



TODMORDEN TOWN COUNCIL

Item 19 – Town Council 27th April
2021

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REPORT TO RESOURCES COMMITTEE

REPORT AUTHOR	Colin Hill Town Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer
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Date	27th April 2021
SUBJECT	Climate Emergency Committee – Work Update and Action Plan

PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. To advise Members that the Climate Emergency Committee has now completed most of its initial phase of research and findings necessary to formulate an Action Plan for future delivery. – Appendix 1
2. To seek from Member their views as to the actions proposed.
3. To inform Members that a review of other Town Council actions relating to Climate Emergency indicate that further actions could be included in the Action Plan - Appendix 2.
4. To seek from Members their agreement to review and prioritise what else may need to be included, by completion of a survey, before a final action plan is considered at the June Climate Emergency Committee.
5. To remind Members that the current staffing establishment to deal with Climate Emergency Committee related support includes only four hours per week within the part time role of the Assistant Town Clerk.
6. To advise Members that to deliver these proposed actions, there will be a need to increase staffing provision.
7. To advise Members that the alternative is to substantially scale back the actions proposed to within manageable levels within the existing resource allocated or reduce / stop support to other Committee functions. Neither is recommended given either other Committees would suffer in delivering their remit or the Emergency Declaration made by this Council has no substance in terms of being able to deliver practical based outcomes.

BACKGROUND

8. Since inception, The Climate Emergency Committee has through a combination of formal Committee and informal working group meetings, met on several occasions, all supported

by the Assistant Town Clerk in terms of Agenda setting, coordinating external speakers, minuting of ideas and suggestions, and now forming the basis of the proposed action plan. The Annual Report of this Committee (Appendix 3) indicates the substantive extent of research carried out and support necessary.

9. The nature of this subject is wide ranging and the balance between higher level policy/ lobbying activity and local intervention needs to be determined by considering resource (human and financial) that is available to deliver.
10. The opportunity to involve volunteers in elements of delivery may be a real possibility given already established local networks, but again this will need resource to pull together.
11. The opportunity to identify and subsequently bid for external grants requires resource.
12. Establishing a formal Advisory Committee as per this Committees Terms of Reference, seeking to co-opt non-councillors to then agree direct actions to be carried out, reporting back to the Climate Emergency Committee for formal authority again requires resources to be made available.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

13. Should Members wish to take forward these initiatives it will be necessary to review staffing need for this additional support, but also as part also of an overall review of the changing needs of the Town Council.
14. Whilst potential 2021/22 costs may be covered off by use of the Earmarked Community Development Reserve there may be future revenue implications requiring Precept increase.

RECOMMENDATION

15. That Members receive this update of the Climate Emergency Committee and consider whether or not to take forward the actions proposed or scale back proposals within resources currently available.
16. That should Members support additional resource to be provided, the Town Clerk be asked to prepare a paper for consideration by the Staffing Committee with regard to the potential future recruitment of a Climate and Community Officer as part of an overall review of staffing need given increasing volumes of activity generally across all areas of the council
17. That Members participate in a survey to determine whether other actions also need to be included and or prioritised ahead of those already included in the action plan.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

18. Having been presented with an Action Plan requiring additional resource, a decision needs to be taken by Town Council as to whether additional resource is going to be provided or activities curtailed within existing resource.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS:

19. The Council has declared a Climate Emergency and already added its support to a range of Climate Emergency related statements.

DETAILS OF CONSULTATION:

20. None directly arising from this report.

SUPPORTING PAPERS:

21. Appendix 1 - Action Plan
Appendix 2 - Other Town Council actions
Appendix 3 - Annual Report

FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT: Colin Hill