

MID SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL

TO: Cabinet	REPORT NUMBER: MCa/23/13
FROM: Councillor Andrew Mellen, MSDC Leader	DATE OF MEETING: 5 September 2023
OFFICER: Arthur Charvonia, Chief Executive	KEY DECISION REF NO. CAB441

UK100 NETWORK AND OUR COMMITMENT TO SIGN-UP FOR A MEMBERSHIP

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 In 2019, Mid Suffolk District Council declared a 'climate emergency' alongside other partners of the Suffolk Climate Change Partnership¹. As part of this, the Council committed to work together with other partners to make Suffolk carbon neutral by 2030.
- 1.2 In the same year, the UK parliament passed legislation to bring all greenhouse gas emissions to Net Zero by 2050. This was to keep in line with international commitment in the Paris Agreement to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees. The UK100 is a network of local leaders who have pledged to lead a rapid transition to Net Zero with Clean Air in their communities ahead of the government's legal target (by 2045 at the latest).
- 1.3 UK100's aim is to support a local-led rapid transition to Net Zero and Clean Air through collaboration. To accelerate action, they believe in bringing together the most influential leaders across the country to learn together and agree on priorities for legislative and regulatory change while empowering them to engage with national decision-makers. They provide their network with the knowledge, tools and connections to make this happen.
- 1.4 The purpose of this report is to provide information on the UK100 membership to be noted by elected members and to consider joining UK100. Appendix A provides detailed information on the membership pack.

2. OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 Other options were not considered since the UK100 membership is the only network for UK local leaders focused solely on climate, clean energy and clean air policy.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS
3.1 To note the content of Appendix A & B and agree to join the UK100 network.
REASON FOR DECISION
We are committed to become a member of the UK100 network. This membership has the potential to help local authorities to fulfil and accelerate the Council's commitments to tackling the climate emergency and deliver local Net Zero.

4. KEY INFORMATION

¹ [Suffolk Climate Change Partnership – Green Suffolk](#)

4.1 **Benefits of membership** – Membership of UK100 supports local authorities by:

- (i) facilitating dialogue with national politicians and senior officials across Whitehall, amplifying the voices of local leaders via collective advocacy to national government
- (ii) enabling knowledge sharing between members including meetings, webinars, roundtables and workshops, and promoting best practice via social media and newsletters
- (iii) providing tailored insights, evidence and recommendations on the challenges and solutions to local Net Zero, inviting members to inform and participate in research
- (iv) connecting local leaders with world-leading business and industry to help local authorities plan and implement the solutions needed to reduce emissions in their local area
- (v) demonstrating the collective ambition, commitment and ability of democratically elected local leaders to deliver Net Zero.

4.2 **Joining the Countryside Climate Network (CCN)**

4.2.1 Members representing rural communities are also invited to join the UK100 CCN. The CCN is a sub-group of UK100 network members whose authority covers predominantly rural areas. The Leader can actively participate in or elect an appropriate cabinet member representative to participate in, quarterly CCN meetings.

4.3 **Pathway to signing the pledge and becoming a member**

4.3.1 To become a member of UK100, the Council is required to sign and adopt the UK100 Net Zero Pledge (attached at Appendix B). This includes the following commitments:

- (i) Have set ambitious Net Zero targets for greenhouse emissions of 2030 for council operations and 2045 for areawide emissions at the latest.
- (ii) Report their carbon emissions annually, for scope 1 and scope 2, for council emissions and scope 3 for areawide emissions.
- (iii) Commit to limiting the use of offsets, and if used, to be as local as possible.

4.3.2 The pledge is not legally binding, in the sense that UK100 will not take legal action if the Council does not reach the targets. However, if the Net Zero targets are adopted by the Council, and set as an official policy, then there is some accountability in the same way.

4.3.3 By signing the pledge, Mid Suffolk District Council is committed to meet the Net Zero targets for greenhouse emissions of 2030 for council operations and 2045 for areawide emissions.

4.4 **Current members of the UK100 network**

4.4.1 Mayors and local leaders representing more than one third of the UK population have signed the Net Zero Pledge. This includes local authorities from all regions in England, alongside Scottish and Welsh local authorities, across all tiers from district councils to combined authorities. Suffolk County Council are members of this network. See full members' list [here](#).

4.5 **Costs and Membership Renewal**

4.5.1 There is no membership fee for local authorities to join UK100. Members in the network do not need to be renewed on an annual basis, only membership can be terminated if the Council no longer meets the criteria.

4.5.2 If the political administration changes, the network will engage with the new administration and officers to confirm the new political leadership is compatible with the Council's continued membership of UK100.

5. **LINKS TO CORPORATE PLAN**

5.1 The UK100's mission is to 'devise and implement plans for the transition to clean energy that are ambitious, cost effective and take the public and business with them'. Our Joint Outcomes Framework, which is underpinned by the Council's six strategic priorities, demonstrate various links between the UK100 mission and the Council's vision 'to build great communities with bright and healthy futures that everyone is proud to call home'. We are also reviewing our strategic priorities for the Council through the Corporate Plan refresh.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from this report.

8. RISK MANAGEMENT

8.1 This paper only concerns key risks and there are no key risks associated with signing up for a membership with UK100. There are no membership costs, and the pledge is not legally binding in the sense that UK100 will not take legal action if the Council does not reach the targets. However, once the Net Zero targets are adopted by the Council, some level of accountability will be required with risk of membership termination if the Council does not meet the targets.

9. CONSULTATIONS

9.1 This decision will be noted and discussed with elected members via Joint Cabinet Briefing and MSDC Cabinet meeting.

10. EQUALITY ANALYSIS

10.1 Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) not required. The membership does not discriminate and/or exclude any of the protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010.

11. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

11.1 The commitment to sign-up for this membership can bring positive environmental impacts for the district by helping the Council to accelerate the delivery of local Net Zero and tackle the climate emergency.

12. APPENDICES

Title	Location
(a) UK100 Membership Pack	Attached
(b) UK100 Net Zero Pledge	Attached

13. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

13.1 [UK100's new, more ambitious Net Zero pledge | UK100](#)

14. REPORT AUTHORS

14.1 Francine Tarn – Policy and Strategy Lead