

## Climate Emergency Committee – 31 January 2024

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Minutes of the meeting of the **Climate Emergency Committee** held on **31 January 2024** when there were present:-

Chairman: Cllr M Hoy  
Vice-Chairman: Cllr Mrs J R Gooding

Cllr E O K Mason	Cllr D W Sharp
Cllr Mrs J E McPherson	Cllr A L Williams
Cllr R Milne	Cllr S A Wilson

### **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Mrs D Belton

### **SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS**

Cllr I H Ward                      - for Cllr Mrs D Belton

### **OFFICERS PRESENT**

M Hotten	- Director of Environment
A Aldridge	- Corporate Manager – Green Spaces
H Muss	- Climate and Sustainability Manager
V Meanwell	- Democratic Services Officer

**Please note that the full livestream of this meeting can be viewed at:**  
[Climate Emergency Committee \(youtube.com\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UJG0EIRMED)

### **29 MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 20 September 2023 and 17 January 2024, these were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

### **30 COUNCIL'S POSITION STATEMENT ON 3G ARTIFICIAL PITCHES**

The Committee considered the report of the Executive Lead Member Resources, Climate Change and Economy, setting out the Council's draft position statement on 3G artificial pitches.

Following a full discussion Cllr D W Sharp moved a Motion, seconded by Cllr S A Wilson to amend the position statement to change the word 'strive' to 'should'. This was approved on a show of hands.

(5 Members voted in favour of the motion, 2 against and 2 abstained)

Cllr S A Wilson moved a Motion to make an amendment, seconded by Cllr J E McPherson and add to the end of the statement 'and that all alternatives to be evaluated before considering their use'. This was approved on a show of hands.

(8 Members voted in favour of the motion, 0 against and 1 abstained)

Cllr Hoy moved a Motion seconded by Cllr Gooding to make a further amendment to the position statement and remove '3G' from the third line of the statement and replace with 'artificial'. The statement will now read:-

Given the European Union Ban on 3G artificial pitches on using traditional infill microplastics, and the declaration of a Climate & Ecological Emergency by this council, this councils position is that any artificial pitches planned for the district should use sustainable organic materials, and that end-of-life recycling of turf at approved facilities takes place and that all alternatives be evaluated before considering their use.

This was approved unanimously.

### **Resolved**

To recommend to Executive that:

R1 – The amended draft position statement as set out in paragraph 5.1 is adopted by the Council. (DE)

## **31 PARKS FOR NATURE – CLIMATE IMPACT REPORT**

The Committee considered the report of the Executive Lead Member Resources, Climate Change and Economy setting out the Council's Parks for Nature programmes, climate impact and the planned increase in carbon sequestration across our managed parks and open spaces.

Following a full discussion Cllr Mrs J R Gooding moved a Motion seconded by Cllr J E McPherson to include Clements Hall on the list on pages 6.17 – 6.18 with area of meadow to be determined. This was approved unanimously.

Cllr M Hoy moved a Motion to approve the amended recommendation, seconded by Cllr Mrs J R Gooding, this was approved unanimously.

### **Resolved**

To recommend to the Executive that:

R1 – To continue to roll-out if the Parks for Nature scheme, to complete the listed sites:-

*Bedford Close Rayleigh, Brockford Green Rayleigh, Canewdon Village Green, Hullbridge Recreation Ground, Malvern Road Rayleigh, Millview Meadows*

*Rochford, Rawreth Recreation Ground, Rochford Reservoir, Rayleigh Leisure Centre, Sweyne Park and Clements Hall – (DE)*

### **32 FINANCIAL APPRAISAL OF ROCHFORD DISTRICT COUNCILS 2030 NET ZERO CARBON TARGET**

The Committee considered the report of the Executive Lead Member Resources, Climate Change and Economy setting out the proposed financial appraisal of the pathway for the Council to deliver on its Net Zero 2030 Carbon Emission target for those emissions under the influence of the Council.

Following a full discussion Cllr M Hoy moved a Motion, seconded by Cllr Sharp to approve Recommendation 1 of the report. This was approved on a show of hands.

(8 voted in favour of the motion, 0 against and 1 abstained)

Cllr M Hoy moved a Motion, seconded by Cllr Mrs J Gooding to approve Recommendation 2 of the report. This was approved on a show of hands.

(8 voted in favour of the motion, 0 against and 1 abstained)

Cllr M Hoy moved a Motion, seconded by Cllr S A Wilson to approve Recommendation 3 of the report. This was approved on a show of hands.

(5 voted in favour of the motion, 0 against and 4 abstained)

#### **Resolved**

To recommend to the Executive that:

R1. To explore a green/zero carbon electricity tariff for the Council corporate supplies.

R2. To consider the allocation of an additional £84,000 revenue budget for the purchase of the procurement of green diesel (Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil) for the Council fleet, currently using mineral diesel.

R3. To consider the allocation of a £750,973 of capital funding to deliver energy-saving improvements to Council assets as set out in the report. (DE)

### **33 SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY – PROGRESS REPORT**

The Committee considered the report of the Executive Lead Member Resources, Climate Change and Economy setting out the progress made

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against the five key targets for 2023/24 drawn from the Councils Sustainability Strategy and set out by the Climate Emergency Committee.

Cllr R Milne moved a Motion, seconded by Cllr Mrs J R Gooding to approve the recommendation. This was approved unanimously.

### **Resolved**

R1 – To approve the contents of this report for presentation to the next available Council meeting. (DE)

The meeting closed at 20:27.

Chairman .....

Date .....

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