

Subject: Council Motion, Lowering the Council's Carbon Footprint

**Report to: Executive Leadership Team, Monday 2nd September 2019
Policy & Resources Committee, 10th September 2019**

Report by: Kate Watts, Strategic Director

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Members resolved a motion at full Council on the 11th July 2019 asking the Council to look at ways to reduce its carbon footprint.

As such this report recommends the following:

- That this committee commissions specialist external support to map the Council's carbon footprint and develop a carbon reduction plan
- That this committee allocates a maximum of £12,000 from the Council's special projects reserve to support this work along with providing re-usable cups/glasses for staff, Members and visitors to the Council.
- That this committee agrees that the Environment Committee become the Members Working Group, and will receive regular updates on the progress of this work and will approve the resultant carbon reduction plan and pass onto full Council for ratification

1. BACKGROUND

1.1 On the 11th July 2019 Full Council considered a Council Motion on lowering the Council's Carbon footprint, and as a result it was resolved to:

- To instruct the Chief Executive to explore measures aimed to prevent the unnecessary and wasteful use of single use plastics within GYBC owned buildings, and to encourage GYBC contractors

to take similar steps.

- That the Policy and Resources Committee will establish a working group to explore ways of lowering the council's carbon footprint. This working group should report to the Policy and Resources Committee, with a final report being presented to Full Council.
- To instruct the leader to write to The Secretary of State, for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy to reiterate our support for the renewable energy industry, and to encourage them to continue the Government's positive work supporting this important growth industry for Great Yarmouth.

2. INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 This report has been written to provide Members with an update regarding the Council's ongoing work to eliminate single use plastics and delivery of other environmental initiatives, along with presenting Members with recommendations for establishing the Members working group. This report also includes a copy of the letter sent to the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy.

3. CURRENT COUNCIL ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES

- 3.1 The Council's staff engagement group has established a green sub group which have developed a work plan for the Council. This workplan focusses on three environmental areas, the first being waste prevention and improved recycling, the second being to reduce the amount of single use plastics used in Council buildings with the third to lead by example in terms of "clean and green" civic pride.
- 3.2 In terms of reducing the Council's use of single use plastics initial work is

- focussing on working with caterers to avoid the use of disposable items such as cutlery and packaging, encouragement of staff to convert to reusable lunch wrappers and boxes and exploration of the provision of reusable cups for staff, members and visitors.
- 3.3 With regards to the provision of reusable cups/glasses, work is in progress to understand the budget savings from not purchasing plastic drinking cups and how this could help off set the purchase of reusable cups/glasses and the provision of energy efficient dishwashers to enable these cups/glasses to be cleaned.
- 3.4 Once these initial initiatives are completed, the green group are committed to identifying and delivering further environmental initiatives for the Council and wider Borough.
- 3.5 It is also worth noting that in In November 2018 the Environment Committee resolved to support the work of the Norfolk Water Partnership by adopting the Courtauld Agreement aimed at reducing food waste across the county. The Courtauld Commitment 2025 is a voluntary agreement bringing together organisations across the food system to make food & drink production and consumption more sustainable. At its heart is a ten-year commitment to identify priorities, develop solutions and implement changes to cut the carbon, water and waste associated with food & drink by at least one-fifth in 10 years.
- 3.6 In order to lead by example, the Council is introducing receptacles for food wastes generated by staff and visitors across the council's offices starting with Greyfriars House and the Town Hall with food waste composted on-site. Whilst small-scale, the compost-like product produced i.e. a soil conditioner will then be used to maintain the Town Hall planters etc.

4. MEMBERS WORKING GROUP – LOWERING OF THE COUNCIL'S CARBON FOOTPRINT

- 4.1 Carbon footprint is defined as the total greenhouse gas emissions caused directly and indirectly by an individual, organisation, event or product.
- 4.2 An organisations carbon footprint measures the greenhouse gas emissions from all the activities across the organisation, including energy used in buildings, industrial processes and company vehicles. The carbon footprint includes the measurement of emissions over the whole life of a product, from extraction of raw materials, to its manufacturing and through to its use and final reuse/disposal.
- 4.3 In calculating an organisations carbon footprint it will help an organisation understand what its key emission sources are, how the organisation contributes to global emissions and what opportunities there are to reduce these emissions. A carbon reduction plan can then be developed to identify ways to reduce the organisations carbon footprint and limit emissions from future emissions. A carbon reduction plan can also be used to measure progress over time.
- 4.4 Whilst the Council motion resolved to establish a Members working group to explore ways of lowering the Council's footprint, it is recommended that external support is commissioned to undertake this work as such support will have the technical expertise in this area and be able to calculate the Council's carbon footprint and develop a carbon reduction plan following detailed national guidance.
- 4.5 As such it is further recommended that this committee agrees that the Environment Committee become the Members Working Group, and will receive regular updates on the progress of this work and will approve the resultant carbon reduction plan and pass onto full Council for ratification.

5. LETTER TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR BUSINESS, ENERGY AND INDUSTRIAL STRATEGY

- 5.1 Following on from the Council meeting on the 11th of July a letter was drafted and subsequently sent to the Secretary of state for business, energy and industrial strategy. A copy of this letter can be seen in Appendix A of this report.

6. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 6.1 Officers are in the process of obtaining quotes for the technical expertise required to undertake the Council's calculation for its carbon footprint and the development of an associated carbon reduction plan. In addition to this it is likely that a small investment in purchasing reusable cup/glasses and energy efficient dishwashers will be required.
- 6.2 It is therefore estimated that to complete this work, maximum funding totalling £12,000 would be required from the Council's special projects reserve.
- 6.2 A formal procurement process would subsequently be undertaken to select the company that would then calculate the Council's carbon footprint and develop a carbon reduction plan on behalf of the organisation.

7. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 Members resolved a motion at full Council on the 11th July 2019 asking the Council to look at ways to reduce its carbon footprint.
- 7.2 As such this report recommends the following:
- That this committee commissions specialist external support to map the Council's carbon footprint and develop a carbon reduction plan

- That this committee allocates a maximum of £12,000 from the Council's special projects reserve to support this work along with providing re-usable cups/glasses for staff, Members and visitors to the Council.
- That this committee agrees that the Environment Committee become the Members Working Group, and will receive regular updates on the progress of this work and will approve the resultant carbon reduction plan and pass onto full Council for ratification



GREAT YARMOUTH
BOROUGH COUNCIL

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31 July 2019

Dear Minister

As England's offshore energy capital, Great Yarmouth is at the forefront of £39billion of energy investment over the next 20 years and is a growing hub for both offshore windfarms and gas platform decommissioning - a key location to support delivery of the UK Industrial Strategy. Indeed, the recent announcement of the Energy Sector Deal in the east of England was well received.

Our Council recognises that Great Yarmouth can take a leading role in the fight against climate change, thanks to our ever growing renewable energy industry and key infrastructure centred around the deep water outer harbour. The latest project is the installation of 102 wind turbines for the £2.5billion East Anglia ONE windfarm, which is currently being delivered from here. All of the turbine components are being pre-assembled and loaded out from Peel Ports Great Yarmouth, following ScottishPower Renewables' £5million co-investment in the port to prepare it for construction and marshalling activity.

Obviously we welcome the announcement that the Government plans to ensure that Britain will be carbon neutral by 2050 and notes that emissions have already fallen by 25% since 2010. It is also welcomed that last year more than half of the UK's electricity was generated by low carbon sources.

To this end, our Council continues to support the renewable energy industry and we encourage you to continue the Government's positive work supporting this important growth industry for Great Yarmouth.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Carl Smith', written over a horizontal line.

Cllr Carl Smith
Leader of Great Yarmouth Borough Council



Department for
Business, Energy
& Industrial Strategy

Great Yarmouth Borough Council

22 AUG 2019

Customer Services

Rt Hon Kwasi Kwarteng MP
Minister of State for Business, Energy and
Clean Growth.

Department for Business, Energy &
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19th August 2019

Dear Carl

Thank you for your letter dated 31 July to the Rt Hon Andrea Leadsom MP, regarding the renewable energy industry. I am replying as this matter falls within my Ministerial portfolio.

It is clear that Great Yarmouth's leading offshore wind cluster has a key role to play in ensuring that the UK can become carbon neutral by 2050, whilst also bringing high-value jobs and investment to the East of England. Developments such as the East Anglia One windfarm and the projects being developed off the East of England, will help strengthen Great Yarmouth's position as a leading player in renewable energy and will help strengthen the extensive, locally based, marine energy supply chain.

As you know, the Government is supporting the offshore wind industry through the Offshore Wind Sector Deal, which was launched in Great Yarmouth in March 2019. This demonstrates the national importance of renewable energy production in the East of England. The deal deepens the partnership between the Government and the sector, reinforcing the aims of the Government's Industrial Strategy to build a Britain fit for the future.

The Government also continues to support the East of England energy sector through local growth projects, working with the New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership. The new Energy Skills Centre at the East Coast College, which was awarded £10 million of the Government's Local Growth Funding, will provide new facilities for training the workforce for the energy sector when it opens later this year. The Great Yarmouth Enterprise Zone, focused on growing energy-related businesses, also continues to go from strength to strength.

With ongoing support from your council and the Government, I hope that this leading centre for offshore wind will continue to develop and, crucially, provide more of the clean energy the UK needs to become carbon neutral by 2050.

Yours sincerely,

RT HON KWASI KWARTENG MP
Minister of State for Business and Energy