

## BRECKLAND DISTRICT COUNCIL

**Report of:** Executive Member for Customer Engagement and Climate Change Champion

**To:** Cabinet – 1<sup>st</sup> February 2021

**Author:** Greg Pearson, Senior Policy Advisor

**Subject:** Update on the Breckland Sustainability Strategy

**Purpose:** To provide an update on the progress to date in developing the Breckland Sustainability Strategy.

### Recommendation(s):

- 1) That Cabinet note the contents of this report.

### 1.0 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 This report sets out the progress made since the last written update provided to Cabinet on 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021.
- 1.2 The public consultation that the council ran on the strategy concluded on 15<sup>th</sup> January. The consultation sought views on the three pillars of the draft strategy, asked the public to prioritise a number of potential actions for example revising the council's procurement strategy, creating tree planting schemes or creating additional electric vehicle charging points. It also gave the opportunity to give any other feedback or make suggestions of other actions they would like the council to focus on as part of the strategy. In total the council received 210 responses to the consultation, these are currently being analysed and will be reflected in the final draft of the strategy.
- 1.3 Due to the significant amount of feedback received as part of the consultation, the decision has been taken to delay the Sustainability Strategy's progression to Council by a month to ensure that the views of residents are fully incorporated into the document and associated work programme.
- 1.4 The council's new Environment & Climate Change Officer, Michel Bolaboto took up his position on 4<sup>th</sup> January. To date he has been focusing his time on:
  - a. Developing new webpages for the council's website that will set out what we as an organisation are doing and our ongoing progress, as well as signposting residents to useful resources that they can use to make informed choices about their own environmental impact. Subject to sign off these will be live in February.
  - b. Analysing feedback from the public consultation exercises that concluded on 15<sup>th</sup> January.
  - c. Helping shape the latest draft work programme that will support the strategy.
- 1.5 Next steps: The Breckland Sustainability Strategy is scheduled to be considered by Council on 25<sup>th</sup> February 2021.

## 2.0 **OPTIONS**

2.1 That Cabinet note the contents of this report.

2.2 Do Nothing.

## 3.0 **REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION**

3.1 This report is to provide an update to cabinet on progress to date.

## 4.0 **EXPECTED BENEFITS**

4.1 The work to date and the next steps set out in this report will enable the creation of a Breckland Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy with an associated work programme which will set out how the council will look to address its own environmental impact, use the powers that it has to influence others across the district to lessen their impact and work with communities across the district to make changes.

## 5.0 **IMPLICATIONS**

In preparing this report, the report author has considered the likely implications of the decision - particularly in terms of Carbon Footprint / Environmental Issues; Constitutional & Legal; Contracts; Corporate Priorities; Crime & Disorder; Data Protection; Equality & Diversity/Human Rights; Financial; Health & Wellbeing; Reputation; Risk Management; Safeguarding; Staffing; Stakeholders/Consultation/Timescales; Other. Where the report author considers that there may be implications under one or more of these headings, these are identified below.

### 5.1 **Carbon Footprint / Environmental Issues**

5.1.1 The Breckland Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy will when delivered set out how the Council will look to address its own environmental impact, use the powers that it has to influence others across the district to lessen their impact and work with communities across the district to make changes.

### 5.2 **Corporate Priorities**

5.2.1 This directly links to the delivery of the following critical activity set out under the 'Our Place' strategic theme "We will develop an Environmental and Climate Strategy that sets out how as an organisation we will respond to climate change but also identifies how we will empower our communities to take action for themselves"

### 5.3 **Reputation**

5.3.1 Climate Change is a matter that is important to many of our residents and it is important that any strategy and related work programme is carefully considered to ensure that it achievable as failure to deliver against this would have significant reputational damage to the council.

### 5.4 **Stakeholders / Consultation / Timescales**

5.4.1 Public consultation carried out and concluded on 15<sup>th</sup> January, feedback is currently being analysed and will informed final strategy being put forward to council.

## 6.0 **WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED**

6.1 All

## 7.0 ACRONYMS

7.1 NA

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Background papers: -

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### **Lead Contact Officer**

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**Key Decision:** No

**Exempt Decision:** No

**This report refers to a Mandatory Service and Discretionary Service**