

REPORT OF ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL

(Meeting held on 19 September 2019)

1. CLIMATE CHANGE MOTION

The Environment Overview and Scrutiny Panel, having considered the work of the Climate Change Task and Finish Group, is reporting its findings to the Council. The Group considered some benchmark figures in relation to the Council's carbon footprint based on energy usage and vehicle mileage, alongside the work the Council has undertaken to reduce emissions including installing solar panels, energy saving lighting and more recently considering the procurement of some electric fleet vehicles.

The majority view of the Panel was that the Council should not declare a climate emergency, but instead work to develop an Environment Action Plan, incorporated within the Council's Corporate Plan, which held the overall ambition to become carbon neutral as a District Council by 2050.

RECOMMENDED:

That the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Panel advise the Council that:-

- (a) the Panel does not support the motion referred to the Panel by the Council; and***
- (b) whilst the Panel recognises that other Councils have declared a climate emergency, this Council can achieve more on a local level through the development of an Environment Action Plan, with the ambition of achieving a carbon neutral position for the New Forest District Council by 2050. Once developed, the action plan should give prominence within the Council's Corporate Plan to ensure that environmental issues, including climate change, are taken into account in future decision making.***

**COUNCILLOR S RIPPON-SWAINE
CHAIRMAN**