Monitoring Officer	27/10/20	Andrew Jones
Finance		N/A
Portfolio Holder(s)	27/10/20	Cllr Alan Rhead

**1. Summary**

1.1. This report provides the annual update on progress with regard to:

- a) WDC Sustainability Approach 2016 to 2020
- b) The Plastics Policy

1.2. In addition, the report sets out progress on the Climate Emergency Action Programme which was considered by the Executive in February 2020.

**2. Recommendation**

2.1. That members note the progress made on implementing the Sustainability Approach, the Plastics Policy and the Climate Emergency Action Programme as set out in Appendix 1.

- 2.2. That members note that, as the Sustainability Approach has now reached its anticipated end date, future progress in relation to sustainability issues will be reported against the Climate Emergency Action Programme, the Plastics Policy and the emerging Fuel Poverty Strategy.

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

- 3.1. Appendix 1 shows that considerable progress has been made with regard to the Sustainability Approach and that many of the measures of success have been accomplished. As the time frame for The Sustainability Approach was 2016 to 2020, there will be no future reports based on the Sustainability Approach. Instead, outstanding areas which remain a priority will, in future, be addressed and reported through:
- The Climate Emergency Action Programme Updates
  - The Plastics Policy updates
  - Progress reports against the Fuel Poverty Strategy (on the Forward Plan for consideration by Executive in December 2020)
- 3.2. The Plastics Policy was adopted in November 2018 and was coupled with a Stage 1 report, outlining the aims of this work area, taking into account what could be accomplished at the time. Since November 2018 there has been good progress on the commitments of the policy. Appendix 1 builds on the 2019 update and sets out the progress that has been made since 2018 on the policy commitments and identifies further work that could be achieved.
- 3.3. The Climate Emergency Action Programme (CEAP) was considered by Executive in February 2020. As the proposed Council Tax referendum was unable to take place, a CEAP refresh will be considered by the Executive in December 2020. The updates set out in Appendix 1 relate to the CEAP Year 1 (2020/21) priorities which were supported by the Climate Emergency Working Party (now superseded by the Climate Emergency PAB) at its meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2020. There are other elements of the CEAP which will be brought forward in future years, but are not included in this update. Specifically, it is intended to bring a report to Executive in April 2021 setting out a more detailed and resourced CEAP plan. This is expected to be informed by:
- The People's Climate Inquiry (Citizen's Jury)
  - The Carbon Reduction Pathway identified through utilising the Scatter Pathways tool
  - The 2021/22 budget
  - Emerging national and partner priorities and opportunities

### **4. Policy Framework**

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

- 4.1.1. 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 priorities. This report provides

an update on progress in relation to a significant part of one of the Council's key priorities – namely the environment and climate change.

- 4.1.2. The FFF Strategy has 3 strands, People, Services and Money, and each has an external and internal element to it, the details of which can be found on the Council's website. The section below illustrates the impact of this proposal if any in relation to the Council's FFF Strategy

### 4.2. **FFF Strands**

#### 4.2.1 **External impacts of proposal(s)**

**People - Health, Homes, Communities** – This report provides an update on progress relating to fuel poverty as set out in the Sustainability Approach (2016-2020).

**Services - Green, Clean, Safe** – This report provides an extensive update in Appendix 1 on the progress being made towards sustainability, plastics reduction and the achievement of the Council ambitions for a carbon neutral Council and a carbon neutral District.

**Money- Infrastructure, Enterprise, Employment** – Whilst this is not the primary focus of this report, the updates do relate to the potential to decarbonise infrastructure and encourage green investment in the District.

#### 4.2.2. **Internal impacts of the proposal(s)**

**People - Effective Staff** – The updates set out in appendix include progress on being made to support staff to reduce the environmental and carbon impacts of their work

**Services - Maintain or Improve Services** – N/A

**Money - Firm Financial Footing over the Longer Term** – N/A

### 4.3. **Supporting Strategies**

- 4.3.1. Each strand of the FFF Strategy has several supporting strategies and the relevant ones for this report are the Climate Emergency Action Programme; the Sustainability Approach and the Plastics Policy.

### 4.4. **Changes to Existing Policies**

- 4.4.1. This report does not propose any changes to existing policies, although members should note that the Sustainability Approach has reached the end of its period of impact.

### 4.5. **Impact Assessments**

- 4.5.1. The report provides updates in relation to fuel poverty where initiatives have been targeted at vulnerable and low income households. Addressing climate change is an important part of the Council's approach to ensuring equalities,

noting that the impacts of climate change both locally and globally are likely to be felt more acutely by disadvantaged and vulnerable people.

### **5. Budgetary Framework**

5.1. There are no budgetary implications of this report.

### **6. Risks**

6.1. There are no risks associated with this report.