

## Rother District Council

**Report to:** Cabinet

**Date:** 12 June 2023

**Title:** Net Zero pledge for UK100 Membership

**Report of:** Ben Hook, Director - Place and Climate Change

**Cabinet Member:** Councillor Rathbone Ariel

**Ward(s):** All

**Purpose of Report:** To progress the Council's membership to the UK100

**Decision Type:** Non-Key

### Officer

**Recommendation(s):** **Recommendation to COUNCIL:** That the Net Zero Pledge be approved and adopted and the Council's membership of UK100 be confirmed.

### AND

It be **RESOLVED:** That subject to Council approval, the Director – Place and Climate Change be granted delegated authority to sign the pledge and agree the ongoing requirements to ensure Rother District Council's ongoing UK100 Membership.

### Reasons for

**Recommendations:** Membership of UK100 signals the Council's intent to do its fair share in reducing both direct and indirect emissions. Membership also provides resources for both Members and officers.

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## Introduction

1. UK100 is a network of local authorities who have pledged to get to Net Zero by 2030 for council operations and 2045, at the latest, for area-wide emissions.
2. Membership is free and benefits include support, guidance and knowledge sharing.
3. Membership also signals the Council's intent to do its fair share and influence district-wide emission reduction.
4. In 2019, the UK Government passed legislation to bring all greenhouse gas emissions to Net Zero by 2050. This was to align with the commitments in the Paris Agreement to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees.

5. Evidence from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) AR6 report (2023) demonstrates global warming is likely to exceed 1.5 degrees with the existing policies and laws currently in place.
6. Ambitious action is required to limit global warming and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
7. Local authorities play a crucial role in achieving the UK's Net Zero greenhouse gas emissions target. Through policies and partnerships, local authorities have a strong influence over more than a third of emissions in the local area.
8. In September 2019, Rother District Council declared a climate emergency and made a climate pledge.

“Rother District Council pledge to do what is within our powers, to make Rother District carbon neutral by 2030, taking into account both production and consumption emissions.”

9. UK100 Mission Statement:
  - a. UK100 is a network of highly ambitious local government leaders, which seeks to devise and implement plans for the transition to clean energy that are ambitious, cost effective and take the public and business with them.
  - b. UK100 supports decision-makers in UK towns, cities and counties in their transition to Net Zero. It is the only network for UK local leaders focused solely on climate, clean energy and clean air policy.

### **Membership Benefits**

10. The UK100 network meets twice a year to discuss activities and advocacy. In addition, there are issue-specific events aimed at different levels (leaders, cabinet members and officers).
11. UK100 make multiple announcements throughout the year to celebrate new leaders and councils who have joined. A Communications toolkit/ media pack is provided.
12. Membership of UK100 supports local authorities in fulfilling their commitments to tackling the climate emergency and delivering local Net Zero.
13. UK100 facilitates dialogue with national politicians, amplifying the voices of local leaders via collective advocacy.
14. Membership enables knowledge sharing including meetings, webinars, roundtables, workshops and promoting best practice.
15. The organisation can provide tailored insights, evidence and recommendations on the challenges and solutions to local Net Zero, inviting members to inform and participate in research.
16. UK100 connects local leaders with world-leading business and industry to help local authorities plan and implement the solutions needed to reduce emissions locally.

17. Membership demonstrates the collective ambition, commitment, and ability of elected local leaders to deliver Net Zero.
18. Members also have access to members only programmes and services including briefings on research and publications.
19. Members representing rural authorities can join the UK100 Countryside Climate Network (CCN). This is a sub-group of UK100 network members whose authority covers predominantly rural areas.
20. The CCN hold quarterly meetings for Leaders or elected Cabinet Member representatives to participate in.
21. The pledge is not legally binding.
22. There is no membership fee.

### **Membership Requirements**

23. To become a member of UK100, the Council must sign and adopt the following Net Zero Pledge:

“As local leaders across the UK, we recognise our responsibility to tackle the climate emergency and take bold action towards Net Zero.

We will continue to lead the UK’s response to climate change, acting sooner than the government’s goal by making substantial progress within the next decade to deliver Net Zero. We will use our experience and achievements to advocate to the UK Government in order to accelerate the delivery of ambitious local climate action. With greater powers and funding, we would go further.

We commit to do everything within our power and influence to rapidly reduce our greenhouse gas emissions and work with our residents and businesses to bring our wider communities’ emissions in line with Net Zero as soon as possible.

We pledge to understand our impact on climate change, prioritise where action needs to be taken and monitor progress towards our goals. We will reduce our emissions at source and limit the use of carbon offsets as part of the global effort to avoid the worst impacts of climate change.

We are closer to the people who live and work in our communities, so we have a better understanding of their needs. This means we can collaborate with them to build consensus for the solutions we need to transition to a Net Zero society that delivers multiple benefits and is fair, just and works for everyone.”

24. The pledge includes the following commitments:
  - a. The Council sets an ambitious Net Zero target for greenhouse gas emissions of 2030 for Council operations and at the latest, 2045 for area wide emissions.
  - b. The Council should report their carbon emissions annually for scope 1 and 2 both for Council and district emissions.

c. The Council should commit to limiting the use of offsets, and if used, to be as local as possible.

25. The Council meets the criteria for membership and the pledge aligns with the Council's Climate Emergency declaration made in 2019.

## Conclusion

26. UK100 membership will provide support and resources for Members and officers.

27. In joining the UK100 network, the Council is reaffirming its commitment to Net Zero.

## Environment

28. UK100 membership will support the Council's climate ambitions.

Other Implications	Applies?	Other Implications	Applies?
Human Rights	No	Equalities and Diversity	No
Crime and Disorder	No	Consultation	No
Environmental	Yes	Access to Information	No
Risk Management	No	Exempt from publication	No

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Appendices:	None
Relevant Previous Minutes:	N/A
Background Papers:	None
Reference Documents:	None