

news release

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For Immediate Release

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Ten-year climate change plan to be examined

A proposed ten-year plan to address and adapt to the challenges of climate change will be set out by West Sussex County Council next week.

The draft Climate Change Strategy 2020 - 2030 will be examined by the Environment and Communities Scrutiny Committee at a meeting on Wednesday 24 June 2020 at 10.30am.

The meeting can be followed online at: <http://www.westsussex.public-i.tv/core/portal/home>

The County Council adopted a Notice of Motion on climate change in 2019, calling on West Sussex County Council to show leadership, step up the work of the Council to combat climate change, and attempt to make West Sussex County Council carbon neutral by 2030.

The Climate Change Strategy, which will be examined by the committee before being formally adopted in July, sets out a vision that by 2030, West Sussex County Council will be both carbon neutral and climate resilient.

A Climate Change Advisory Group was formed at the request of the Cabinet Member for the Environment last year, involving members from all political parties, members of the West Sussex Youth Cabinet and invited community representatives from the South East Climate Alliance (SECA).

As well as hearing from officers of the county council, the committee will also hear from Dr Tony Whitbread, President of the Sussex Wildlife Trust and member of SECA.

Chairman of the committee, Andrew Barrett-Miles, said: "In April last year, Full Council recognised and acknowledged the threat of climate change and passed a motion pledging to try to reach net zero carbon emissions by 2030.

"The Climate Change Strategy is the next important step in this process, recognising that our response needs to be much wider than carbon reduction. I look forward to hearing more detail about how the county council will work towards its goals over the next ten years."

The Strategy also notes that there are many lessons the Council can take forward from how it has worked during the Covid 19 crisis and how we need to take into account the longer term impacts of climate change as we recover and move forward.

Once the strategy is agreed in July, the county council will set out a delivery plan, showing how it plans to lead, enable, and inspire the change needed and how it will engage with communities to shape the actions.

Further details about next week's meeting can be found at www.westsussex.gov.uk by searching for 'environment scrutiny'.

Notes to Editors

For more information on how the County Council is responding to climate change please see the following links:

<https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/about-the-council/policies-and-reports/environment-planning-and-waste-policy-and-reports/climate-change-in-west-sussex/>

<https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/about-the-council/policies-and-reports/environment-planning-and-waste-policy-and-reports/sustainability/>

Ends

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