



REPORT TO:	CABINET
DATE:	26 APRIL 2022
SUBJECT:	APPROVAL OF CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY
PURPOSE:	FOR MEMBERS TO RECEIVE AND APPROVE THE FINAL VERSION OF THE CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY
KEY DECISION:	YES
PORTFOLIO HOLDER:	LORD PORTER, LEADER
REPORT OF:	CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENT MANAGER
REPORT AUTHOR:	SARAH BAKER
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	ALL
EXEMPT REPORT?	NO

SUMMARY

This report provides background to the accompanying Climate Change Strategy for the geographical area covered by the South and East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership (S&ELCP). This document is the next step in our Climate Change aspirations, moving beyond the confines of our own carbon footprint and emissions to look at the wider issues for Climate Change in our local communities. S&ELCP cannot deliver this strategy in isolation and a new South and East Lincolnshire Climate Action Network (SELCAN) will be established to bring together all relevant partners and ensure delivery at all levels as we work towards a net zero ambition.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Cabinet is asked to approve the final version of the Climate Change Strategy following public consultation on the document in winter 2021/22.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

To progress work on the agreed Climate Change Strategy and enable the establishment of a South and East Lincolnshire Climate Action Network.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

1. 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. Following the Partnership's formation, which coincided with the national focus on Climate Change around COP26, it seemed appropriate to broaden the document to include South Holland. This strategy is therefore one of the first major 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. In October 2021, Cabinet agreed the draft Strategy for consultation. Consultation has subsequently taken place across South Holland, Boston and East Lindsey and the comments have informed this final version of the Strategy.

2. REPORT

Overview of the Strategy

- 2.1. The Climate Change Strategy is one of the first major joint pieces of work for the South and East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership (S&ELCP) 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 and key sectors that are central to helping achieve the carbon reduction ambitions not just of the three Councils but of the UK as a whole as the nation seeks to be net zero by 2050.
- 2.2. Delivery of the Strategy will be the responsibility of a new South and East Lincolnshire Climate Action Network (SELCAN), with the support of S&ELCP. SELCAN will bring together stakeholder representatives from across the area including relevant authorities, business leaders, non-governmental organisations and communities.
- 2.3. The Strategy has used currently available data alongside recognised local priorities as the rationale for a number of key themes relevant to our area. Under each theme, the key challenges and opportunities have been identified and these link to an overarching strategic

action plan that will form the basis of the more detailed delivery plan which it is intended SELCAN will coordinate once established later this year.

- 2.4. It is important to note that while the Strategy focuses on driving down carbon emissions, it also seeks to promote a more sustainable future for everyone which as well as helping to address Climate Change issues, will bring wider benefits for our local communities including improved health and wellbeing outcomes, economic prosperity and social value.

Consultation overview and key changes to the document

- 2.5. Public consultation began in November 2021. Due to the later inclusion of South Holland within the document, the governance around agreeing the draft strategy for consultation followed slightly behind Boston and East Lindsey and so the public consultation was split into two parts.
- 2.6. The South Holland consultation was launched online on 10 January 2022 and ran for four weeks. A total of 14 responses were received during that period.
- 2.7. Unfortunately, due to rises in Covid cases it was felt an in-person workshop would not be appropriate during the consultation period and an online webinar was instead organised for stakeholders in the South Holland area which was attended by 15 people.
- 2.8. For East Lindsey and Boston, an online public consultation was launched on 10 November 2021 and ran for five weeks. A total of 55 responses were received during that period. In addition, two in-person stakeholder workshops were held and were very well received.
- 2.9. Overall responses from both the workshops and consultation were that the Strategy presented a very clear and informative overview of the current picture in terms of Climate Change and the overall vision was strongly supported.
- 2.10. The online consultation was designed to not only ask respondents to agree or disagree but to input more widely into the approach of the document and to help us understand the concerns of residents and businesses. Inevitably, this did lead to number of comments that were outside the remit of the Strategy but there were also some very useful contributions which have been channelled into the final document.
- 2.11. Across the workshops and consultation there were clear concerns that the document needed to focus on the overarching threads that cut across different sectors and bind the vision together. These were consistently highlighted as education, community engagement and innovation and use of new technology. For this reason, the final document has identified Innovation, People and Education as three lead areas which underpin the document.
- 2.12. In terms of the sector themes, there was broad agreement that these covered the key areas although tourism was an area highlighted numerous times as appearing to be missing and one that has a significant impact. This has been addressed with the addition of Visitor Economy as a key theme within the strategy. Two themes have also been broadened slightly

to reflect feedback that they were too narrow in their focus and this is reflected in the tweaks to Water Resources and Nature-based Solutions.

2.13. The final, consistently highlighted, concern was that the document did not provide a strategic plan for delivery and there were no timelines against any identified needs. For this reason, the strategic actions which had been highlighted under each sector theme have all been moved to one overarching table – aligned to the three new lead areas. These have also been given indicative timescales. It was always the vision that a detailed delivery plan would be produced by SELCAN once established to ensure that action and progress are driven forward and monitored appropriately but this amendment hopefully helps to strengthen the vision that this document will provide the driver that is needed.

SELCAN development

2.14. Alongside the public consultation process, discussions have been taking place with stakeholders around the establishment of the South and East Lincolnshire Climate Action Network (SELCAN). Part of the stakeholder workshop was to consider how this might be structured and what the core aims and objectives might look like.

2.15. Consensus was generally that one Strategic Board for the whole area would be the most appropriate governance method – comprised of equal representation from the private, public and third sector. Under this, thematic lead groups or specific task and finish groups could be established as needed to address particular topics or areas of work and these would enable greater engagement of additional stakeholders as required. The need to engage youth ambassadors specifically was highlighted and is something the Climate Change and Environment Team is currently working on.

2.16. During the course of the consultation, conversations were held with the Greater Lincolnshire LEP about whether they could support or link in with SELCAN. These discussions will need to continue but with Lincoln already having its own Climate Commission and other districts likely to follow suit it was felt there could perhaps be an overarching link between the different commissions and the LEP at a strategic level.

2.17. Discussions have been held with the Place-based Climate Action Network (PCAN) which supports Lincoln Climate Commission, Yorkshire & Humber Climate Commission and many others around the country and it was agreed that linking SELCAN to PCAN would be a positive step. It will ensure SELCAN is part of a nationwide network that enables knowledge sharing and support but does not restrict local operation to a particular format or agenda.

2.18. A Terms of Reference for SELCAN will be established in due course and it is hoped the first meeting will take place by June 2022.

3. 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. 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. Successful delivery of this Strategy will ultimately lead to more vibrant, cohesive and healthier communities which appreciate the importance of a balanced, sustainable future in delivering multiple benefits for everyone.
- 3.2. The public consultation has been very well received and demonstrated clear support for what we are seeking to achieve. The approval of this Climate Change Strategy is just the start of an exciting partnership approach.

EXPECTED BENEFITS TO THE PARTNERSHIP

The Climate Change Strategy is the first major three-way piece of work to have been developed by the Partnership and demonstrates the commitment of all three Councils in taking forward this agenda.

The Strategy and the associated Climate Action Network will enable engagement of key stakeholders across the sub-region to ensure knowledge sharing, partnership working and an inclusive approach to managing the challenges and opportunities that will be presented.

IMPLICATIONS

SOUTH AND EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL'S PARTNERSHIP

This strategy seeks to align activity and action across the three sovereign council areas to deliver both reductions in carbon emissions but a more sustainable future for our communities. This approach will demonstrate the benefits a Partnership approach can bring to delivering outcomes, in partnership with stakeholders, at a sub-regional level.

CORPORATE PRIORITIES

The Strategy will contribute towards the ambitions outlined in the Corporate Plans of all three Councils specifically in relation to how the Strategy aligns with ensuring a more sustainable future through tackling fuel poverty, reducing health inequalities, ensuring homes that are fit for the future and reducing carbon emissions.

STAFFING

There are no direct staffing implications however the existing Climate Change and Environment Team will provide support to SELCAN and ongoing monitoring and development of the strategy.

CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Local authorities have a legal obligation to produce plans and policies to adapt to and mitigate climate change in line with the provisions of the Climate Change Act 2008 and failure to do so could result in a legal challenge being made.

Approval of the Climate Change Strategy is an executive function and so falls within the remit of the Cabinet.

DATA PROTECTION

None.

FINANCIAL

There are no immediate financial implications for the Council arising from approval of this strategy. A small cost outlay will be required to provide the ongoing administrative support to SELCAN but this can be managed within existing budgets.

RISK MANAGEMENT

Risk implications from this report are relatively low. The main risks are reputational rather than financial should delivery against the Climate Change Strategy be seen to fail or SELCAN is unable to maintain continued support from stakeholders.

STAKEHOLDER / CONSULTATION / TIMESCALES

Public consultation was undertaken in Winter 2022 via an online questionnaire and stakeholder webinar. Corporate Management Team and Service Managers have been given the opportunity to provide feedback on the document.

REPUTATION

The formulation of this Strategy clearly demonstrates that the South and East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership is taking the lead in establishing a coordinated response to the issues surrounding Climate Change and Net Zero targets.

CONTRACTS

None.

CRIME AND DISORDER

None.

EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY/ HUMAN RIGHTS/ SAFEGUARDING

There are no specific implications arising from this report, however inclusivity and a just-transition for all to ensure that financial and technological barriers do not prevent residents and businesses moving forward on the agenda are key to the Strategy and will be picked up by SELCAN's Terms of Reference.

HEALTH AND WELL BEING

None directly but the actions arising from the Strategy implementation will deliver multiple benefits as part of providing a more sustainable future for the sub-region.

CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

The Climate Change Strategy will not only have a positive impact on driving down carbon emissions across South Holland but it will deliver outcomes to protect and enhance our natural environment,

adapt and mitigate to climate change, enhance our built environment and ensure a sustainable approach to waste and resource management.

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.

LINKS TO 12 MISSIONS IN THE LEVELLING UP WHITE PAPER

MISSIONS	
This paper contributes to the follow Missions outlined in the Government's Levelling Up White paper.	
Living Standards	Ensuring a just transition for all will be key to the strategy together with supporting the sub-region to embrace the opportunities that new low carbon industries may provide in upskilling workers and providing new employment and business opportunities.
Research and Development	Innovation and technological advancement will play an important role in enabling different sectors to transition to more sustainable ways of working. Becoming early adopters and maximising the opportunities that are presented for the private sector will enable South and East Lincolnshire to lead the way.
Transport Infrastructure	Improving public transport solutions while also enabling residents and businesses to transition to low-carbon travel alternatives will be key to reducing emissions from the transport sector.
Digital Connectivity	Digital connectivity will be important to enable both residents and businesses to adopt to use of smarter technology. Tackling the challenges of rural broadband across the sub-region will therefore be important to the success of this.
Education	N/A
Skills	Education is an overarching theme of this strategy. It will be important that opportunities for young people to train in low carbon industries and related technology and skills exist locally. There will also be a need to ensure opportunities for retraining and upskilling of those that have previously been working in more traditional industries to adapt to future demands.
Health	The strategy focuses on providing a more sustainable future for residents, businesses and visitors to the sub-region and many of the initiatives such as tackling fuel poverty and embracing nature-based solutions will support improve mental and physical health outcomes.
Wellbeing	As above, many aspects of the strategy will support a more sustainable future which will in turn lead to improved wellbeing.
Pride in Place	The Climate Change Strategy will support an approach to ensuring that social, economic and environmental aspects of decision making are equally balanced. This in turn should support more sustainable outcomes for the sub-region and promote more community-based solutions through improved education and engagement.
Housing	Linked initiatives around tackling fuel poverty through supporting residents to access grants and funding to improve energy efficiency or properties will support this mission.
Crime	N/A

Local Leadership	Development of a Climate Change Strategy for the sub-region of South and East Lincolnshire demonstrates how three Councils can work effectively together across boundaries and engage stakeholders at that broader level which could provide a model to others in future devolution discussions.
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ACRONYMS

S&ELCP – South and East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership

SELCAN – South and East Lincolnshire Climate Action Network

PCAN – Place-based Climate Action Network

APPENDICES	
Appendices are listed below and attached to the back of the report: -	
<i>APPENDIX A</i>	Climate Change Strategy

BACKGROUND PAPERS
None

CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY OF THIS REPORT	
Name of body	Date
Policy Development Panel	16 November 2021
Cabinet	14 December 2021

REPORT APPROVAL	
Report author:	Sarah Baker Climate Change and Environment Manager
Signed off by:	Christian Allen Assistant Director Regulatory
Approved for publication:	Lord Porter of Spalding