

This Report will be made public on 12 October 2022



Report Number **C/22/51**

**To:** Cabinet  
**Date:** 20 October 2022  
**Status:** Non key  
**Responsible Officer:** Adrian Tofts, Strategy, Policy & Performance Lead Specialist  
**Cabinet Member:** Cllr Lesley Whybrow, Cabinet Member for the Environment

**SUBJECT: MEMBERSHIP OF UK100 NETWORK**

**SUMMARY:** This report outlines the support that the UK100 network of local authorities can provide to assist Folkestone & Hythe District Council to meet its climate change objectives. The report seeks approval for Folkestone & Hythe District Council to join the UK100 network.

**REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:**

To support Folkestone & Hythe District Council in achieving its climate change objectives.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

1. To receive and note report C/22/51.
2. That Cabinet approves the district council becoming a member of the UK100 network of local authorities.

## **1. BACKGROUND**

- 1.1 The UK 100 group of local authorities was set up in 2015 to support action on climate change, in advance of the 21<sup>st</sup> United Nations Conference of the Parties (COP21) in Paris in December 2015.
- 1.2 UK100 is described on its website as “a network of highly ambitious local government leaders, which seeks to devise and implement plans for the transition to clean energy that are ambitious, cost effective and take the public and business with them”.<sup>1</sup>
- 1.3 At the time of writing, UK100 lists 102 authorities as members.<sup>2</sup> Members include large metropolitan authorities, London Boroughs, county councils, combined authorities and lower tier authorities. Within Kent, Canterbury City Council and Swale Borough Council are members.
- 1.4 UK100 undertakes research and publishes findings on a number of topics including: transport; homes and buildings; energy; waste reduction and the circular economy; collaboration; green finance; and clean air. It works with Government ministers and civil servants to influence policy on issues including clean air, financing local energy, green finance and green jobs.

## **2. COMMITMENTS AND BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP**

- 2.1 UK100 is financed through several funds and foundations and there is no subscription for local authorities to join.
- 2.2 Membership of the UK100 offers a number of benefits. The network provides learning opportunities for elected Members and officers on topics including: decarbonising homes and buildings; decarbonising transport; financing the transition to net zero; nature and climate adaptation; and clean energy.
- 2.3 The network offers a ‘Knowledge Hub’ to allow authorities to share their practical experience and learning. Recent examples of best practice from member authorities include:
  - The creation of a bio-gas bus fleet (Reading Borough Council).
  - The introduction of a Community Municipal Investment (CMI) bond (West Berkshire Council).
  - The installation of water-source heat pumps in listed buildings (Stroud District Council).
  - An initiative to improve all council homes to Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) level B within ten years (Wiltshire Council).

---

<sup>1</sup> See: <https://www.uk100.org/about>

<sup>2</sup> See: <https://www.uk100.org/membership>

- The provision of infrastructure to support Electric Vehicles (West Midlands Combined Authority).
  - Electrification of the council's fleet of vehicles (Lancaster City Council).
- 2.4 UK100 also offers membership of a Countryside Climate Network of rural authorities, which has 41 members. The network aims to address particular issues facing rural areas such as: the provision of reliable public transport; broadband connectivity; heating communities currently reliant on fuel oil; and promoting sustainable farming practices.
- 2.5 On joining the council would be required to sign the pledge attached at Appendix 1.
- 2.6 The membership pledge asks local authorities to use their influence to reduce greenhouse gas emissions within their organisations and to work with residents and businesses to move towards net zero emissions within their administrative areas. To guide work on reducing emissions from our own estate and operations, the council produced a Carbon Action Plan, which was adopted by Cabinet on 24 February 2021 (ref: C/20/76). Many of the actions in the plan have been completed and the plan is currently being reviewed.
- 2.7 Regarding residents and businesses, the council has set up a 'Carbon Innovation Lab' to bring together stakeholders from the local community, neighbourhood groups and businesses to draft a district-wide plan for carbon reduction. (This was endorsed by Cabinet on 23 March 2022; ref: C/21/94.) A number of meetings of the Lab have been held and an update report will be taken back to Cabinet in due course.
- 2.8 The pledge asks that local authorities monitor their progress to achieve net zero within their organisations. The council measured the carbon emissions from its own estate and operations at the base year 2018/19, through the consultancy Laser Energy, and reported these emissions in the 2021 Carbon Action Plan. Officers are updating the emissions data for the intervening monitoring years.

### **3. CONCLUSIONS**

- 3.1 It is considered that membership of the UK100 network could offer Folkestone & Hythe District Council many benefits and it would present few risks. Recommendation 2 of this report is therefore that Cabinet recommends that the council joins the network.
- 3.2 Membership would provide access to support and learning that could help the council achieve many of the service ambitions set out in the Corporate Plan, Creating Tomorrow Together, including:
- Ensure an excellent environment for everyone.
  - Grow the circular economy and reduce waste.

- Increase our resilience to climate change.
- Grow the skills we need for the future.

3.3 It would also align with the Corporate Plan’s guiding principles:

- Sustainable recovery.
- Greener Folkestone & Hythe.
- Working effectively with partners.
- Continuous improvement.

#### 4. OPTIONS

4.1 The options are:

- To join the UK100 network of local authorities.
- Not to join the UK100 network of local authorities.

4.2 For the reasons set out in sections 2 and 3 above, the recommendation is: option (i), that the council joins the UK100 network.

#### 5. RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES

5.1 A summary of the perceived risks follows:

Perceived risk	Seriousness	Likelihood	Preventative action
That the UK100 network draws disproportionate resources of officer and/or Member time	Low	Low	That commitments to the UK100 network be reviewed periodically, such as through annual update reports to the Climate Change & Ecological Emergency Working Group

#### 6. LEGAL/FINANCIAL AND OTHER CONTROLS/POLICY MATTERS

##### 6.1. Legal Officer’s Comments (NM)

There are no legal implications arising directly from this report.

##### 6.2. Finance Officer’s Comments (LW)

The report outlines that there is no direct cost for membership of this organisation and there are no direct financial implications arising from it

##### 6.3. Diversities and Equalities Implications (GE)

There are no equality and diversity implications directly arising from this report. The proposal for the council to join the UK100 network will support the council in achieving its climate objectives set.

#### **6.4. Climate Change Implications (AT)**

There are no climate change implications arising directly from this report, in terms of emissions from travel, construction, waste, water, pollution, conservation and wildlife, etc. Membership of the UK100 network would provide access to training, best practice examples and partnership opportunities that could, in influencing the council's policies and practices, have a positive impact on reducing carbon emissions, both for the council's estate and operations and the wider district.

### **7. CONTACT OFFICERS AND BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

Councillors with any questions arising out of this report should contact the following officer prior to the meeting:

Adrian Tofts, Strategy, Policy & Performance Lead Specialist  
Telephone: 01303 853438  
Email: [adrian.tofts@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk](mailto:adrian.tofts@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk)

#### **Appendices:**

Appendix 1: UK100 Membership Pledge