

CABINET DECISIONS ON REPORTS PREVIOUSLY CONSIDERED BY THE CORPORATE SERVICES AND ECONOMIC GROWTH OSC

The following report was presented to the OSC on 9 December 2019 for comment prior to determination by the Cabinet.

The following is an extract from the Cabinet minutes of 10 December 2019:

REPORT OF THE INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF REGENERATION, COMMERCIAL AND ECONOMY

Northumberland Climate Change Action Plan 2020-21

The report provided an update on the actions taken by the County Council since declaring a Climate Change Emergency in June 2019 and sought Cabinet approval to the proposed Climate Action Plan for 2020/21 attached as Appendix A, and the associated additional capital and recurring revenue expenditure (copy attached to the signed minutes as Appendix D, along with the report of the Corporate Services and Economic Growth OSC circulated at the meeting).

Councillor Sanderson introduced the report. This issue remained a priority for the Administration and the Action Plan would be going to Council in January for sign off. He thanked officers for their work and skills in reaching the current position, and highlighted that the key point of the report was that it allocated significant capital sums and annual revenue funding so that the actions identified in the report could be delivered. He drew members' attention to some points in the report:-

- There was a firm commitment to understanding the value of trees and every household would have the opportunity to have a tree by 2025 through the free tree scheme.
- Funding had been received from the Forestry Commission following a bidding process to plant mature trees.
- Work would continue to support the Northumberland to Newcastle passenger train line through bids for funding, but there would also be an in house review of public transport.
- Access to the electric vehicle charging infrastructure would increase through the provision of over 100 EV charging points.
- Walking and cycling would be made more attractive and accessible through the efforts of Councillor Homer and the Cycling and Walking Board. This would ensure that the local cycling and walking infrastructure plans were finalised and were already making an impact on the LTP.
- An engagement officer had been appointed and the Steering Group were continuing to meet. The Commission was in the process of being formed and would review the programme moving forward.

The Leader added his thanks to those already expressed to the staff involved for their hard work in making such progress in a short period of time, and to Councillor Sanderson, for leading on the issue.

RESOLVED that:-

- (a) the current position and progress made since declaring a Climate Change Emergency in June 2019 be noted;
- (b) the Climate Action Plan for 2020/21, as detailed in Appendix A, be approved;
- (c) County Council be recommended to approve the provision of additional capital of £3,357,151 within the Medium Term Financial Plan to cover the period 2020/21 to 2022/23;
- (d) County Council be recommended to approve the provision of recurring annual revenue expenditure of £80,125 from 2020/21,
- (e) authority be delegated to the Service Director - Local Services, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Environment and Local Services, to update and amend the action plan so that it remains accurate and further measures can be progressed in a timely manner; and
- (f) the report of the Corporate Services and Economic Growth OSC be noted.

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