

Climate Change and Nature Emergency Cross Party Advisory Panel

Purpose

The February 2022 Notice of Motion calls on cabinet to establish a Climate Change and Nature Emergency Cross Party Advisory Panel (CCNEAP). The Monitoring officer has agreed for the AP to consider their draft Terms of Reference at the first meeting and refer the draft to Cabinet for consideration.

Original NOM text

This Council declared a Climate Emergency in February 2019 and has made a commitment to becoming a net zero carbon local authority by 2030. Steps have been taken across our fleet, buildings and across the county to tackle climate change and we are on track to achieve our targets.

The Welsh Parliament became one of the first parliaments in the world to declare a Nature Emergency in 2021.

This Council calls on the Cabinet to further its commitment by declaring a Nature Emergency and establishing a Cross Party Advisory Panel to support this authority's approach to climate change and nature emergency and incorporate the adoption of the Edinburgh Declaration.

Draft Terms of Reference

1. Membership and constitution

- i. The Climate Change and Nature Emergency Cross Party Advisory Panel (CCNEAP) shall comprise 9 elected Members of the Council
- ii. The CCNEAP is an advisory group whose members reflect the Council's political balance and as nominated by the Leader of each political group.
- iii. The Chair of the Cross Party group will nominally be the Cabinet Member with responsibility for Climate Change, Decarbonisation and Sustainability subject to consideration by the group at the first meeting.
- iv. Members are reminded that the rules set out in the council's Constitution, Code and protocols with regard to making declarations of interest will apply to Members of the CCNEAP.

2. Meetings

- i. The CCNEAP will meet quarterly to be scheduled by the secretariat on agreed dates unless otherwise agreed by the Chair. Urgent meetings of the group can be convened if considered appropriate by the Chair.
- ii. Meetings shall be held in private although other Members not sitting on the CCNEAP will be welcome to observe.
- iii. The secretariat will be provided by the portfolio department and for the purposes of accuracy and transparency will keep adequate notes of the matters

considered which shall be available for inspection by officers and other Members of the Council.

- iv. Agenda's for the meeting will be sent to attendees at least 5 calendar days prior to each meeting of the panel.

3. Role.

- i. The aim of the CCNEAP is to provide advice to the Council's Cabinet on the development and implementation of policies and programmes to tackle Climate change, deliver the transition to net zero by 2030 and address the nature emergency.
- ii. The CCNEAP is not decision making.
- iii. The panel will receive regular updates and options from officers on progress against the Council's net zero action plan and Environment act action plan with the aim of reaching a consensus as to how the council should continue move forward to meet the challenges set by the Motion.
- iv. The CCNEAP may also seek advice from external bodies on an invite basis
- v. The Panel shall advise and make recommendations to the Cabinet by report. Under the terms of the Council's constitution policy decisions in respect of Climate Change and the nature emergency form part of the policy framework is reserved for decision by Cabinet with the ability for a Scrutiny Committee to scrutinise such decisions as considered necessary

4. Objectives

The objectives of the CCNEAP;

- To support the Cabinet in promoting social, economic and environmental well-being of the people, communities and places of Carmarthenshire through the development and implementation of policies and programmes to tackle Climate change, deliver the transition to net zero by 2030 and address the nature emergency
- To consider and advise the Cabinet on the scope, progress and continuing development of the Council's net zero and Environment Act action plans and to make recommendations for their development now and for future generations in accordance with the principles of the Wellbeing and Future Generations Act.
- Provide advice on the development of specific actions and policies relating to nature's assets which support the reduction of the Council's Carbon Footprint and respond to Net Zero ambitions.
- To Provide a forum across the Council to develop these commitments and in doing so, become more ambitious through challenging how the Council operates and approaches challenges in the future to become a 'Net Zero' Council by 2050 and enhances biodiversity.

- To monitor developments in national and international policy and programmes for Climate Change and nature development and to advise the Cabinet on how it may effectively deal with their implications at the local level.
- To consider any relevant county and local information, data and research identifying any key issues in support of the Council's activities.
- To support and advise upon the County Council's actions to communicate issues in relation to the climate change and nature emergency.
- To make relevant recommendations to the Cabinet addressing the Notices of Motion agreed by County Council on the February 2019 in respect of Climate Change and 9 February 2022 in relation to the nature emergency (10.2)