



Douglas Borough Council

Committee Report

REPORT TO	
Executive Committee	
DATE OF MEETING	
Thursday 24 th February, 2022	
REPORTING OFFICER	
Assistant Town Clerk	
SUBJECT	
Interim Target for Emissions Reduction.	
1	REASON FOR REPORT
	Consultation Document issued by Cabinet Office
2	RECOMMENDATION
	That the Council supports the introduction of a target of 45% reduction in carbon emissions by 2030, subject to the Government providing financial support for residents, businesses and local authorities in changing to environmentally acceptable practices.
3	FURTHER APPROVAL REQUIRED
	None.
4	SUPPORTING RATIONALE
	<p>The Government has already declared its commitment to Net-Zero Carbon Emissions by 2050. It is now consulting about fixing an interim target to be achieved by 2030, as a positive indicator and stimulant for progress.</p> <p>The consultation sets out the means by which reductions in emissions will be achieved in a number of areas. Principally in electricity generation which is a major user of fossil fuel, in encouraging more electric light vehicles, and installation of heat pumps to replace fossil fuel boilers in domestic properties.</p> <p>There is no doubt that these reductions are desirable, and they are essential to meet the declared objective, For that reason, the recommendation is to support the “High Ambition – 45% reduction by 2030” target.</p> <p>However, the effects on the Council do need to be considered. Many of the Council's vehicle fleet will need to be replaced by electric units as and when they fall due for replacement, and such vehicles are currently considerably more expensive than</p>

	<p>conventional petrol or diesel vehicles. There is no proposal to address the problem of heavier vehicles at this stage but there will be a point when operating large diesel vehicles will become unacceptable so alternatives need to be explored.</p> <p>As for domestic heating being based on heat pumps, the Council's housing stock will need fossil fuel boilers removed and replaced with an alternative carbon zero heating system, which is a major and costly exercise, not only due to the significant increase cost of the new technology but also the costly and challenging retrofit requirements of these newer heating systems. There is also the opportunity for district heating schemes, and the Council's estates may prove suitable. The Housing maintenance budget will not be sufficient for the required level of investment for the purchase and retrofitting requirements of new systems. Ultimately the Housing Deficiency arrangements would need to cover the additional spend, the risk being that this additional load on the Housing Deficiency would start to compete with 'other' improvements to housing stock.</p> <p>A separate fund that supports the required changes to meet net zero targets would be the absolute preference. The fund could be supported by an increase in rental on the properties; due to the decrease in lifetime cost of running the system, the tenant will be of significant financial benefit and therefore an increase in rental cost can be justified.</p> <p>Installation of further insulation to Council properties would also be needed, again at further cost to be covered in the same way.</p> <p>All new build properties should be built to Passive House standards removing all carbon emissions over the lifetime of the property.</p> <p>Because of those issues the Council's support for the 45% reduction in emissions by 2030 should be tempered with the proviso that Government must provide financial support for residents, businesses, and particularly local authorities, for changing to more environmentally friendly forms of transport, building, and heating. That could be done by extending the scope of the Government's Climate Change Transformation Fund from which public authorities outside Government are currently excluded.</p>
5	ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED BUT NOT RECOMMENDED
	Not to respond to the Consultation which would be contrary to the Council's stated commitment to reducing emissions.
6	IF PREVIOUSLY CONSIDERED BY COMMITTEE OR COUNCIL, DATE AND DECISION
	Not applicable
7	CAPITAL COST AND FUNDING SOURCE
	None directly attributable to this report but the work required to comply with the advanced target would require funding once it can be identified and costed.
8	CHANGES TO REVENUE ESTIMATES AND FUNDING SOURCE
	None directly attributable to this report but the work required to comply with the advanced target would require funding once it can be identified and costed.
9	STAFFING/HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS

	None.
10	LEGAL IMPLICATIONS
	Any target fixed by the Regulations does become a statutory requirement and therefore the Council has an obligation to comply, even though there may be significant costs.
11	EQUALITY ACT COMPLIANCE
	Not applicable.
12	COMPLIANCE WITH CORPORATE PLAN
	Environmental Stewardship
13	BUSINESS RISK IMPLICATIONS
	None.
14	ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT
	Significant benefit.
15	IMPLICATIONS FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (of the Borough or Island)
	The work required to comply with the introduction of the interim targets will benefit local contractors and businesses.
16	CROSS-DEPARTMENTAL ISSUES
	None.
17	APPENDICES
	None.
18	REASON FOR CONFIDENTIALITY
	None.

REPORTING OFFICER	
RESPONSIBLE CHIEF OFFICER	
DATE	