

## **Committee: Cabinet**

**Date: 13 July 2020**

Wards: All

**Subject: Reference to Cabinet from Overview and Scrutiny Commission on the outcome of pre-decision scrutiny of the Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan**

Lead officer: Julia Regan, Head of Democracy Services

Lead member: Councillor Peter Southgate, Chair, Overview and Scrutiny Commission

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### **Recommendations:**

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1. That Cabinet consider the recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny Commission when taking a decision on the Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan.
  2. That Cabinet provides a formal response to the Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel at its meeting on 1 September, setting out for each recommendation whether the recommendation is accepted, partially accepted or rejected.
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## **1 PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 1.1. This report provides Cabinet with information about the outcome of pre-decision scrutiny of the Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan that was carried out by the Overview and Scrutiny Commission at its meeting on 24 June 2020.
- 1.2. The Commission welcomed the Climate Change Strategy and endorsed its objectives and proposed direction of travel. The recommendations set out below were intended to assist Cabinet and Council in taking this important policy initiative forward and to ensure that progress is subject to scrutiny.
- 1.3. The Overview and Scrutiny Commission recommended that:
  - the Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan be embedded in all Merton's policies where relevant, just as the equalities policy is now
  - the Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel should be asked to monitor delivery of the Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan and successor plans for the next 30 years
  - delays in the adoption of the Local Plan be used to check that its policies reflect the ambitions of the Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan, including in relation to the promotion of low car and no car environments for new housing developments
  - the role of the voluntary and charity sector, including Sustainable Merton, in encouraging individual actions to mitigate climate change is recognised and supported by the Council

- 1.4. Details of the discussion are recorded and published in the minutes of the Commission's meeting.

## **2 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS**

- 2.1. Cabinet is constitutionally required to receive, consider and respond to scrutiny recommendations within two months of receiving them at a meeting.
- 2.2. Cabinet is not, however, required to agree and implement recommendations from overview and scrutiny. Cabinet could agree to implement some, or none, of the recommendations made by the Overview and Scrutiny Commission.

## **3 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN OR PROPOSED**

- 3.1. Not applicable.

## **4 TIMETABLE**

- 4.1. The recommendations were agreed by the Commission at its meeting on 24 June for presentation to Cabinet at its meeting on 13 July. Cabinet is asked to provide a formal response to the Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel at its meeting on 1 September 2020.

## **5 FINANCIAL, RESOURCE AND PROPERTY IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1. None for the purposes of this report. Any specific resource implications will be identified in the Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan report elsewhere on Cabinet's agenda.

## **6 LEGAL AND STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1. None for the purposes of this report.

## **7 HUMAN RIGHTS, EQUALITIES AND COMMUNITY COHESION IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1. None for the purposes of this report.

## **8 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1. None for the purposes of this report.

## **9 RISK MANAGEMENT AND HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS**

- 9.1. None for the purposes of this report.

## **10 APPENDICES – THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS ARE TO BE PUBLISHED WITH THIS REPORT AND FORM PART OF THE REPORT**

None

## **11 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 11.1. None