



REPORT TO:	CABINET
DATE:	14 DECEMBER
SUBJECT:	DRAFT CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY
PURPOSE:	TO GAIN MEMBER INPUT INTO THE DRAFT STRATEGY TOGETHER WITH APPROVAL TO UNDERTAKE WIDER PUBLIC/STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION
KEY DECISION:	N/A
PORTFOLIO HOLDER:	COUNCILLOR GARY PORTER
REPORT OF:	CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENT MANAGER
REPORT AUTHOR:	SARAH BAKER
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	N/A
EXEMPT REPORT?	No

SUMMARY

This report provides background to the accompanying draft Climate Change Strategy for the geographical area covered by the new South and East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership. This document moves beyond the confines of our own operations to look at the wider issues for Climate Change in our local communities.

SELCP cannot deliver this strategy in isolation and a new South and East Lincolnshire Climate Action Network will be established to bring together all relevant partners and ensure delivery at all levels as we work towards the country's net zero ambition.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Cabinet is asked to consider the draft Climate Change Strategy and provide feedback.
2. Cabinet is requested to agree the draft strategy so it can be issued for public consultation in South Holland.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

To ensure Members are familiar with the content of the draft strategy prior to wider stakeholder engagement and to give an early opportunity to provide feedback.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

None.

1.0 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Prior to the establishment of the South and East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership, Boston Borough Council and East Lindsey District Council had begun the development of a Climate Change Strategy for the wider geographical area. Due to the timing of the report, and given the current national focus on Climate Change due to COP26 activity, it seemed fitting that this document should be broadened to include South Holland. If approved, this document will become one of the first joint strategic pieces of work to be produced by the three Councils.
- 1.2 It is recognised that the scope of carbon emissions that can be influenced directly by any of the Councils themselves is relatively small. Therefore, this document seeks to provide the strategic framework to bring together stakeholders from across South and East Lincolnshire to work collaboratively to address the key challenges and opportunities.
- 1.3 While even at that scale, we have a very small role to play in a global issue, the Climate Change Strategy seeks to ensure a more sustainable future for our local communities through ensuring economic, social and environmental prosperity.
- 1.4 BBC and ELDC are slightly further forward in their governance around this strategy and are currently in the middle of a public consultation period and have run two stakeholder workshops. If agreed by Cabinet in December, it is planned that South Holland District Council will consult in late 2021/early 2022.

2.0 REPORT

- 2.1 Climate Change presents one of the biggest challenges facing our world today and action requires commitment from all levels of society.
- 2.2 The scope of emissions which is in the direct control of the Council is relatively limited but as a local authority, this Council has an important role to play in driving forward and influencing the efforts required to ensure a sustainable future for our communities.
- 2.3 This draft Climate Change Strategy is for SELCP and seeks to provide an overarching framework to reduce emissions as a whole across South Holland, Boston and East Lindsey. It identifies the strategic themes that are central to helping achieve the carbon reduction ambitions of the UK as a whole as the nation seeks to be net zero by 2050.

- 2.4 BBC and ELDC have both set their own independent carbon reduction targets as Climate Change is included as a strategic priority within their respective Corporate Plans. Any difference in pace of action between the three Councils need not impact on the Climate Change Strategy itself.
- 2.5 The inclusion of this Council within the strategy has been taken very recently and so this current draft is 'light touch' at this time in terms of information relating to South Holland. As the consultation period progresses and further discussions are held, additional context will be added to ensure the document is as balanced as possible for the three Councils. The three-way approach will give greater strength in drawing down necessary external funding as efforts can be shown to be based on a clear strategic need.
- 2.6 It is envisaged that delivery of the Strategy will be the responsibility of a new South and East Lincolnshire Climate Action Network, with the support of SELCP. SELCAN will bring together stakeholder representatives from across the area including relevant authorities, business leaders, non-governmental organisations and communities. Careful thought will be given to managing this successfully given the geographical scale of the area it covers.
- 2.7 The Strategy has used currently available data alongside recognised local priorities as the rationale for a number of key themes relevant to our area: Transport; Built Environment; Energy/Renewables; Business; Agriculture/Food; Water (Flood Risk and Drought) and Natural Environment. Under each theme, the key challenges and opportunities have been identified together with a series of strategic actions that need to be taken forward. These will form the basis of the delivery plan which it is intended SELCAN will coordinate once established.
- 2.8 It is important if this Strategy is to succeed that it reflects the aspirations of our local area and engagement in its development is therefore key.
- 2.9 In order to achieve this, it is intended a period of public consultation on the draft Strategy will be held in January 2022. A stakeholder workshop will also be arranged in South Holland with attendees tasked at looking at the individual themes in detail and given the opportunity to bring forward anything they feel has been missed.
- 2.10 Following the consultation period, comments from all three Council areas will be aligned into a revised Climate Change Strategy which will be brought back to Cabinet in early 2022 seeking recommendation of its approval to Full Council.
- 2.11 Once Council has approved the document, the newly established SELCAN will be asked to adopt the Strategy and move forward with the delivery plan.

3.0 CONCLUSION

- 3.1 By taking the lead on developing a Climate Change Strategy for South and East Lincolnshire, the Councils of South Holland, Boston and East Lindsey are sending a clear message both locally, and nationally, that they are committed to playing their part in tackling the challenges Climate Change presents but also embracing the opportunities that exist.

- 3.2 Success cannot be achieved in isolation and in fostering new relationships and strengthening existing ones, the three Councils will promote a coordinated and collaborative approach to addressing a global issue.
- 3.3 Successful delivery of this Strategy will ultimately lead to more vibrant, cohesive and healthier communities which understand the importance of a balanced, sustainable future in delivering multiple benefits for everyone.

4.0 EXPECTED BENEFITS TO THE PARTNERSHIP

- 4.1 Pressure on local authorities to take action around the issue of Climate Change is only like to grow over the coming months and years as the UK Government seeks to achieve its net zero ambitions. Producing this Climate Change Strategy as a South and East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership document will avoid the need for duplication of effort, both for the Councils, but also for our stakeholders.
- 4.2 There are strategic opportunities as well as challenges that this document presents and in the longer term, this is likely to provide economic, social and environmental growth that will be bolstered by working at the larger geographic scale.

5.0 IMPLICATIONS

5.1 SOUTH AND EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL'S PARTNERSHIP

- 5.1.1 None

5.2 CORPORATE PRIORITIES

- 5.2.1 This Council may wish to consider whether Climate Change should be included within its corporate plan. Recognising the impact and opportunities that Climate Change can bring to local communities would ensure not only that this is fully considered as part of future decision-making processes but also that existing work programmes and projects are recognised for the contributions they are already making to this agenda.

5.3 STAFFING

- 5.3.1 None

5.4 CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.4.1 Local authorities have a legal responsibility to agree plans and targets in line with the provisions of the Climate Change Act 2008. Not doing so could leave the Council open to legal challenge.

5.5 DATA PROTECTION

- 5.5.1 None.

5.6 FINANCIAL

- 5.6.1 There are no immediate financial implications for the Council arising from approval of this draft strategy. A small cost outlay will be required to deliver the public consultation/stakeholder engagement but this can be managed within existing SHDC budgets.

5.7 RISK MANAGEMENT

5.7.1 None

5.8 STAKEHOLDER / CONSULTATION / TIMESCALES

5.8.1 Policy Development Panel considered a report on the draft Climate Change Strategy at their meeting on 16 November.

5.9 REPUTATION

5.9.1 There is a potential reputational risk if South Holland District Council is not deemed to be giving due consideration to the issue of Climate Change, particularly given BBC and ELDC have made this a corporate priority and are working hard to publicise the efforts they are taking. As the SELCP could lead to additional scrutiny of this Council in that regard.

5.10 CONTRACTS

5.10.1 None.

5.11 CRIME AND DISORDER

5.11.1 None.

5.12 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY/ HUMAN RIGHTS/ SAFEGUARDING

5.12.1 Climate Change has the potential to impact large sectors of our society and there will be gaps as the country moves itself away from fossil fuels to alternative technologies that could leave some of our rural areas behind, particularly where low incomes and fuel poverty are key concerns. This Strategy will have a role to play in helping identify those issues, enabling us to demonstrate at a national policy level where communities could be left behind without the necessary planning/engagement.

5.13 HEALTH AND WELL BEING

5.13.1 None directly however many of the strategic actions which will stem from the report will have benefits for the health and wellbeing of our local communities.

5.14 CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

5.14.1 The Climate Change Strategy will not only have a positive impact on driving down carbon emissions across South Holland, it will seek to ensure a sustainable future for local communities.

Annual emissions figures for the District are compiled by the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy and continual reductions need to be achieved as we all play our part in achieving the UK's commitment to be net zero by 2050.

6.0 ACRONYMS

6.1 BBC – Boston Borough Council

ELDC – East Lindsey District Council

SELCP – South and East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership

SELCAN – South and East Lincolnshire Climate Action Network

APPENDICES

Appendices are listed below and attached to the back of the report: -

<i>APPENDIX A</i>	<i>Draft Climate Change Strategy</i>
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BACKGROUND PAPERS

No background papers as defined in Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the production of this report.

CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY OF THIS REPORT

Name of body	Date
Policy Development Panel	16 November 2021

REPORT APPROVAL

Report author:	Sarah Baker, Climate Change and Environment Manager sarah.baker@e-lindsey.gov.uk
Signed off by:	Christine Marshall
Approved for publication:	