



NORWICH City Council

Committee name: Climate environment emergency executive panel

Committee date: 14/02/2023

Report title: Question referred from Council 29 November 2022

Portfolio: Councillor Hampton, Cabinet member for climate change and digital inclusion

Report from: Head of legal and procurement

Wards: All wards

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Purpose

To consider a member's question to a cabinet member which was referred from Council on 29 November 2022 to the next available meeting of the panel.

Recommendation:

It is recommended that the panel discusses the question referred to the panel.

Policy framework

The council has five corporate priorities, which are:

- People live independently and well in a diverse and safe city.
- Norwich is a sustainable and healthy city.
- Norwich has the infrastructure and housing it needs to be a successful city.
- The city has an inclusive economy in which residents have equal opportunity to flourish.
- Norwich City Council is in good shape to serve the city.

Report details

Background

1. At Council on 29 November, Councillor Davis asked Councillor Hampton, the cabinet member for climate change and digital inclusion a question under item 5, Questions for Cabinet Members. An extract from the minutes of the Council meeting comprising this question and answer, including the supplementary question and response, is appended to this agenda item.
2. Councillor Galvin moved and Councillor Bogelein seconded a motion to refer the matters raised in question no 8 together with the supplementary question and the responses from the cabinet member for climate change and digital inclusion, to the climate and environment emergency executive panel (CEEEP). Council resolved that the question, together with the supplementary question and answers should be referred to the next available meeting of the panel.

Proposal

3. That the panel discusses the questions and response.

Implications

Financial and resources

Any decision to reduce or increase resources or alternatively increase income must be made within the context of the council's stated priorities, as set out in its Corporate Plan 2022-26 and budget.

4. There are no proposals in this report that would reduce or increase resources.

Legal

5. There are no legal consequences arising from this report.

Statutory considerations

Consideration	Details of any implications and proposed measures to address:
Equality and diversity	N/a
Health, social and economic impact	N/a
Crime and disorder	N/a
Children and adults safeguarding	N/a
Environmental impact	N/a

Risk management

Risk	Consequence	Controls required
N/a	N/a	N/a

Other options considered

6. No alternatives have been considered.

Reasons for the decision/recommendation

7. Council agreed that this question should be discussed at the next available meeting of this panel.

Background papers:

None

Appendices:

Appendix 1 – Council 29 November, Item 5, Questions to Cabinet members, question 8

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Question to Council, 29 November 2022 (Extract from the minutes of the meeting)

Question 8

Councillor Davis to ask the cabinet member for climate change and digital inclusion the following question:

“The United Nations Climate Change Conference 2022, or ‘COP27’, concluded last week. This council has previously declared a climate emergency and recognised that local, national, and global co-operation will be key tackling this in a truly just manner. Could the cabinet member for climate change and digital inclusion reflect on the outcomes of this conference with the most salient points relating to Norwich?”

Councillor Hampton, the cabinet member for climate change and digital inclusion’s response:

“The key messages set out by the António Guterres, the Secretary General of the UN was that “our world is facing the most pivotal, precarious moment in generations” and that “the goal of limiting global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees is slipping away”.

The council recognises that the goal of limiting global average temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius, as set out in the Paris Agreement of 2015, is unlikely to be met and that urgent action is required, by all parties, to prevent a climate, biodiversity and humanitarian catastrophe. A great deal of work has been achieved to date.

Norwich’s territorial greenhouse gas emissions (those for the whole city) have more than halved since 2005, despite a 12% increase in population. The council’s own emissions, according to a methodology defined by central government, have reduced by over 70% in a similar period.

Work is underway to understand the full scope of the council’s emissions, including Scope 3 emissions - those emissions outside of our direct control. In collaboration with our partners, we are also working to update our understanding of the city’s emissions.

As well as generating good quality data, comprehensive plans are in development, based on evidence and prioritised according to risk, to reduce emissions to net zero as quickly as possible. The Council also recognises the need for adaption and resilience strategies to manage the social, environmental and economic impacts of the changing climate.”

(Councillor Davis asked as a supplementary question said that COP27 had hosted a food and agriculture pavilion for the first time which demonstrated that food and agriculture were at its agenda and asked what significance this had for the city. Councillor Hampton said that food systems accounted for a third of global emissions yet hundreds of millions around the world were going hungry. Climate breakdown would result in widespread famine with devastating international effect. Norwich would not be exempt. Food systems were not working and there was a need for national and international integrated food policies. The council had signed the Glasgow Food and Climate Declaration, a commitment to tackle climate emergency through a food systems approach. This was formally presented during COP 26 but the campaign

has continued ever since. As a city, food was not one of the largest emissions, but the council could still promote and campaign on this issue and do what it could, through its communications, supporting community groups who use excess food to tackle food poverty, strengthening the Biodiversity Strategy to include food production as a positive outcome, playing a role in food resilience as demonstrated with the Covid 19 – Norwich Community Hub, providing food parcels to support residents most in need.)