

Climate Change Committee

Date of Meeting	6 th September 2024
Report Subject	Climate Change Committee Terms of Reference
Cabinet Member	Collective Responsibility
Report Author	Chief Officer (Planning, Environment & Economy)
Type of Report	Operational

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Following the internal audit of Climate change, sustainability and ESG, an action was agreed to review the Committee's Terms of Reference to ensure it addresses the risks identified within Member oversight and challenge of the programme.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1	To approve the amended Terms of Reference for the Climate Change Committee.
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REPORT DETAILS

1.00	EXPLAINING THE REPORT
1.01	<p>As part of the agreed Internal Audit Plan, an internal audit of the Council's climate change, environmental sustainability and ESG was undertaken.</p> <p>The purpose of the audit was to assess a number of risks related to the management of climate change, environmental sustainability and ESG within the Council. The audit provided some level of assurance, and also identified a number of areas where key controls were not generally adequate or effective.</p>
1.02	<p>Within the audit, there was an identified area for further improvement.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of Member oversight and challenge – The governance and reporting framework in place is not sufficiently robust - there is a risk of lack of clarity as to the role of Climate Change Committee in relation to the programme oversight and delivery.

	The management action agreed to address this risk finding was for the Committee's Terms of Reference to be reviewed.
1.03	<p>Having reviewed the Terms of Reference (Appendix 1), there is good reference to the need for the Committee to have oversight and challenge of the Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan as its primary function.</p> <p>This wording has been extended upon within 9.16.5.1 Role and Function to reiterate the need for the Committee's oversight of the programme progress and action plan delivery.</p> <p>9.16.5.4 refers to the need to consider economic, environmental and social challenges and risks arising from climate change for the Council, and others</p> <p>9.16.5.6 includes reference to the Committee continuing to develop, for approval by the Cabinet, the Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan</p> <p>9.16.5.10 references the requirement to advise Cabinet on a number of aspects all related specifically to the Council's own carbon footprint.</p>
1.04	The draft Terms of Reference in Appendix 1 provides adequate assurance of the responsibilities of the Committee in overseeing and challenging the Climate Change Programme. It is the role of the Committee members to ensure they are meeting these role and function requirements so as to provide a robust governance and reporting framework for the programme.

2.00	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS
2.01	None

3.00	CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED / CARRIED OUT

4.00	RISK MANAGEMENT
4.01	The recommendation will ensure that the Council addresses the risks identified in the internal audit report. Actions undertaken intend to minimise the risk of failure in the Council's ability to meet its carbon reduction ambitions.

5.00	APPENDICES
5.01	Appendix 1 – Draft Terms of Reference Climate Change Committee

6.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
6.01	-

7.00	OFFICER CONTACT DETAILS
7.01	<p>Contact Officer: Alex Ellis – Climate Change Programme Manager Telephone: 01352 703112 E-mail: alex.ellis@flintshire.gov.uk</p>

8.00	GLOSSARY OF TERMS
8.01	<p>Carbon emissions: Used interchangeably with greenhouse gas emissions; meaning emissions of carbon dioxide, methane etc from human and natural activities and sources. Wider greenhouse gas emissions are collectively calculated into a ‘carbon dioxide equivalent’ displayed as CO₂e.</p> <p>Carbon Footprint: A measurement of the council’s carbon emissions during a defined period of time, given as tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO₂e)</p> <p>Decarbonisation – Reduction of carbon emissions that result from an activity, material or product</p> <p>Greenhouse Gas/ Carbon emissions: Emissions of carbon dioxide, methane etc from human and natural activities and sources. Wider greenhouse gas emissions are collectively calculated into a ‘carbon dioxide equivalent’ displayed as CO₂e.</p> <p>Methodology: How the collected raw data used for carbon emission calculations is managed and rated in terms of its reliability. This is governed by Welsh Government.</p> <p>Net Zero Carbon: Emissions of greenhouse gases are balanced by the removal of greenhouse gases from the atmosphere such as by trees, peatland and carbon capture and storage technologies.</p>