

STOCKTON-ON-TEES BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET RECOMMENDATIONS

PROFORMA

Cabinet Meeting17th October 2019

1. Title of Item/Report

Greenhouse Gas Emissions (GHG) Report 2019

2. Record of the Decision

Consideration was given to a report on Greenhouse Gas Emissions (GHG) 2019.

Climate Change was once again growing in prominence, both in the awareness of the general public and in the media. The Council had a strong track record and had demonstrated significant performance in contributing to tackling the issue and in reducing net emissions of greenhouse gases since Local Authority reporting began in 2009, and had been recognised nationally for the work on energy efficiency and carbon reduction. Under the voluntary 'Emissions Reduction Pledge 2020' which the Council committed to in 2018, the Council was required to submit a Greenhouse Gas Emissions report detailing all direct and indirect emissions from Council activity to the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) in October each year, and report performance against a voluntary emissions target of 30% reduction on a 2009/10 baseline.

The annual report was attached to the report and highlighted that in 2018/19 the Council had performed extremely well once more, reducing the net emissions by 11.5% in 12 months to a total of 15,824 tonnes per annum. This was a reduction of 50.1% (or 15,867 tonnes) on the 2009/10 baseline and therefore the Council had significantly exceeded the challenging target set by BEIS. Since the Council adopted the Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan in January 2016 the Council had reduced the emissions from sources that were owned or controlled directly by 40.2%, and this was the sixth year in a row that the emissions activity had shown a decrease in a 12 month period.

Subsequently the Council had also made significant financial savings as a result, with combined financial savings / cost of avoidance of £166,804 in the last financial year, in addition to £553k in 2017/18 and £399k saved in 2016/17, totalling over £1.1m. As projects such as the LED street lighting replacement programme continued to deliver real benefits and

savings, and the adopted Climate Change Strategy continued to be delivered, the Council would achieve strategy targets and the challenge of a 30% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from Council activity by March 2020.

RESOLVED that:-

1. The positive performance in reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases from Council activity in 2018/19, and associated financial savings be noted.

2. The continued efforts to reduce emissions via a range of activities be supported.

3. Reasons for the Decision

We have a growing national recognition for our work on climate change and fuel poverty, particularly around energy efficiency and carbon reduction from Council activity, and the positive impact our work on delivering affordable warmth schemes is having on residents and communities. This report documents another 12 months of positive performance on reducing greenhouse gas emissions (a contributor to climate change) and subsequently financial savings to the Council, and as such is an item of interest for Members.

4. Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

None.

5. Declared (Cabinet Member) Conflicts of Interest

None.

6. Details of any Dispensations

N/A

7. Date and Time by which Call In must be executed

Midnight, 25 October 2019.

Proper Officer
21 October 2019