

CLIMATE, BIODIVERSITY & PLANNING COMMITTEE

Date: Tuesday, 12 October 2021

Title: Committee Work Plan

Contact Officer: Town Clerk - Sharon Groth

Background

The purpose of this report is to provide an update to Members on the Committee's work plan which includes projects identified as part of the Council's Draft Strategic Plan and Budget Setting agreed in February 2021, as well as the Open Spaces Strategy adopted in June 2021.

This is also an opportune time to consider any future/additional projects to be put forward for the budget setting cycle (November) to prepare a forward plan for 2022 and beyond, to give Officers time to carry out any required research.

Current Situation

Members will be aware from previous Officer reports that so far a project fund of £25,000 has been set aside to support the Council's efforts on Climate Emergency. However, the climate emergency objective crosses over into the other spending Committees which have projects already identified – such as the new heating system at Burwell Hall and a fund for electrical vehicles.

Many of the Council's projects cross reference into the Open Spaces Strategy which should be seen as the overarching plan for the Council and should dictate priorities and timescales.

Open Spaces Strategy

During the next two months the Town Clerk, as Strategic Lead, will begin to drill down into the OSS Action Plan in order to establish some clear project plans for implementation by her Officers.

At this stage, as a reminder, attached at appendix 1 is the extract from the OSS with this Committee's priorities.

Environmental impact

Having declared a Climate Change Emergency at its Council meeting on 26 June 2019 – with this in mind Councillors should have due regard to the environmental impact of any decisions they make with regard to its facilities and services it operates.

Each project plan will include an environmental impact assessment to ensure that the Council's declaration and environmental issues are taken into account and isn't to the detriment of the Council's ambitious target of carbon neutrality by 2028.

Risk

In decision making Councillors should give consideration to any risks to the Council and any action it can take to limit or negate its liability.

Each project plan will include an environmental impact assessment to ensure that the Council's declaration and environmental issues are taken into account and isn't to the detriment of the Council's ambitious target of carbon neutrality by 2028.

Financial implications

There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

Recommendations

Members are invited to note the report and the status of the various projects agreed. Consideration could also be given to any priorities or forward plan the Committee may wish to put forward for the budget setting cycle for projects in 2022 and beyond.