

AGENDA

Meeting: Environment Select Committee

Place: Kennet Committee Room

Date: Tuesday 14 June 2022

Time: 10.30 am

Please direct any enquiries on this Agenda to Leo Penry, of Democratic Services, County Hall, Bythesea Road, Trowbridge, direct line 01225 718541 or email Leonora.Penry@wiltshire.gov.uk

Press enquiries to Communications on direct lines (01225) 713114/713115.

This Agenda and all the documents referred to within it are available on the Council's website at www.wiltshire.gov.uk

Membership:

Cllr Jerry Kunkler (Chairman)	Cllr Dr Nick Murry
Cllr Bob Jones MBE (Vice-Chairman)	Cllr Bill Parks
Cllr Tony Jackson	Cllr Rich Rogers
Cllr Mel Jacob	Cllr Iain Wallis
Cllr Dr Brian Mathew	Cllr Derek Walters
Cllr Charles McGrath	Cllr James Sheppard
Cllr Ian McLennan	

Substitutes:

Cllr Mark Connolly	Cllr Jon Hubbard
Cllr Brian Dalton	Cllr Stewart Palmen
Cllr Andrew Davis	Cllr Ricky Rogers
Cllr Matthew Dean	Cllr Tom Rounds
Cllr Nick Errington	Cllr Tony Trotman
Cllr Ross Henning	

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Please see the agenda list on following pages for details of deadlines for submission of questions and statements for this meeting.

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The full constitution can be found at [this link](#).

For assistance on these and other matters please contact the officer named above for details

AGENDA

PART I

Items to be considered while the meeting is open to the public

1 **Election of Chairman 2022/23**

To elect a Chairman for the forthcoming year.

2 **Election of Vice-Chairman 2022/23**

To elect a Vice-Chairman for the forthcoming year.

3 **Apologies**

To receive any apologies or substitutions for the meeting.

4 **Minutes of the Previous Meeting** (*Pages 7 - 12*)

To approve and sign the minutes of the Environment Select Committee meeting held on 8 March 2022.

5 **Declarations of Interest**

To receive any declarations of disclosable interests or dispensations granted by the Standards Committee.

6 **Chairman's Announcements**

To receive any announcements through the Chair.

7 **Public Participation**

The Council welcomes contributions from members of the public.

Statements

If you would like to make a statement at this meeting on any item on this agenda, please register to do so at least 10 minutes prior to the meeting. Up to 3 speakers are permitted to speak for up to 3 minutes each on any agenda item. Please contact the officer named on the front of the agenda for any further clarification.

Questions

To receive any questions from members of the public or members of the Council received in accordance with the constitution.

Those wishing to ask questions are required to give notice of any such questions in writing to the officer named on the front of this agenda no later than 5pm on Tuesday 7 June 2022 in order to be guaranteed of a written response. In order to receive a verbal response questions must be submitted no later than 5pm on Thursday 9 June 2022. Please contact the officer named on the front of this agenda for further advice. Questions may be asked without notice if the

Chairman decides that the matter is urgent.

Details of any questions received will be circulated to Committee members prior to the meeting and made available at the meeting and on the Council's website.

8 **Update on the Wiltshire Towns Programme**

Wiltshire Council have allocated funding to support high streets between 2021-2025. This report updates on activity to date and plans for the future to support the creation of viable high streets which meet the needs of the community and can adapt for the future.

9 **Bus Strategy/Bus Improvement Plan** (*Pages 13 - 18*)

To update the Environment Select Committee on the Council's progress on a number of public transport projects. The report also provides updates on potential future developments.

This follows on from a briefing given to the select committee on the Future Bus Strategy – Connected Wiltshire on 7 September 2021.

10 **Active Travel**

As discussed at the ESC-Executive meeting on 21 September 2021, regarding the transport and highways portfolios, the select committee has received a report on the council's active travel programmes.

11 **Climate Emergency Task Group** (*Pages 19 - 26*)

To receive an update from the task group on its work since March 2022.

12 **Forward Work Programme** (*Pages 27 - 32*)

To note and receive updates on the progress of items on the forward work programme.

Under the revised Overview and Scrutiny (OS) arrangements there is now a single OS work programme controlled by the OS Management Committee, linked to priorities in the Business Plan.

Therefore it should be noted that, whilst any matters added by Members are welcome, they will be referred to the OS Management Committee for approval before formal inclusion in the work programme for the Environment Select Committee.

A copy of the Overview and Scrutiny Forward Work Programme for the Environment Select Committee is attached for reference.

13 **Urgent Items**

Any other items of business which the Chairman agrees to consider as a matter of urgency.

14 **Date of Next Meeting**

To confirm the date of the next scheduled meeting as 13 July 2022.

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Environment Select Committee

MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENT SELECT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 8 MARCH 2022 AT COUNCIL CHAMBER - COUNTY HALL, BYTHESEA ROAD, TROWBRIDGE, BA14 8JN.

Present:

Cllr Jerry Kunkler (Chairman), Cllr Bob Jones MBE (Vice-Chairman), Cllr Tony Jackson, Cllr Mel Jacob, Cllr Dr Nick Murry, Cllr Bill Parks, Cllr Rich Rogers, Cllr Iain Wallis, Cllr Derek Walters, Cllr James Sheppard and Cllr Stewart Palmen (Substitute)

Also Present:

Cllr Nick Botterill, Cllr Kevin Daley, Cllr Dr Mark McClelland, Cllr Tamara Reay and Cllr Graham Wright

82 Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Ian McLennan, Cllr Charles McGrath and Cllr Dr Brian Mathew.

Cllr Stewart Palmen substituted for Cllr Dr Brian Mathew.

83 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Resolved:

The minutes of the Environment Select Committee meeting held on 12th January 2022 were approved and signed.

84 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

85 Chairman's Announcements

Recent meetings

The Chairman commented on meetings he had attended since the last Environment Select Committee meeting in January 2022. The Chairman had attended Overview & Scrutiny Management Committee on 25 January & 8 February 2022. The Chairman and the Vice Chairman received a briefing on 1 March on an impending Cabinet Member decision for approval to form an Enhanced Partnership and Scheme with local bus operators as part of the Bus Service Improvement Plan.

86 **Public Participation**

There was no public participation.

87 **Recycling**

The report was introduced by Cllr Dr Mark McClelland, Cabinet Member Transport Waste Street Scene and Flooding. He firstly expressed his disappointment with the bin strike and how it had overshadowed good news about the new collection rounds resulting in savings and improved recycling rate leading to more income from recycled materials.

Martin Litherland, Head of Waste Management, summarised the key parts of the report. This included the new mixed dry recycling scheme introduced in 2020 and the strong performance of the waste and recycling services during the pandemic, despite increased pressure on the service. Future plans for the service included proposed battery recycling scheme and collection of small electrical items as a response to an increase in the number of waste fires. In response to the Environment Act 2021 there are plans for a deposit return scheme, weekly food waste collection and free of charge garden waste collection.

Questions and comments on the report followed which included the following points:

- Contamination of recycling materials and how to reduce it. Contamination is measured by the service and a video of the recycling plants and how they work is being considered to improve the understanding of how to correctly recycle. Councillors also noted the importance of education in schools and suggested signage on bin lids to improve recycling habits.
- That plant performance is monitored, and recirculation of material would be commencing soon with the aim to improve performance. As well as this the separation discs would be replaced to reduce gaps and catch more small items to improve efficiency.
- Waste miles and how best to measure them was looked at closely and factored in when looking at contracts.
- Food waste and the changes needed in Wiltshire due to the Environment Act 2021. Officers clarified that most food waste currently goes to produce energy at the Westbury plant. As a result, there would be a need to assess the impact on removing food waste from the waste stream and consider the optimum time for food waste collection to be added.
- The role of waste vehicles in lowering Wiltshire Council's carbon emission. Officers explained that they were considering the most appropriate time to decarbonise the waste fleet, bearing in mind the importance of efficiency and reliability. A hybrid approach could be taken with EV for local collections and different options for longer distances. It was highlighted that the service had managed to reduce the number of waste vehicles from 149 to 121.

- Cllr Tony Jackson paid tribute to the outstanding work of the waste team. He also drew attention to the Warminster biogas facility and questioned whether it could be used in a pilot scheme for food waste collection. Officers were unsure of a trial as such but would keep discussion open.
- The implications for Wiltshire Council of introducing free garden waste collections. Figures on what is currently spent and what is currently earned from garden waste were requested.
- Whether the improved recycling income was sustainable or likely to drop back to pre-2020 levels. Officers predicted that it would not return to pre-pandemic levels and that the Environment Act 2021 should maintain good prices, though forecasts take account of some degradation.

Resolved:

That the Committee,

- a) Note the findings of the report, particularly in relation to the impacts of the Covid pandemic on waste service performance since the implementation of a new kerbside recycling scheme.
- b) Note the actions planned to help reduce the contamination of kerbside collected Mixed Dry Recycling.
- c) Note the future developments that may arise under the Environment Act 2021.
- d) In upcoming updates receive information on communication strategies; the emerging future waste collection plans and their impacts including costs and the overall carbon emissions of recycling.
- e) At a future convenient time visit the Materials Recycling Facility (MFR) at Calne.

88 **Grass Cutting Policy 2022/23**

The report was introduced by Cllr Dr Mark McClelland, Cabinet Member Transport Waste Street Scene and Flooding. He emphasized the need for balance between areas requiring a lot of trimming and areas to facilitate growth and wildflowers.

Adrian Hampton, Head of Highway Operations, outlined the key points covered in the report. This included that the main highways cut would be in August but that reviews would take place throughout. He gave examples of Local Councils such as Pewsey, Devizes and Salisbury that now run their own grass cutting arrangements as part of Wiltshire Council's drive to enable local communities to set their own priorities. He explained that to maintain wildflower verges the cut and collect process that is needed produces a bit more carbon, so there is sometimes a compromise between biodiversity and carbon reduction. The main focus of the report was to manage the right land in the right way.

Officers responded to a number of questions and comments from the Select Committee which included the following areas:

- The junction at Knook joining the A36 from B390 was raised as an area that had been reported multiple times as needing reactive cutting to improve visibility. It was clarified by Officers that this area was maintained by National Highways and the reports were passed on to them to action.
- Cllr Parks thanked officers for the report but raised concerns about rural verges on narrow country roads and what the financial implications were for highways service plan to manage them. It was explained that there would be financial implications but tracking the exact change in cost was not possible right now due to the change in contractor and change in traffic management costs.
- The possibility for Parish Councils to buy highways services through CATG's to cut verges more on the rural roads. The Head of Highway Operations advised caution over top up services due to a need to understand the implications of extra work on carbon emissions.
- The frequency of hedge cutting if fast growth causes issues. It was clarified that hedges are cut more than once a year if highways flag it as a safety issue. In terms of footpaths, rights of way are a reactive service and respond to reports through the app.
- Details of how the service delegation works with Town Council's taking on responsibility for the grass cutting service on their land, not including highway land.
- Calls for improved engagement with Parish Councils, specifically in rural areas where the cutting of verges can have an impact on safety for pedestrians.
- Whether there was a way to prevent double paying for maintenance of green spaces as some end up paying precept and costs for a management company. Officers clarified that this related more to planning but that they would pass on those comments.

Resolved:

That the committee:

- a) Note the grass cutting arrangements for 2022 and the background to the provision.
- b) When receiving future updates that they include information on engagement with local communities, rural parish roadside grass cutting and the overall carbon impacts and costs.

89 **Climate Emergency Task Group**

The Chairman welcomed Cllr Graham Wright, Chairman of the Task Group, who provided an update on the work of the Climate Emergency Task Group since January 2022. The Task Group welcomes the Climate Strategy and urged

that it should be a green thread that runs through all council decision making. It was also stated that the Task Group await further detail on the delivery of the strategy and that they have raised the issue about county farms.

An update was requested on the bulk buy solar panels scheme to make it cheaper for individuals to fit solar panels on their homes. It was explained that the programme had been approved but was progressing slower than expected due to mixed feedback from other councils that adopted it. These issues have been raised with the provider and it is expected that a few thousand households would engage with the scheme. Cllr Dr Nick Murry suggested the council work to try to help public engage with reliable installers.

There was a query over the lack of provision in the budget to replace trees removed due to ash dieback. This was suggested as something for the Cabinet Member for Climate Change to explore.

In response to a question on wind power in Wiltshire it was clarified that it had not yet been possible to commission a report on this for a contractor to be appointed due to high demand. However, the intention is for this to be done as soon as possible.

Resolved:

That the committee,

- a) Note the update on the Task Group activity provided.
- b) Note the Task Group's draft forward work plan.

90 **Forward Work Programme**

Resolved:

- a) To approve the Forward Work Programme, subject to any additional items agreed by Committee at today's meeting

91 **Urgent Items**

There were no urgent items.

92 **Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Environment Select Committee will take place at 10.30am on 14 June 2022.

(Duration of meeting: 10.35 am - 12.16 pm)

The Officer who has produced these minutes is Leo Penry of Democratic Services,
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Wiltshire Council

Environment Select Committee

14 June 2022

Passenger Transport service update and future developments of the Council's public transport services

Executive summary

This report intends to update the Environment Select Committee on the Council's progress on a number of public transport projects.

The report also provides updates on potential future developments

Proposal

That the Committee:

- (i) notes the outcome of our Bus Service Improvement Plan funding bid, that we have made an Enhanced Partnership and that we are seeking alternative Funding Streams.
- (ii) notes that we are progressing work on implementing our successful Rural Mobility Fund bid.
- (iii) notes that we have committed our Supported Bus Services Fund to secure routes that would otherwise have ceased to run.
- (iv) notes that we are contributing to the development of Local Transport Plan 4.
- (v) notes that costs related to the passenger transport sector continue to rise significantly, contributed to by the lack of available drivers.
- (vi) notes that passenger numbers are only at around 75% of pre covid levels in Wiltshire.

Reason for proposal

Information update report, as requested by the Committee.

Author: Jason Salter, Head of Service Passenger Transport
Contact details: Jason.salter@wiltshire.gov.uk 01225 713334

**Passenger Transport service update and future developments
of the Council's public transport services**

Purpose of report

1. This report intends to update the Environment Select Committee on the Council's progress on a number of public transport projects.
2. The report also provides updates on potential future developments.

Background

3. Bus Service Improvement Plan Funding

We were unsuccessful in our bid for funding for our Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP). Only 31 of 77 Local Transport Authorities (LTA) will be receiving funding, and then at a level considerably below their application in many cases, with a total ask of £7.2 billion.

3.1 The successful authorities are:

- Blackburn with Darwen and Lancashire (joint submission): £34.2m
- Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole: £8.9m
- Brighton and Hove: £27.9m
- Central Bedfordshire: £3.7m
- City of York: £17.4m
- Cornwall: £13.3m
- Derby City: £7.0m
- Derbyshire: £47.0m
- Devon: £14.1m
- East Sussex: £41.4m
- Greater Manchester: £94.8m
- Hertfordshire: £29.7m
- Kent: £35.1m
- Liverpool City Region: £12.3m
- Luton: £19.1m
- Norfolk: £49.6m
- North East and North of Tyne: £163.5m
- North East Lincolnshire: £4.7m
- Nottingham City: £11.4m
- Nottinghamshire: £18.7m
- Oxfordshire: £12.7m
- Portsmouth: £48.3m
- Reading: £26.3m

- Stoke-on-Trent: £31.7m
 - Warrington: £16.2m
 - West Berkshire: £2.6m
 - West Midlands: £87.9m
 - West of England and North Somerset: £105.5m
 - West Sussex: £17.4m
 - West Yorkshire: £70m
- 3.2 The full value of our bid was £370 million, which suggests that even the successful authorities will be receiving far less than they asked for and will have to reduce their plans accordingly. It is not yet clear whether each LTA will be able to prioritise funding on the basis of their grant, or whether the funding is being made against specific projects within their BSIP.
- 3.3 We have asked for feedback on our bid from the Department for Transport (DfT) but have yet to receive a formal response.
- 3.4 Whilst we were not successful in this round, having a BSIP and the associated Enhanced Partnership Plan and Scheme in place will be essential for consideration for future Government funding.
4. Enhanced Partnership Plan and Scheme
The Enhanced Partnership (EP) is a statutory partnership, arising from the BSIP, which sets out how we will work with our local bus operators and consists of a Plan and one or more Schemes. Besides being the mechanism to use BSIP funding it is also a requirement for funding from the Bus Recovery Grant.
- 4.1 Bus services are likely to undergo considerable change in the coming year as new travel patterns emerge and networks and timetables are adjusted accordingly. The EP requires operators to work with us when redefining their commercial network to make it sustainable.
- 4.2 Even without BSIP funding we believe that there are a number of elements of the Plan which we can deliver. We will progress these as we strive to improve the bus network for the benefit of both our passengers and the sustainability of the operators.
5. Alternative Funding Streams for Public Transport
We are actively pursuing other funding streams, as they come available, and the EP will be essential to both the bidding process and the implementation of any successful applications.
- 5.1 Buses have an important role to play in Wiltshire as they encourage economic regeneration and development, help with carbon, pollution and congestion reduction, provide access to essential services for those who have no alternative transport means and “extend the range” of active travel journeys. We will work proactively with partners both internally and externally to raise the profile of the bus in these areas and apply for funding as and when it is available.
6. Pewsey Vale Rural Mobility Fund Demand Responsive Transport (DRT) Project

We have now appointed a Demand Responsive Transport Manager, who brings a vast amount of specialist knowledge to Wiltshire in DRT management.

6.1 A Public Engagement Survey is being prepared, and a number of software providers are demonstrating their booking and scheduling systems.

7. Supported Bus Services Fund

This Government funding (£671,161) was granted to Wiltshire to improve the provision of local bus services in its area in one or more of the following ways:

- to improve current local bus services - for instance increasing evening or weekend frequencies, or supporting additional seasonal services in tourist areas;
- to restore lost bus routes where most needed to ensure people have access to public transport services;
- to support new bus services, or extensions to current services, to access e.g. new housing, employment opportunities, healthcare facilities etc.

7.1 As reported to Environment Select in October 2021, we had been able to retain most of our bus network at that time and it was not necessary to use this funding to restore lost services and we sought ideas on how we could improve our bus services. A great number of useful suggestions were received, some of which we earmarked for this funding, some of which we moved to our BSIP aspiration for funding.

7.2 However, with the succession of Covid lockdowns, and severe driver shortages as things now open up again, it was not the right time to launch new services, so nothing progressed beyond the initial planning stage at that time.

7.3 Since February 2022, we have seen some commercial bus service de registrations and significantly increased costs on our tendered network. Passenger numbers are only now slowly recovering from Covid restrictions, forcing First West of England to reconsider their bus service in Wiltshire. As a result, they withdrew their commercial D1 service between Trowbridge and Salisbury, potentially leaving one of our key bus routes unserved and c70,000 passenger trips per year unsupported. We have been able to retain a service between Trowbridge and Warminster by contracting First West of England and between Warminster and Salisbury by contracting with South West Coaches. We have also seen significant increases in costs when tendering public transport in the north of the county.

7.4 We do not have funds within our revenue budget for the commercial de registrations, nor the significant increase in tender prices, so, in order to continue providing these services for 2022-23, the Supported Bus Services Fund has been used in its entirety and it will now not be possible to introduce new services. Clearly, this approach is not financially sustainable and during the course of 2022-23, plans will be established in order to bring expenditure back in line with budget.

8. Local Transport Plan 4

As work begins on Local Transport Plan 4 (LTP4) we will be ensuring that it reflects the evolving and developing role of the bus, along with the new legislative environment.

Environmental impact

9. Wiltshire Council has declared a climate emergency and it will be imperative for the bus service to reflect the objectives of the Council's new climate strategy. Public transport, along with cycling and walking, plays a pivotal role in the reduction of carbon emissions through reduced car use and in turn improved air quality.

Equality and diversity impact

10. The following protected characteristics have been identified in an Equality Evidence Analysis:
 - Age
 - Disability
 - Low Incomes
 - Rurality
 - People with no access to private transport
 - Military status
 - Pregnancy and Maternity
 - Race
 - Religion and Belief
 - Sex
 - Shift / Part-time workers
 - Carers
11. The first six characteristics are likely to be impacted greater than the rest and the following is a short summary for each of these six protected characteristics:
 - *Age* - Younger and older people are more reliant on bus services and less likely to have access to a car. Also, fewer young people now hold driving licences and we live in an increasingly 'ageing society'. Younger people need affordable bus services to enable them to take up opportunities in education and work, and to increase their independence. Research has shown that many older people place particular value on 'local' and 'daytime' travel and predominantly travel for shopping, to access key services (notably healthcare) or to visit family and friends. Both groups also benefit from the health benefits of using public transport through encouraging outside activity and mobility.
 - *Disability* - People with disabilities are less likely to drive and therefore could become marginalized from the wider community and more reliant on support services without independent travel options, such as supported bus services to provide them access to employment opportunities and essential services or, to visit friends and family. Disabled people are also likely to need more trips to GPs and hospitals for regular medical appointments.
 - *Low incomes* - People on low incomes are particularly reliant upon local public transport services and a lack of available and adequate services can be a significant barrier to accessing employment opportunities and essential services. Public transport can also provide health benefits (as

people walk more and drive less) which can be particularly beneficial for people from socio-economically deprived areas which typically have lower levels of health.

- *Rurality* - In rural areas, settlements are dispersed, and homes, jobs and services are scattered – access to everyday opportunities and services can therefore be challenging. Rural bus services can help combat social exclusion by enabling non-drivers to access shops, education, training, and essential services. They are also important for the local economy; small businesses in rural areas need good accessibility for their employees and rural buses can encourage visitors and tourists.
- *People with no access to private transport* - are particularly reliant upon local public transport services and a lack of available and adequate bus services can be a significant barrier to accessing employment opportunities and essential services.
- *Military Status* - Military personnel and their families are often located in camps in (semi) rural locations. Therefore, withdrawn or reduced supported bus services will reduce travel options to access essential services or visit friends and family. There is also an increased risk of social isolation.

Risk assessment

12. Not applicable.

Financial implications

13. Not applicable.

Legal implications

14. Not applicable.

Options considered

15. Not applicable.

Conclusion

16. Members are invited to review this information report and note the findings made.

Background papers

The following unpublished documents have been relied on in the preparation of this report:

None

Appendices

None

Wiltshire Council

Environment Select Committee

14 June 2022

Climate Emergency Task Group Update

Purpose

1. To update the Environment Select Committee on the work of the Climate Emergency Task Group since March 2022.

Background

2. The Climate Emergency Task Group (CETG) is a task group reporting to the Environment Select Committee. The task group's initial terms of reference were endorsed by the Select Committee on 3 September 2019 and were revised on 9 November 2021.
3. The task group has produced two reports with recommendations:
 - Energy and Transport & Air quality (29 September 2020)
 - Planning (13 January 2021)
4. At its meeting on 15 June 2021 the Select Committee approved the continuation of the task group.
5. The task group's last update to the Select Committee was on [8 March 2022](#).

Membership

6. The membership of the task group from July 2021 is as follows:

Cllr Clare Cape
Cllr Sarah Gibson
Cllr Tony Jackson
Cllr Jacqui Lay
Cllr Brian Mathew
Cllr Nick Murry
Cllr David Vigar
Cllr Ian Wallis
Cllr Graham Wright (Chairman)

Terms of Reference:

7. The task group's revised terms of reference were endorsed by the Environment Select Committee on the 9 November 2021. These are:
 - i. *To help shape and influence the development of Wiltshire Council's programme (in all relevant areas) for meeting its objective of making Wiltshire Council carbon neutral and seeking to make the county of Wiltshire carbon neutral by 2030 (excluding the geographical area administered by Swindon Borough Council).*
 - ii. *To scrutinise the delivery of this objective through the Climate Strategy (2022-2027) and its delivery plans, as well as key plans, policies, and programmes, such as the Local Plan, Local Transport Plan and Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy. Including the way in which the Council is measuring progress and how it is performing and reporting against baselines.*
 - iii. *To provide recommendations on other aspects of decarbonising the county including partnership working and community-led approaches as well as acting as a national role model.*

Recent Activity

Woodlands & trees – national and local perspective (18 March 2022)

8. On 18 March, the task group had presentations from the Woodland Trust and Avon Needs Trees (ANT). This looked at the current policy environment nationally and regionally and the experience of creating new permanent woodlands in Wiltshire.
9. The Climate Emergency report (January 2021) recommends that there be 17% tree cover for the county. The UK Committee on Climate Change suggests that the UK needs to increase its national tree cover from 13% to 17%-19% by 2050 (Wiltshire's tree cover is currently 9%). The [England Tree Action Plan 2021/24](#) commits to planting 30,000ha of woodland per year from 2024 (currently it is 1,400ha per year).
10. The Woodland Trust's [State of the UK's Woods and Trees Report](#) (2021) states that there may be an increase in tree cover but there is less woodland wildlife e.g., woodland birds have declined by 29% since 1970 and woodland butterflies by 41% since 1990. Building developments and pollution are having a major impact upon wildlife.
11. Avon Needs Trees (ANT) is a regional charity creating new permanent woods in the Avon River catchment area. It owns and rents land and has land under covenant. ANT identifies suitable sites, working with local volunteers to plant trees and raise funds to deliver its objectives. As many as 500 volunteers are involved with each site.

12. Meeting targets for tree planting will be important for carbon targets but tree planting must be happening now if it is to capture significant amounts of carbon because it takes 10yr to 20yrs for a tree to begin to capture carbon. ANT is about creating permanent woodland which also requires expert care, without which the trees will not thrive. Tree planting via urban development is slow and risky, ANT therefore would encourage the planting of large-scale woodland. To do this they need to identify a supply of land for woodland.
13. To undertake large scale afforestation, networks must be developed, and an overarching policy created. The council is developing a woodland strategy and a local nature recovery strategy. The task group will continue to monitor progress in this area and will seek further updates.

British Army Sustainability Briefing (6 May 2022)

14. On 6 May 2022, the task group received a briefing regarding the Army's approach to the climate emergency and sustainability. The Area Board Environment Leads (ABEL) were also invited to attend. This briefing follows some more wide-ranging meetings between the military and the council which also touched upon climate change.
15. The Army plans to be net zero by 2050. The Ministry of Defence (MoD) has published [Climate Change and Sustainability Strategic Approach](#) (2021), which sets out the ambition and initial actions. There are many sustainability programmes currently being delivered. The Army is beginning to engage with local authorities about working collaboratively.
16. The task group heard about the approach being taken to reduce emissions from the Army's estate (the major source of emissions) and the development of several smaller localised programmes.
17. The task group will be seeking an update in 6-12 months.

Climate Strategy Pathway Reports (13 May 2022)

18. The task group received a briefing from Ariane Crampton, Head of Carbon reduction on the two pathway reports. A wider Members briefing regarding these reports was held on 26 May 2022.
19. The council have commissioned Anthesis to produce two reports, one regarding the [council](#) the other the [county](#), that:
 - create a full understanding of current county and council emissions
 - create pathways of future emissions trajectories
 - outline interventions that the council and county can implement to reach their net-zero goals
20. Council emissions have decreased 80% since 2014/15. However, there are a range of differing trajectories to 2030 but the council is in an advantageous

position to reach carbon neutral. The most 'stretching' ambitions will get the council to 95% carbon neutral by 2030.

21. The report regarding emissions from the wider county is intended to:
 - set out emissions baseline for Wiltshire
 - demonstrate what needs to be achieved to reach carbon neutral
 - contextualize these milestones with detail around costs, co-benefits, and the council's ability to influence
 - provide guidance on offsetting
22. This report again sets out a series of potential pathways but highlights that Wiltshire is not likely to reach carbon neutral by 2030. Based upon the current level of constraints (which include legislative and financial restraints) the county could reduce its emissions by 55% by 2050. Government legislation and support will remain critical in the collective efforts to reduce carbon emissions across the county.
23. The cost, across Wiltshire, of reaching carbon neutral will be substantial but will be significantly offset by potential savings. The cost of inaction would be higher. The council is continuing to use its influence in the county and with government to reduce carbon emissions.
24. The task group produced two reports setting out its evidence-based recommendations regarding energy, transport, and air quality ([September 2020](#)) and planning ([January 2021](#)). Its recommendations remain relevant and are broadly recurrent themes within these two external reports. The evidence in the pathway reports also aligns with the task group's areas of interest, see para.27 below.
25. The council is beginning to give climate change the necessary prominence, within its strategic plans and policies. It is therefore important that task group continues to monitor the progress of the Climate Strategy.

Forward work plan

26. The task group has agreed to review and follow up several the recommendations that it made to the Executive in 2020/21.
27. This will bring the group up to date with current policy and practice nationally and allow an informed consideration of the future delivery plans for the council. There will be a focus upon specific areas:
 - Net zero planning policies ensuring that all new homes are carbon neutral
 - Making all homes energy efficient
 - Electric vehicle charging, including on-street charging and via taxi licensing across the county to enable a rapid transition to electric vehicles
 - Encouraging active travel for short journeys undertaken safely either on foot or by bike

- Protecting woodlands and natural environment and increasing tree cover

28. The draft forward plan is attached at Appendix 2.

Proposals

- 1. With the commencement of the 2022/23 Council year, that the select committee re-appoint the Climate Emergency task group and the membership listed in the report.**
- 2. To note the update on the Task Group activity provided above.**
- 3. To note the activity of the Task Group (June 2021/June 2022), see Appendix 1.**
- 4. To note the Task Group's draft forward work plan, see Appendix 2.**

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APPENDIX 1

Climate Emergency Task Group – Activity June 2021/June 2022

29 July 2021	<p>Draft Climate Strategy 2022/27 Discussion and commenting on the draft strategy before the formal consultation process.</p>
5 August 2021	<p>Draft Green & Blue Infrastructure Strategy Discussion and commenting on draft strategy before the formal consultation process.</p>
Sept 2021	<p>Response to the draft Climate Strategy 2022-2027 The task group responded to the consultation and made several suggestions and comments (see update to the select committee on 9 November 2021 for details)</p>
8 Oct 2021	<p>Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Plan 2021-2024 The task group received a briefing regarding the Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Plan 2021-2024 to which members of the select committee were also invited. The Plan was considered by Cabinet on 12 October 2021.</p>
8 Oct 2021	<p>Revised terms of reference Task group considered and revised its terms of reference. The updated terms of reference were endorsed by the select committee on 9 November 2021.</p>
22 Nov 2021	<p>Implications and outcomes of COP26 The task group considered and noted the emerging outcomes and implications for Wiltshire of COP26 (UN Climate Change Conference) which took place in Glasgow 31 Oct-12 Nov 2021.</p>
10 Dec 2021	<p>Final draft Green & Blue Infrastructure Strategy 2022-2030 The task group received a presentation regarding the final draft Green & Blue Infrastructure (GBI) Strategy following the public consultation (1 September to 17 October 2021). It outlined the consultation process, the feedback received and how the strategy would be revised following the consultation.</p>
15 Dec 2021	<p>Final draft Climate Strategy 2022-2027 The task group had a presentation regarding the final draft of the Climate Strategy covering the public consultation process (1 September to 17 October 2021), responses to the consultation and how the strategy had subsequently been amended.</p>

15 Feb 2022	<p>Full Council - Climate Strategy 2022-2027 The Council received the draft Climate Strategy for endorsement. The Chairman of the task group, along with the Leader of the Council, Cllr Clewer, addressed a rally of the Wiltshire Climate Alliance (WCA). The Chairman also took part in the debate at full Council on behalf of the task group.</p>
18 Mar 2022	<p>Woodlands & trees – national and local perspective See update above</p>
6 May 2022	<p>British Army Sustainability Briefing See update above</p>
13 May 2022	<p>Climate Strategy Pathway Reports See update above</p>

APPENDIX 2

Climate Emergency Task Group – Forward Work Plan

Sept 2022 (tbc)	Environmental Mitigation Asset Management Framework To understand the future of the council's land holdings, incl. county farms, with respect to food production, renewable energy, and tree planting.
Sept 2022 (tbc)	Natural England Funded Pilot Meeting to consider the pilot projects looking at rolling out local nature recovery planning, bio-diversity net gain and the environmental toolkit
Oct 2022 (tbc)	Developing EV (Electric Vehicle) Charging Discussion with commercial providers about current good practice, funding models and Government support.
Nov 2022 (tbc)	Update British Army Sustainability To update task group following briefing on 6 May 2022.

Environment Select Committee Forward Work Programme

Last updated 6 JUNE 2022

Environment Select Committee - Current / Active Task Groups		
Task Group	Start Date	Final Report Expected
Global Warming and Climate Emergency Task Group	May 2019	TBC

Environment Select Committee - Rapid Scrutiny		
Topic	Details	Date

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Agenda Item 12

Meeting Date	Item	Details / purpose of report	Associate Director	Responsible Cabinet Member	Report Author / Lead Officer
13 Jul 2022	Waste Management Strategy: Annual Review	For the committee to receive an annual update on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a review of changes to legislation and government policy • performance in 2020-21 • an action plan for 2022-23 	Parvis Khansari (Director of Highways and Transport)	Cllr Dr Mark McClelland	Martin Litherland
13 Jul 2022	Libraries Development	As discussed at the ESC-Executive meeting on 24 September 2021 on the leisure and libraries portfolio to provide a update on the development of the council's library service.	David Redfern (Assistant Director Leisure Culture and Communities)	Cllr Ian Blair Pilling	
13 Jul 2022	Leisure Services Insourcing	As resolved at the select committee meeting on 9 November 2021, the committee will receive a further update be that includes financial information and membership trends. It will also review operating leisure facilities on public holidays.	David Redfern (Assistant Director Leisure Culture and Communities)	Cllr Ian Blair Pilling	

Meeting Date	Item	Details / purpose of report	Associate Director	Responsible Cabinet Member	Report Author / Lead Officer
13 Jul 2022	Retrofitting of energy improvement works of current council housing	As discussed at the ESC Executive meeting on 9 September 2021 on the housing portfolio to provide a report on the scheme to make council homes more carbon neutral	Simon Hendey (Director - Housing and Commercial)	Cllr Phil Alford	
13 Jul 2022	Construction of zero carbon homes	As discussed at the ESC-Executive meeting on 9 September 2021 on the housing portfolio to provide a report on the construction of zero carbon homes.	Simon Hendey (Director - Housing and Commercial)	Cllr Phil Alford	
13 Jul 2022	Global Warming & Climate Emergency task group	To receive an update from the task group regarding activity and its forward work plan			Simon Bennett
13 Sep 2022	Homes 4 Wiltshire	As discussed at the ESC-Executive meeting on 9 September 2021 on the housing portfolio to provide an update on Homes for Wiltshire.	Emma Legg (Director – Ageing & Living Well)		Nicole Smith

Meeting Date	Item	Details / purpose of report	Associate Director	Responsible Cabinet Member	Report Author / Lead Officer
13 Sep 2022	Local Plan	As discussed at the ESC-Executive meeting on 14 September 2021 on the spatial planning portfolio to receive updates when appropriate.		Cllr Nick Botterill	Georgina Clampitt-Dix, Jean Marshall
13 Sep 2022	Global Warming & Climate Emergency task group	To receive an update from the task group regarding activity and its forward work plan			Simon Bennett
8 Nov 2022	Private sector renewal strategy	As discussed at the ESC-Executive meeting on 9 September 2021 on the housing portfolio to provide a report on the strategy.	Emma Legg (Director – Ageing & Living Well)		Nicole Smith
8 Nov 2022	Review of registered housing providers	As discussed at the ESC-Executive meeting on 7 September 2021 on the housing portfolio. To receive a report on registered providers of affordable housing, shared ownership and rental housing.	Simon Hendey (Director - Housing and Commercial)	Cllr Phil Alford	Richard Walters

Meeting Date	Item	Details / purpose of report	Associate Director	Responsible Cabinet Member	Report Author / Lead Officer
8 Nov 2022	Streetscene contract	As resolved at the ESC meeting on 12 January 2022 the select committee will receive an update report on the Streetscene contract	Peter Binley (Acting Director of Highways and Transport)	Cllr Dr Mark McClelland	Adrian Hampton
tbc	'Heritage' app; 'What's on in Wiltshire' app	September 2021 on the arts, heritage and tourism portfolio a report to be provided detailing the development of two tourism apps.	Parvis Khansari (Corporate Director Place)	Cllr Richard Clewer	Victoria Moloney, Head of Economy & Regeneration
tbc	Broadband	As discussed at meeting with the Cabinet Member 6 May 2022 the select committee to receive a report about broadband roll out in the county.	Parvis Khansari (Corporate Director Place)	Cllr Richard Clewer	Victoria Moloney, Head of Economy & Regeneration
tbc	Wiltshire Marque	As discussed at meeting with the Cabinet Member the select committee to receive a report about the 'Wiltshire Marque' for produce.	Parvis Khansari (Corporate Director Place)	Cllr Richard Clewer	Victoria Moloney, Head of Economy & Regeneration
tbc	Gypsy & Traveller Plan	To receive the Gypsy and Traveller plan.		Cllr Nick Botterill	Georgina Clampitt-Dix

tbc	Update on the Homeless Strategy 2019-2024	As resolved by at the ESC meeting on 3 September 2019 the select committee to receive an update on the Homeless Strategy (delayed due to the pandemic)	Emma Legg (Director – Ageing & Living Well)		Nicole Smith
tbc	LHFIG Review	To receive a update report on the implementation of the Local Highway & Footway Improvement Groups (LHFIG)	Peter Binley (Acting Director of Highways and Transport)	Cllr Dr Mark McClelland	Dave Thomas
tbc	Climate adaptation	To receive a report outlining the actions the council is taking to adapt to climate and ecological change	tbc	tbc	tbc