

Introduction

Wem Town Council passed the following resolution on 25.4.19 relating to Climate Change

RESOLVED:- that Wem Town Council

- 1) Supports the Declaration of a Climate Emergency.**
- 2) Pledges to make the Town Council carbon neutral by 2030.**
- 3) Calls on Westminster to provide powers and resources to make this possible.**
- 4) Will sign up to the Covenant of Mayors.**
- 5) Will set up a working party composed of Cllrs Mellings, Drummond, Soul, Nash, Dee and Towers to discuss the development of a draft action plan in pursuant of the above objectives to be considered by The Planning & Transport Committee within the next 6 months.**

Progress to date

The Covenant of Mayors commitment involves a commitment to undertake the following items within a certain timescale

Item	Progress to date
Carry out a Baseline Emissions Inventory and a Climate Change Risk and Vulnerability Assessment;	Marches Energy Agency undertook a carbon audit of the Town Council's assets in 2019 and a grant from Rural Community Energy Fund was awarded to look into ways of reducing carbon emissions at Wem Swimming Pool and Butler Sports Centre There are very few examples of Climate Change Risk and Vulnerability Assessments for Town Council and this has not been progressed
Submit a Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan within two years following the above date of the municipal council decision;	Action Plan has been created and published Climate change forum established supported by Town Council
Report progress at least every second year following the submission of the Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan for evaluation, monitoring and verification purposes.	Regular reporting at a local level <u>Home - Global Covenant of Mayors</u>

An emerging issue since the resolution was passed is the complexity and specialist nature of the documents required by the Covenant of Mayors and the costs involved in the reports required.

Another concern is the use of the Covenant of Mayors website to report actions. The website is very difficult to navigate and whilst the Action Plan has been uploaded The Clerk has struggled to understand the other documentation that is required. This issue has been discussed this with other Town Clerk's who have also reported similar concerns with the website. Having received the email below it would seem that we have not uploaded the appropriate documentation and the town Council's account is due to be suspended from the Covenant.

The Town Council has produced an Action Plan which is reviewed regularly and is showing its commitment to its Climate Change pledge through its work with Wem Climate Change Forum. However, it has become evident that the Covenant of Mayors as a Europe wide initiative is primarily directed at larger towns/ cities with considerable staffing, budgets and assets which allow them to undertake the necessary assessments and reports required to fulfil the obligations under the agreement.

Clerks Recommendation

I would recommend that the Town Council rescinds its resolution to the Covenant of Mayors and allow the suspension to stand

To the attention of: the service(s) or person(s) responsible for the coordination of the Covenant of Mayors initiative in your local authority – Wem Town Council

Dear Mayor, Dear Penny O'Hagan,

The Covenant of Mayors - Europe Office would like to inform you that your deadline for sending us your Action Plan has expired. If we are not mistaken, our record states that your action plan remain overdue.

As the global success and the credibility of the initiative depends on each signatory respecting their own commitments, signatories accept termination of their adherence to the Covenant of Mayors - Europe in case of non-compliance (as stated in the commitment document of the Covenant of Mayors). Therefore, we regret to inform you that your involvement in the Covenant is temporarily suspended.

In order to reactivate your account, please submit your Action Plan as soon as possible, following the procedure below:

1/ Log in to 'My Covenant' (the website extranet section) using your credentials. You can reset your password at any time under the 'sign-in' page.

2/ Fill in the 'reporting template' in English - Go to the 'Reporting Corner' and complete the different sections.

3/ Submit your Action Plan document - upload your completed Action Plan - duly approved by the municipal council (and any other relevant documents) in a PDF format.

4/ Validate your online Action Plan submission - Finally, click on 'submit' and follow the instructions. Both the reporting template & the Action Plan document will be forwarded to the European Commission's Joint Research Centre (JRC) for analysis.

We trust you understand this procedure, and should you need further information, please contact the Covenant of Mayors - Europe Office (info@eumayors.eu).



Kind regards,

Covenant of Mayors Office - Europe Office Mundo-Madou, Avenue des arts 7/8, 1210 Brussels (Belgium)