

‘Climate Change Action’ Task & Finish Group: Terms of Reference

Purpose & Context

South Kesteven District Council has declared a ‘climate emergency’. As part of this, the Council has confirmed the political ambition to reduce the organisation’s carbon footprint by 2030 and to become net-zero carbon by 2050.

The Chief Executive has convened a ‘Climate Change Action’ Task and Finish Group. The purpose of the task and finish group is to identify practical steps the Council can take to work towards achieving net-zero carbon. Alongside this primary goal, the task and finish group is asked to consider options to positively influence the local community, businesses and other public sector organisations to play their role to reduce South Kesteven’s net carbon footprint.

Chairman & Vice-Chairman

- Chairman:
 - Cllr Dr Peter Moseley
- Vice-Chairman:
 - Senior officer

Membership

- Six Councillors (*all SKDC Councillors invited to express an interest in being part of the task and finish group with a cross-party selection of six then chosen by the Chief Executive*)
- Six officers (*selected senior and other relevant officers*)
- The Chairman and Vice-Chairman would be included in the number, ie a total membership of 12 including the Chairman and Vice-Chairman.

Terms of Reference

1. The purpose of the ‘Climate Change Action’ Task and Finish Group is to identify practical steps the Council can take to work towards achieving net-zero carbon (this encompasses the Council’s wholly owned companies).
2. Alongside this primary goal, the task and finish group is asked to identify options to take forward the much more far-reaching impact of the Council’s community leadership role to reduce South Kesteven’s carbon footprint (eg residents, businesses, other public sector organisations, visitors/commuters, etc).
3. Specifically, the task and finish group is charged to:
 - a. identify how the Council’s activities can work towards being net-zero carbon;
 - b. consider the latest climate science and expert advice on solutions;
 - c. consider systematically the climate change impact of each area of the Council’s activities (including appropriate adaptations);
 - d. establish any budgetary implications; and
 - e. liaise with the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee and report initial findings to the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee in spring 2020.

Key Stakeholders

In addition to liaising with the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee, the task and finish group will seek to engage with interested South Kesteven District Council Councillors at different points throughout their deliberations.

It is not anticipated that the task and finish group will have a public profile or be the conduit for wider community engagement.

Deliverables

The task and finish group is asked to produce a short initial report which provides baseline figures, sets out options and makes costed recommendations.

Timescales

The task and finish group is asked to:

- Present immediate 2020/21 budget requirements to the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the 26/11/19 so that this can inform the Council's budget preparation process.
- Present their initial report to the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee in Spring 2020.
- Any subsequent updates as relevant and appropriate.