

# MINUTES OF CLIMATE EMERGENCY WORKING GROUP

29 FEBRUARY 2024

## PRESENT:

**Members of the Working Group:** Councillors Picker (Chair), Ms Livesey, Roodhouse and Ms Watson-Merret

**Officers:** Jon Illingworth (Chief Officer – Finance and Performance) and Catrina Rimen (Team Leader Accounts Payable and Procurement)

## 29. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 25 January 2024 were approved.

## 30. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence from the meeting were received from Councillors Edwards, Harrington, and Rabin.

## 31. CLIMATE RISK AND ADAPTION PROJECT

Due to Alan Carr from Sustainability West Midlands (SWM) being unable to attend, the item was deferred to the next meeting in March.

## 32. OVERVIEW OF THE FINANCE AND PERFORMANCE PORTFOLIO

The working group received an overview of the Finance and Performance Portfolio. In terms of the impacts of the service area in relation to climate change, there was a new Accounts Payable and Procurement Strategy that contains a specific section on sustainability that links to climate change and reducing waste through the procurement process.

As part of the procurement framework, the specification template includes a section on sustainability. This is provided to all contract managers at the point of commencing a commission on a new or retender of a contract.

The Treasury Management Strategy also contains environmental and social governance responsibilities. Although this is looking at the level of risk facing the organisation, if it was possible to include some green options then that would certainly be supported. As projects come forward from service areas whether any green options exist would be explored.

In terms of investment in green industries, this would depend on the appetite for risk and the Council's commercial aspirations.

Areas that were highlighted included the purchase and delivery options of the Council's consumables and the types of cleaning materials and products used by the cleaning contractors. The current contract was due to expire on 30 September 2024 with a two-year extension to September 2026.

Work continued on trying to attract local suppliers.

The pension scheme was operated by Warwickshire County Council and there was little opportunity to influence the investment portfolio.

The impact of climate change in relation to the waste collection service and the introduction of food waste collection in 2026 was an ongoing piece of work being carried out.

The creation of a new Climate Change Officer post had been approved by Council. It was suggested the Chief Officer for Operations and Traded Services be involved in the recruitment process.

**AGREED THAT** – topics for further consideration included the purchase of the Council's consumables and delivery options, and changes that could be made to the cleaning contract relating to the cleaning materials and products being used.

### **33. AIR SOURCE HEAT PUMPS**

The working group received a briefing paper outlining the current situation and the policy. It was agreed that it would be useful to have some comparisons with other local authorities and to understand whether there were any opportunities to amend the policy and do something more dynamic to encourage this technology.

**AGREED THAT** – a follow-up item be included in the work programme for the working group to be provided with comparisons of the policies put in place by other local authorities and information on what changes to the policy may be possible.

### **34. TREE GUARDS – NOTICE OF MOTION**

It was noted that the situation was positive, and work was being undertaken with partners to follow this up.

**AGREED THAT** – wider communications should be put in place based on the shift to using biodegradable tree guards.

### **35. STANDING ITEMS**

It was agreed that the item in the Forward Plan to organise a climate event should be followed up.

***Any other business***

A tour was being planned to the Sherbourne Recycling Centre on 5 March and had been opened up to any councillors to attend.

**CHAIR**