



Agenda

Meeting: **Climate and Ecological Emergency Working Group**
Date: **17 December 2020**
Time: **2.00 pm**
Place: **Remote Meeting**

To: Councillors Gary Fuller, Connor McConville, Ian Meyers, Stuart Peall, Lesley Whybrow (Chair) and David Wimble

This meeting will not be open to the press or public.

1. **Apologies for Absence**
2. **Declarations of Interest**

Members of the committee should declare any interests which fall under the following categories:

- a) disclosable pecuniary interests (DPI);
- b) other significant interests (OSI);
- c) voluntary announcements of other interests.

3. **Minutes**

To consider and agree the minutes of the meeting held on 5 November 2020.

4. **Laser update**
5. **Motion to Full Council - 25 November 2020**
6. **Updates to Action Plan and Next Steps**

Queries about the agenda? Need a different format?

Contact Kate Clark – Tel: 01303 853267
Email: committee@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk
or download from our website www.folkestone-hythe.gov.uk

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Declarations of Interest

Disclosable Pecuniary Interest (DPI)

Where a Member has a new or registered DPI in a matter under consideration they must disclose that they have an interest and, unless the Monitoring Officer has agreed in advance that the DPI is a 'Sensitive Interest', explain the nature of that interest at the meeting. The Member must withdraw from the meeting at the commencement of the consideration of any matter in which they have declared a DPI and must not participate in any discussion of, or vote taken on, the matter unless they have been granted a dispensation permitting them to do so. If during the consideration of any item a Member becomes aware that they have a DPI in the matter they should declare the interest immediately and, subject to any dispensations, withdraw from the meeting.

Other Significant Interest (OSI)

Where a Member is declaring an OSI they must also disclose the interest and explain the nature of the interest at the meeting. The Member must withdraw from the meeting at the commencement of the consideration of any matter in which they have declared a OSI and must not participate in any discussion of, or vote taken on, the matter unless they have been granted a dispensation to do so or the meeting is one at which members of the public are permitted to speak for the purpose of making representations, answering questions or giving evidence relating to the matter. In the latter case, the Member may only participate on the same basis as a member of the public and cannot participate in any discussion of, or vote taken on, the matter and must withdraw from the meeting in accordance with the Council's procedure rules.

Voluntary Announcement of Other Interests (VAOI)

Where a Member does not have either a DPI or OSI but is of the opinion that for transparency reasons alone s/he should make an announcement in respect of a matter under consideration, they can make a VAOI. A Member declaring a VAOI may still remain at the meeting and vote on the matter under consideration.

Note to the Code:

Situations in which a Member may wish to make a VAOI include membership of outside bodies that have made representations on agenda items; where a Member knows a person involved, but does not have a close association with that person; or where an item would affect the well-being of a Member, relative, close associate, employer, etc. but not his/her financial position. It should be emphasised that an effect on the financial position of a Member, relative, close associate, employer, etc OR an application made by a Member, relative, close associate, employer, etc would both probably constitute either an OSI or in some cases a DPI.

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Minutes

Climate and Ecological Emergency Working Group

Held at:	Remote meeting
Date	Thursday, 5 November 2020
Present	Councillors Connor McConville, Ian Meyers, Lesley Whybrow (Chair) and David Wimble
Apologies for Absence	Councillor Gary Fuller
Officers Present:	Andy Blaszkowicz (Director of Housing and Operations), Kate Clark (Case Officer - Committee Services), Alastair Clifford (Operations Lead Specialist), Fred Miller (Transportation Lead Specialist), Susan Priest (Chief Executive), Hazel Sargent (Low Carbon and Sustainability Specialist) and Charlotte Spendley (Director of Corporate Services)
Others Present:	None

16. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

17. **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 17 September 2020 were agreed. The Chair's signature will be added to these minutes.

18. **Laser Energy Update**

Due to unforeseen circumstances an update could not be provided at this meeting.

19. **Folkestone & Hythe District Council's Carbon Action Plan**

Members were reminded that the Carbon Action Plan document had been produced to reduce the Council's own carbon footprint to net zero by 2030. It takes as its baseline a study by LASER Energy that uses data from 2018/19 as

an initial starting point. The next step is to present this report to the Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

Members asked about the timings of stages under immediate; short term and medium to long term. It was mentioned that actions in Stage 1, notwithstanding the pandemic, are likely to take effect early in 2021.

Members felt it was important to source energy from local green suppliers, rather than relying on large national companies. This could be incorporated within the Procurement Policy which is to be reviewed.

Overall, members felt this was a very detailed and structured report and thanked officers for its production.

20. Kent and Medway Energy and Low Emissions Strategy

The Low Carbon and Sustainability Specialist Officer, provided a precis of the Strategy with presentation slides. The presentation is attached to these minutes.

Members were given brief comments on the priorities and were advised the strategy would be presented to Cabinet for adoption. However, more analysis is needed to explore how this strategy aligns with the Council's plans and in this respect Cabinet will need the views and input from this working group.

The Chair pointed out that more work around this strategy is needed in readiness for the next Climate and Ecological Emergency Working Group meeting.

21. All Member Briefing

An all member briefing was proposed and working group members felt this was a good step forward. The Chair of this working group would open the session which would include;

- A recap of the original motion proposed in July 2019.
- Invite experts to help deliver the briefing, eg possibly The Carbon Trust.
- Initial scope of the Working Group and how this has been narrowed down.
- Indicate what is currently being carried out by the Council to become carbon neutral.
- Ensure members gain a basic knowledge and terminology understanding of the Carbon Action Plan.
- How the Carbon Action Plan ties in with the Corporate Plan.
- Emphasise short, medium and long term goals.

22. Folkestone and Hythe District Council LED Lamp Post Project

The Transportation Lead Specialist provided a presentation on the District Street Lighting Review, which is attached to these minutes.

It was noted that up to 70% of the district's street lighting requires replacement or repair. Four options were shown to members looking at costs and carbon emissions savings, option three was the recommended outcome.

Members raised the following points:

- Funding requirement would be £950,000 which would include maintenance if adopted by KCC.
- Lighting in un-adopted roads would continue to be maintained.
- If all street lighting is adopted by KCC this would not include pole brackets, which is street lighting fitted to electricity poles.
- Incorporate roadside EV charging points into poles was suggested, however if KCC adopt the street lights then this is a topic to be covered by the County Council and could be discussed with KCC Transportation.
- Value for money – street lighting stock is ageing and requires upgrading. An initial investment is needed but ultimately savings could be made through KCC adoption, there are also carbon reduction effects.

23. **Any Other Business**

The Working Group were asked for their views on the recent announcement from the Department for Transport (DfT) on extra funding for Electrical Vehicle (EV) charging points.

At present the Council's plan is to fund and install 15 EV charging points, however with DfT funding this could be increased to 60.

There are timescales to adhere to, funding needs to be applied for by the end of November 2020 with installation to be completed by end of March 2021.

Members felt this was a good opportunity and an application will be made after reference is made to the portfolio holder for transport, Councillor David Godfrey.

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Minutes from Full Council – 25 November 2020

Motion on notice

1. Councillor Miss Susan Carey, Conservative Group, set out her motion, which related to the council's Carbon Action Plan, as set out in the agenda.

Proposed by Councillor Miss Carey,
Seconded by Councillor Hills;

That the Council takes the following action:

- That the Carbon Action Plan include commitments to adopt the following policies:
 - the Kent & Medway Energy & Low Emissions Strategy.
 - the Kent Biodiversity Strategy.
 - Kent's Plan Bee; and
 - an improved recycling target to benefit from the incentives in the new waste contract.
 - More opportunity for those in flats and houses in multiple occupation to recycle.
- That the plan considers:
 - a district version of the Climate Change Risk Assessment using the Climate Change Committee's methodology.
 - an Adaptation Plan to address the identified risks.
 - a 20% Biodiversity Net Gain policy for all new development in the district.
 - a 25% Biodiversity Net Gain policy for Otterpool Park.
 - Options for where the district can improve natural capital such as wildlife corridors, tiny forests, pocket parks etc.
 - Options for investment in renewable energy within the district.
 - Switching the council's vehicles to Low Emission Vehicles.
 - Increased enforcement against flytipping with more Op Assist interventions with Kent Police.
- That the council's action plan for Net Zero pays particular attention to how best to retrofit existing housing stock, that new housing is built to standards that do not require retrofitting to be carbon neutral and that ways are examined to improve air quality including an examination of the effects of bonfires and how these can be minimised.

Proposed by Councillor Whybrow,
Seconded by Councillor Treloar; and

RESOLVED:

That the motion on notice be amended as follows:

That these suggestions be referred to the next meeting of the Climate and Ecological Emergency Working Group so that the Working Group can consider them and make recommendations to Cabinet.

Councillor Miss Carey, with the consent of Councillor Hills and the meeting, agreed to accept the amendment to form the substantive motion which was then open to debate and put to the vote.

(Voting figures: 29 for, 0 against, 0 abstentions).